
3 : ENTER SASUKE!!
うちはサスケ!!

YAA-AWN

のび のび

魚



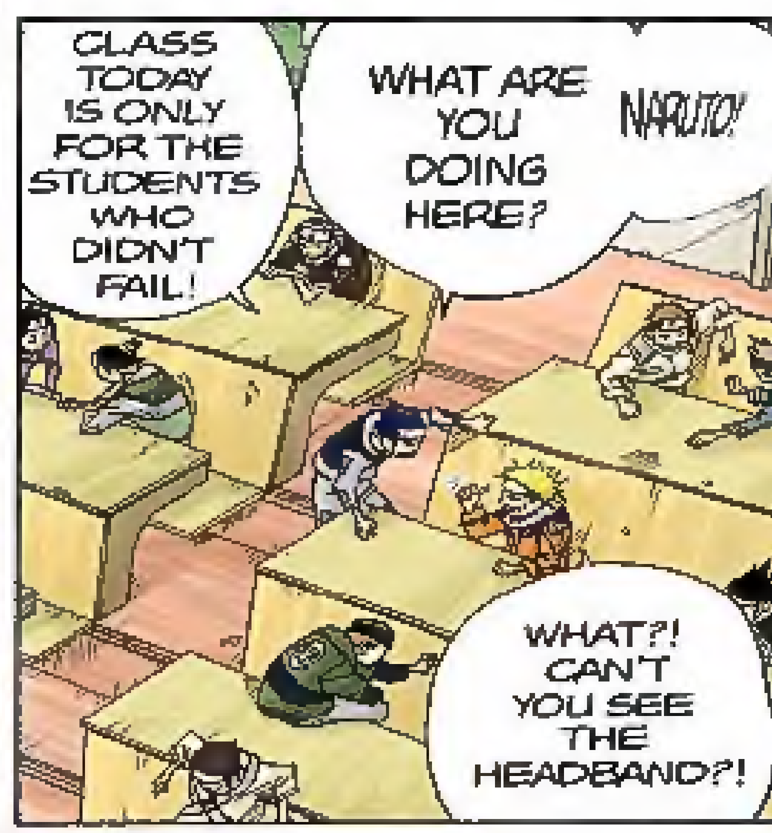









HA-HA-HA-HA...

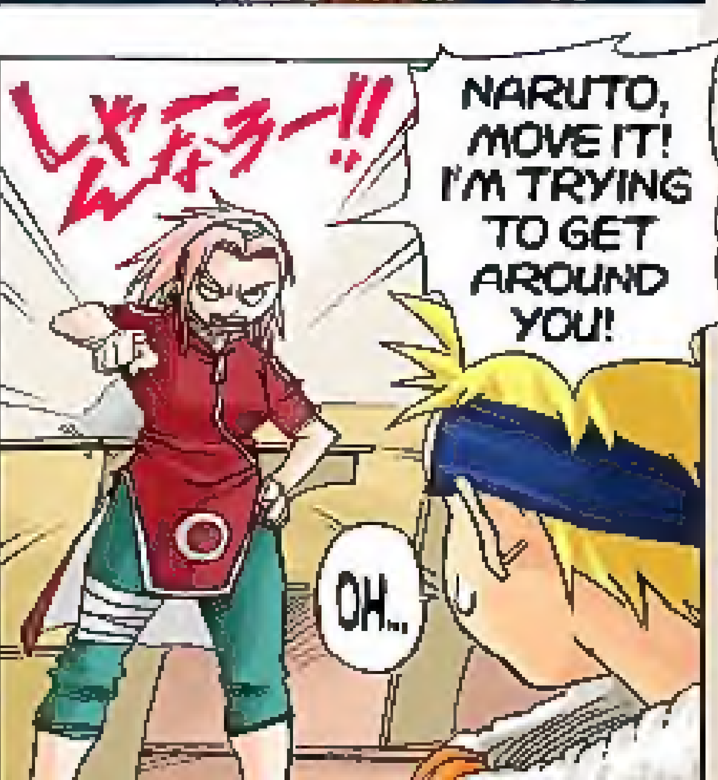

NARUTO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
CLASS TODAY IS ONLY FOR THE STUDENTS WHO DIDN'T FAIL!
WHAT?! CAN'T YOU SEE THE HEADBAND?!


EXCUSE ME, MAY I PASS?


!
SA.. SAKURA!!
ポッ


HARUNO SAKURA, A TOTAL BABE, BUT THAT'S THE PROBLEM...

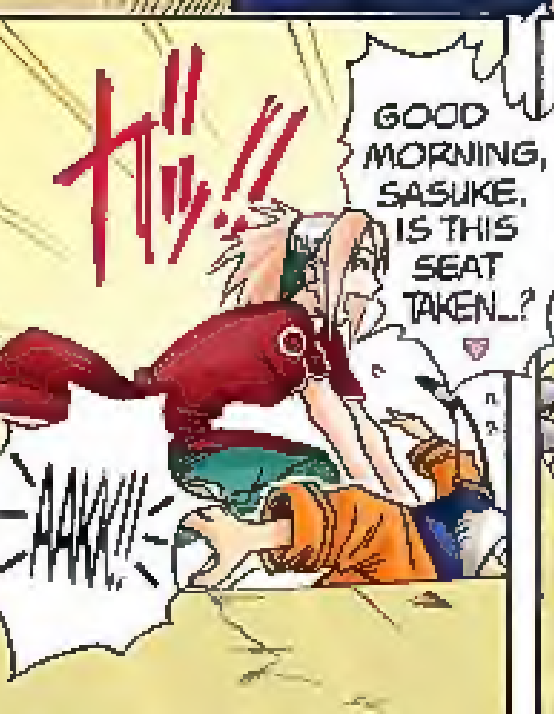

NO WAY...
SHE WANTS TO SIT NEXT TO ME?


しゃーんなろー!!
NARUTO, MOVE IT! I'M TRYING TO GET AROUND YOU!
OH..


THERE HE IS... THE CLASS HEART-THROB!
HA!!



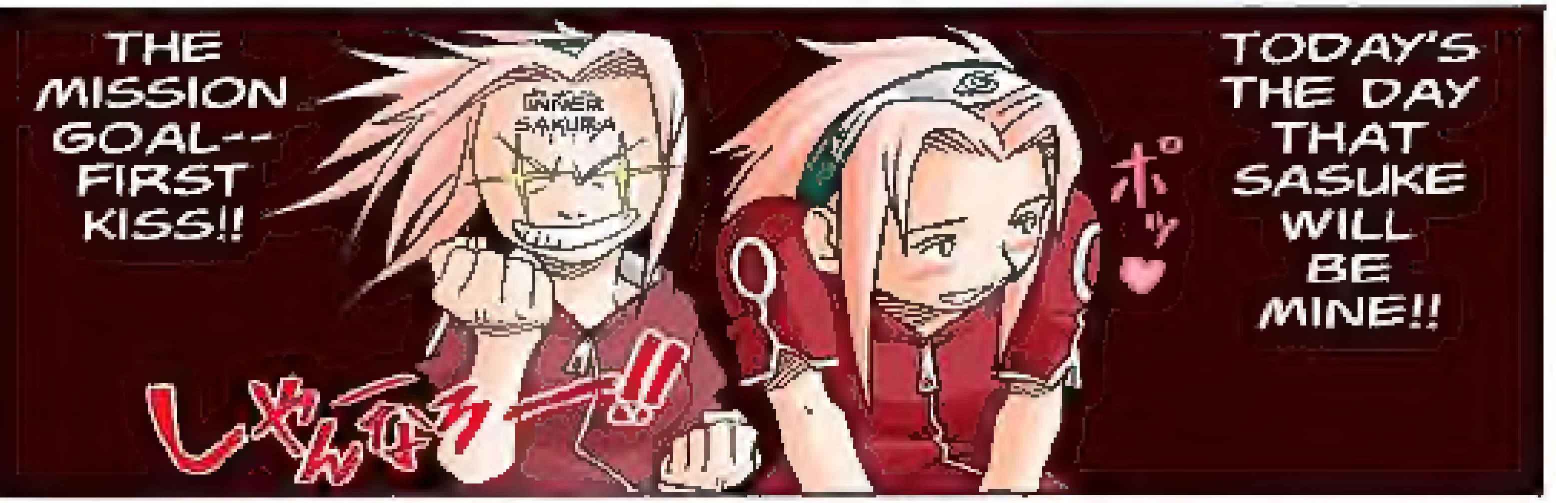

UCHIHA SASUKE! THINKS HE'S SO COOL. I HATE THAT GUY!

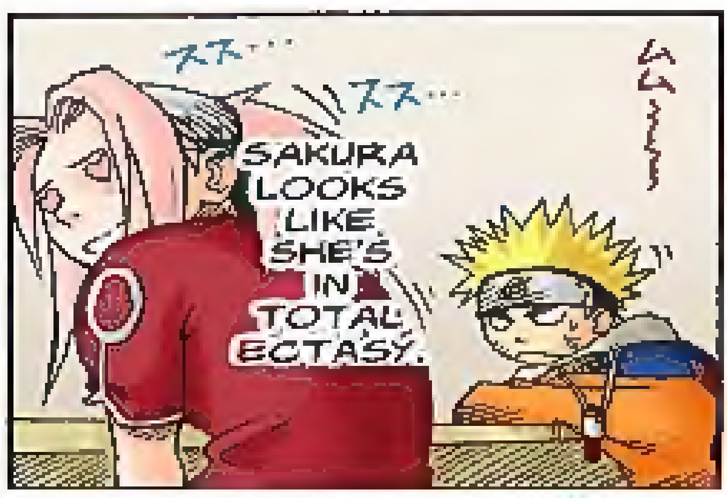

GOOD MORNING, SASUKE. IS THIS SEAT TAKEN...?
AAKK!!


WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN? ARE YOU TALKIN' TO ME?!
YOU WANT SOME-THING?!

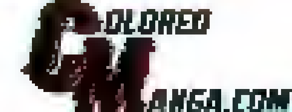


WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?
YOU AIM FOR THE TARGET...
AND SO... YOU DO IT LIKE SO...
UH-HUNH, YEAH...

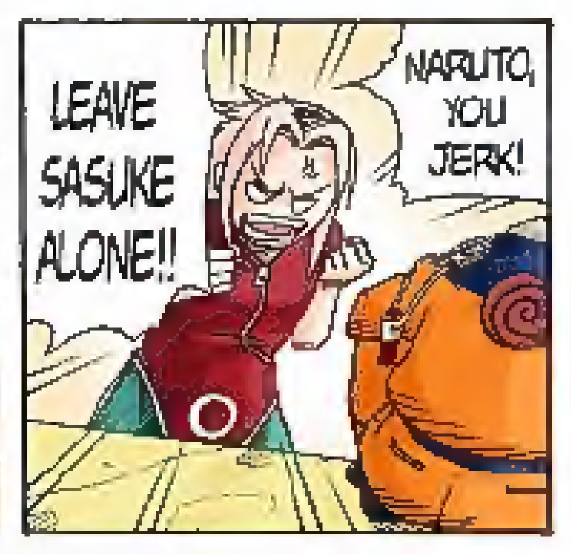




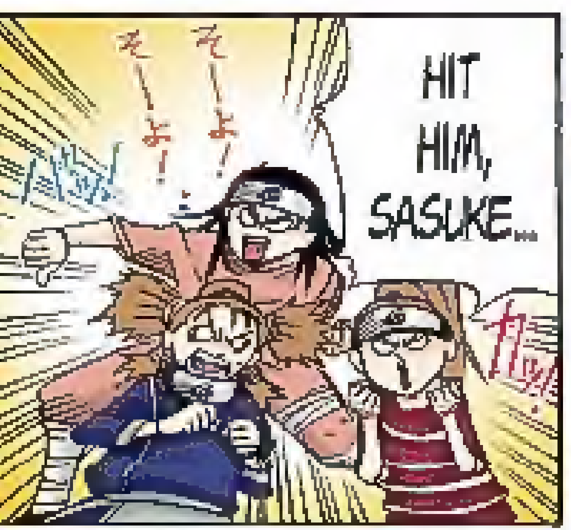


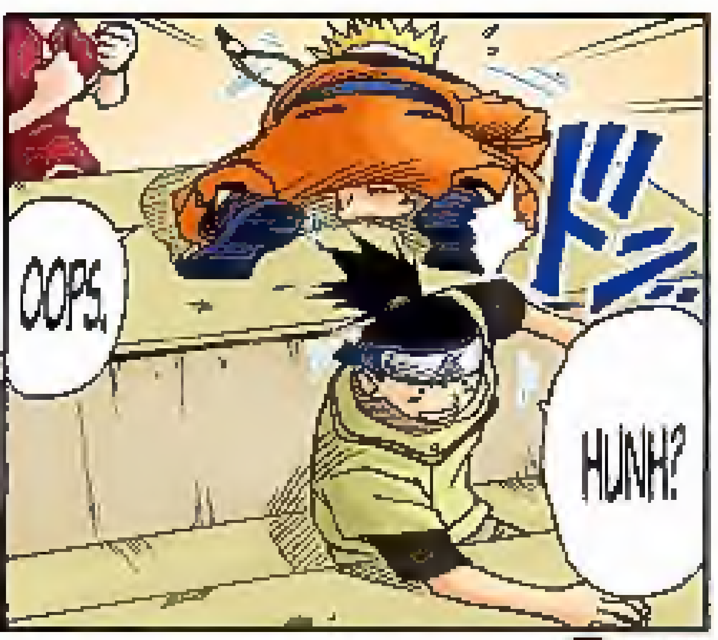


じっろーー!!


NARUTO, YOU JERK!
LEAVE SASUKE ALONE!!


GET LOST!
HMF!


HIT HIM, SASUKE...
そーよ!
そーよ!


HUNH?
OOPS.

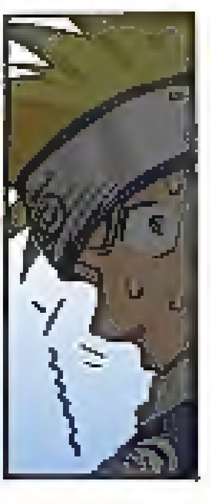

OH! SORRY!

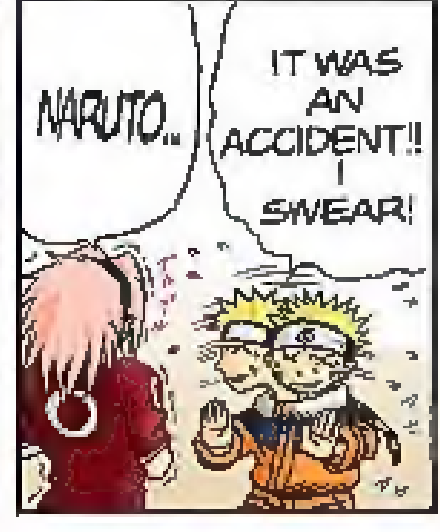

UM... UM...

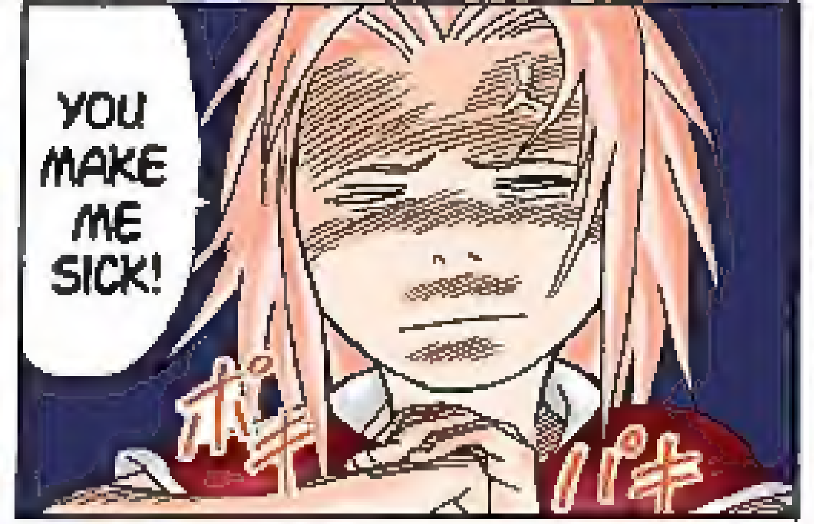

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NARUTO, YOU PIECE OF CRAP, YOU ARE DEAD!!
POISON! MY MOUTH IS RUINED!

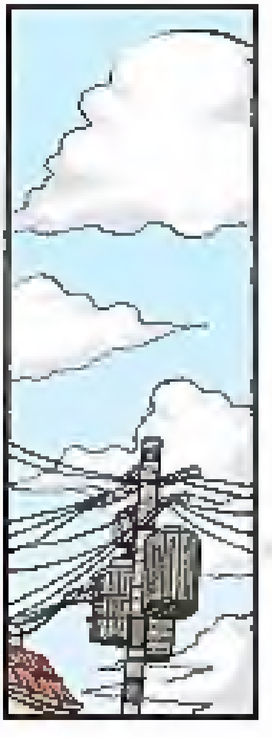

ACK!
BLOOD-LUST!

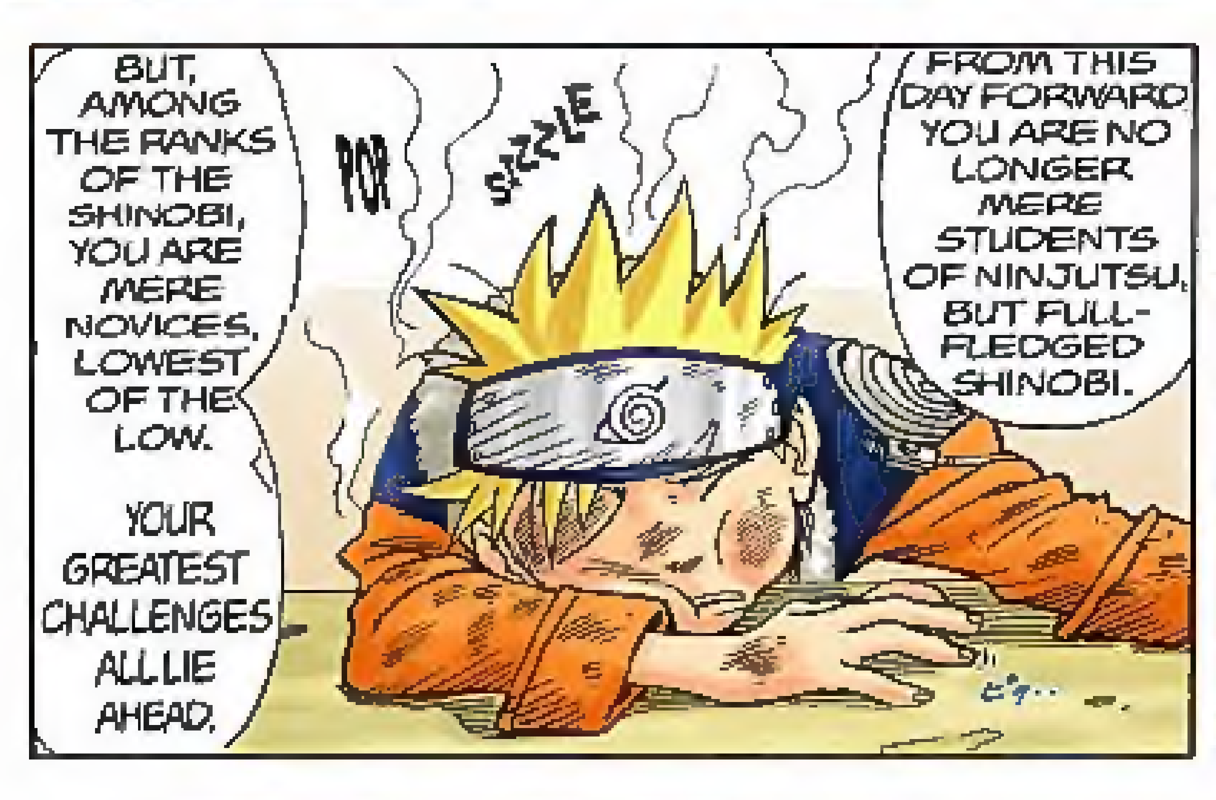


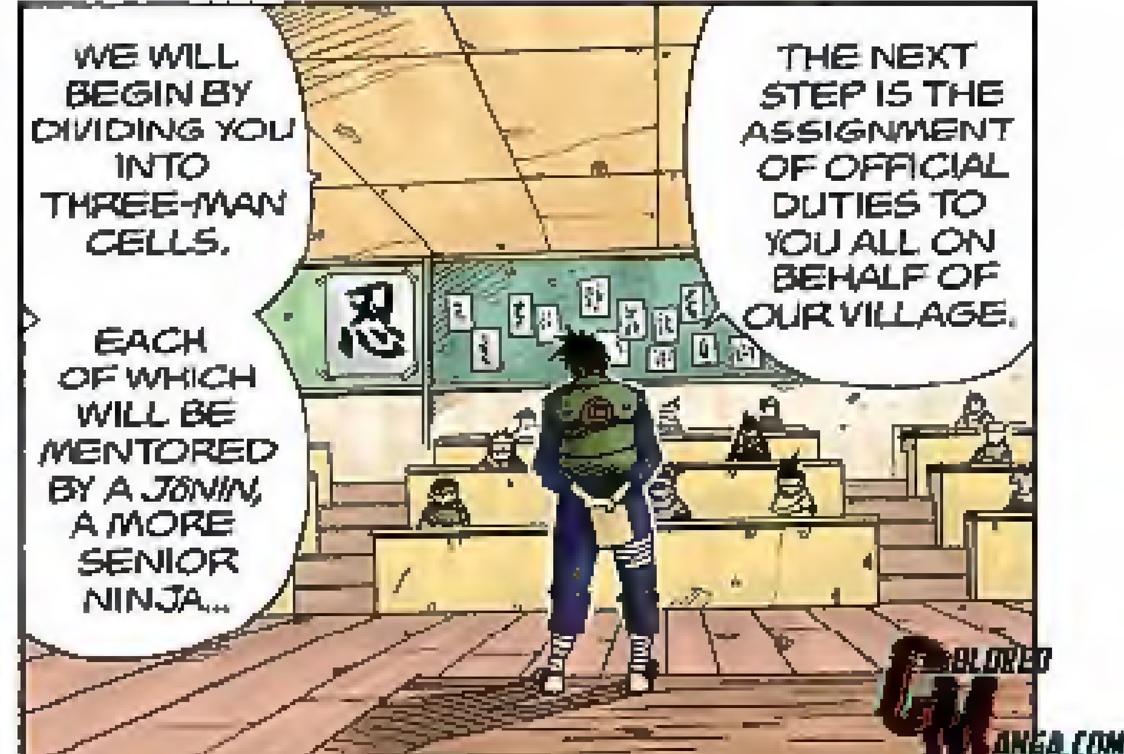

NARUTO..
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!! I SWEAR!

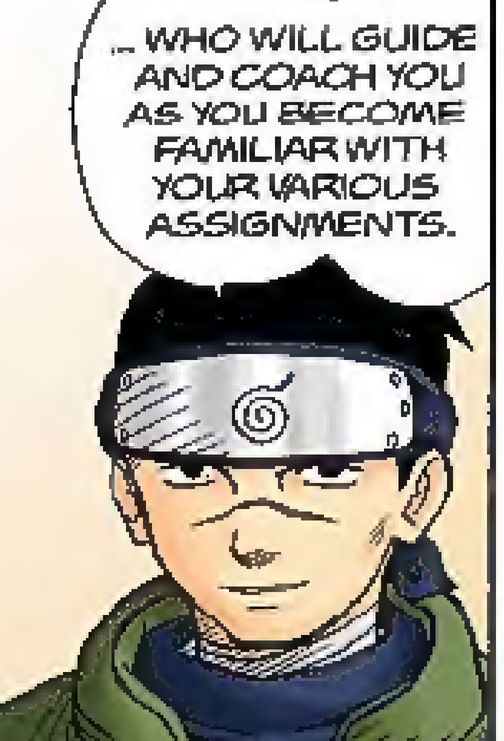

YOU MAKE ME SICK!
ポキ
パキ


WHY ARE YOU...?

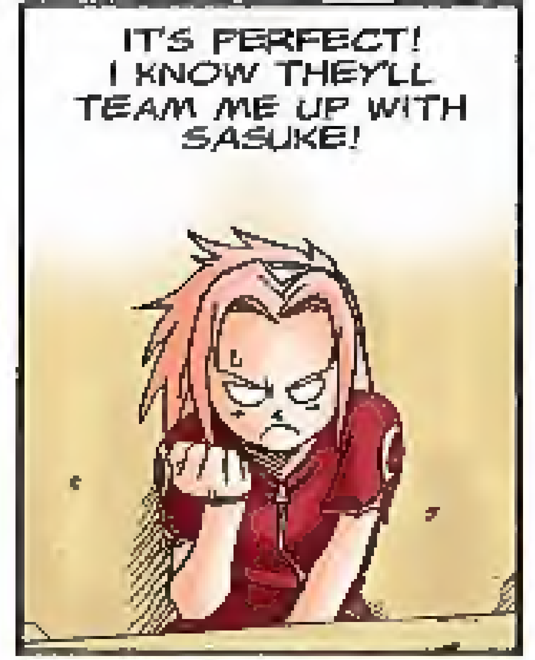


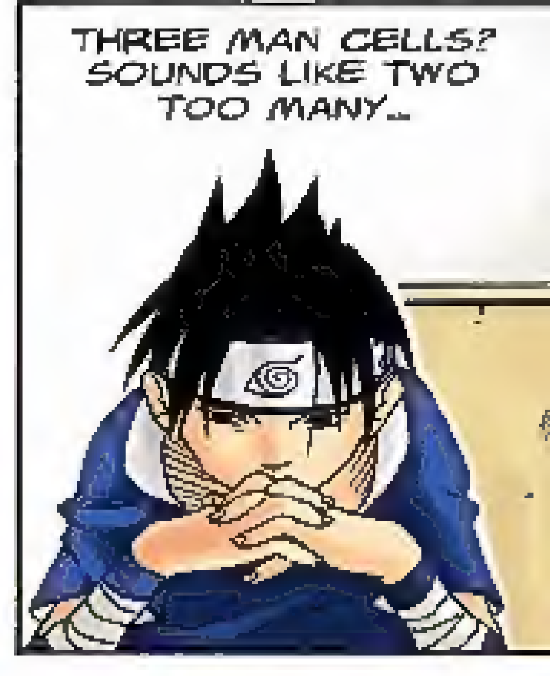

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD YOU ARE NO LONGER MERE STUDENTS OF NINJUTSU, BUT FULL-FLEDGED SHINOBI.
SIZZLE
POP
BUT, AMONG THE RANKS OF THE SHINOBI, YOU ARE MERE NOVICES, LOWEST OF THE LOW.
YOUR GREATEST CHALLENGES ALL LIE AHEAD.

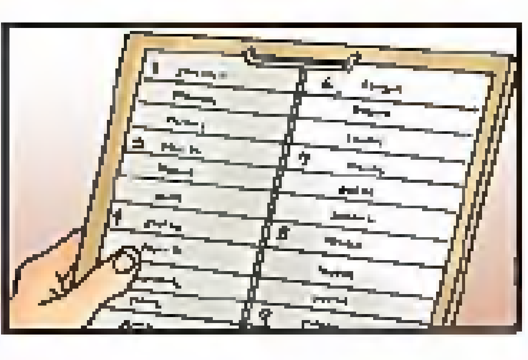

THE NEXT STEP IS THE ASSIGNMENT OF OFFICIAL DUTIES TO YOU ALL ON BEHALF OF OUR VILLAGE.
WE WILL BEGIN BY DIVIDING YOU INTO THREE-MAN CELLS.
EACH OF WHICH WILL BE MENTORED BY A JŌNIN, A MORE SENIOR NINJA...
忍


... WHO WILL GUIDE AND COACH YOU AS YOU BECOME FAMILIAR WITH YOUR VARIOUS ASSIGNMENTS.

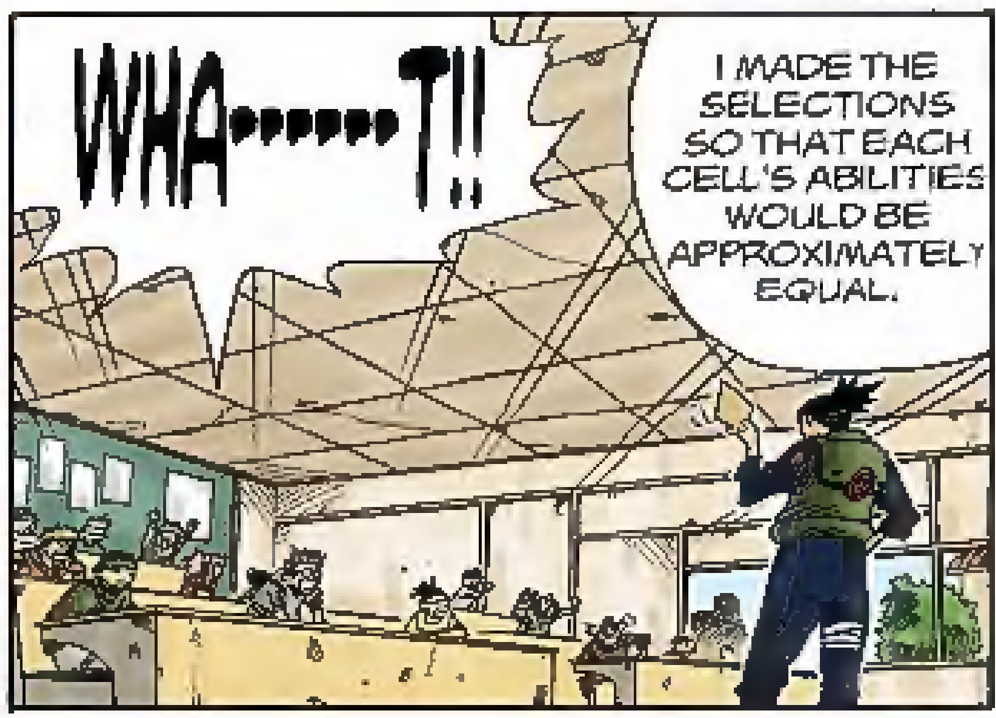

SO LONG AS I'M PARTNERED WITH SAKURA...
I'LL TAKE ANYBODY ELSE...
EXCEPT SASUKE!

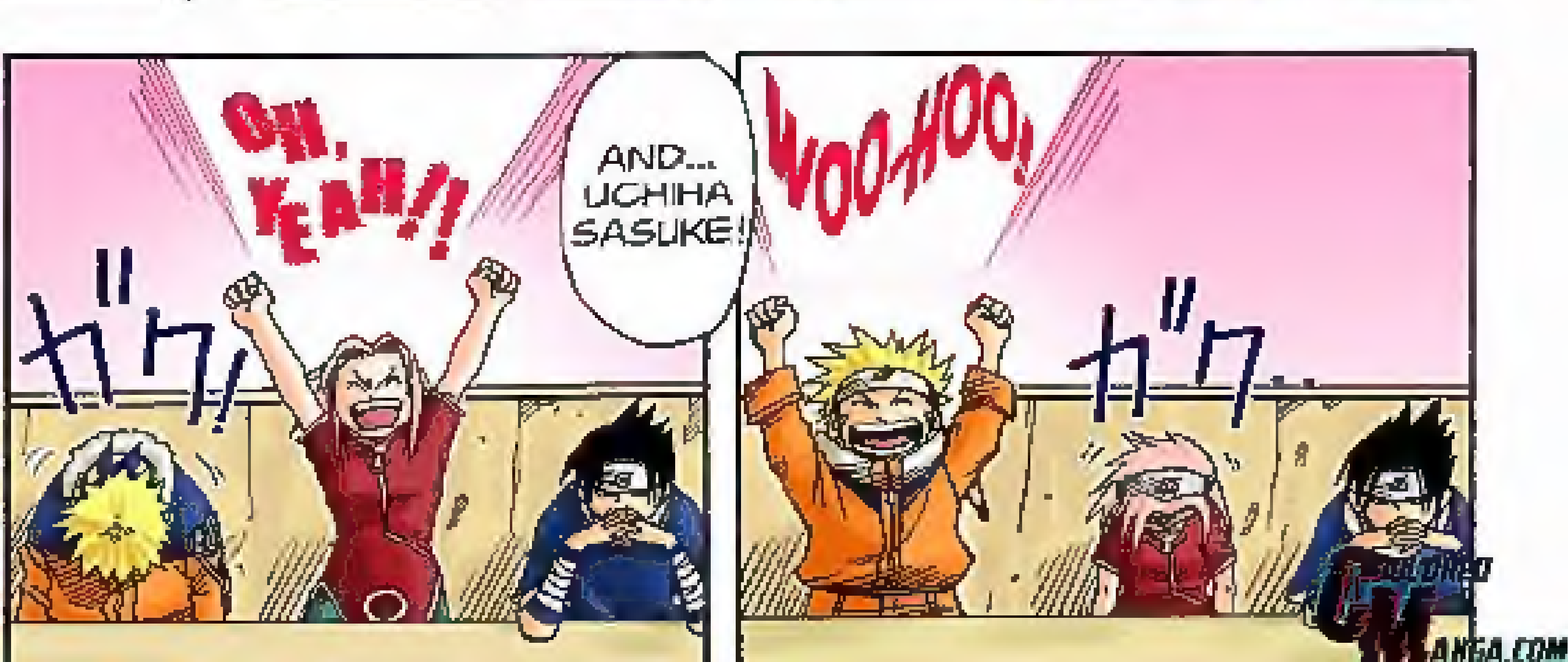

IT'S PERFECT!
I KNOW THEY'LL TEAM ME UP WITH SASUKE!

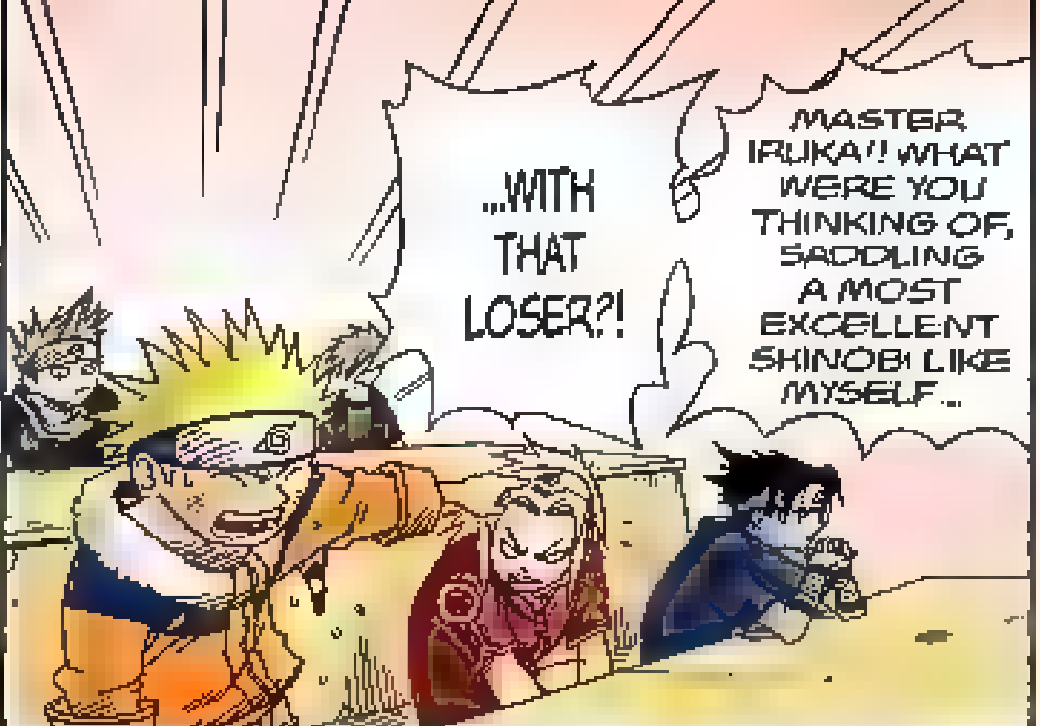

THREE MAN CELLS?
SOUNDS LIKE TWO TOO MANY...



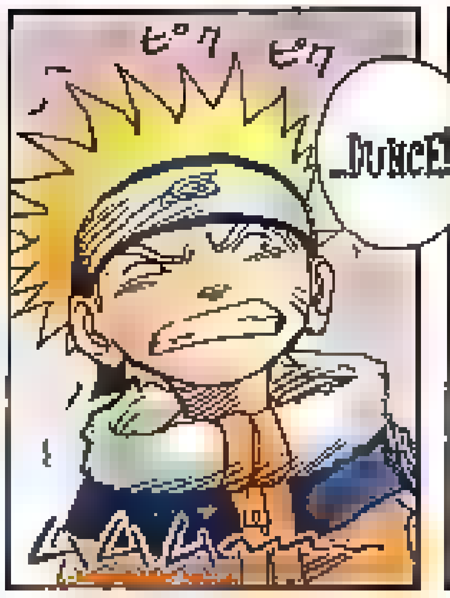
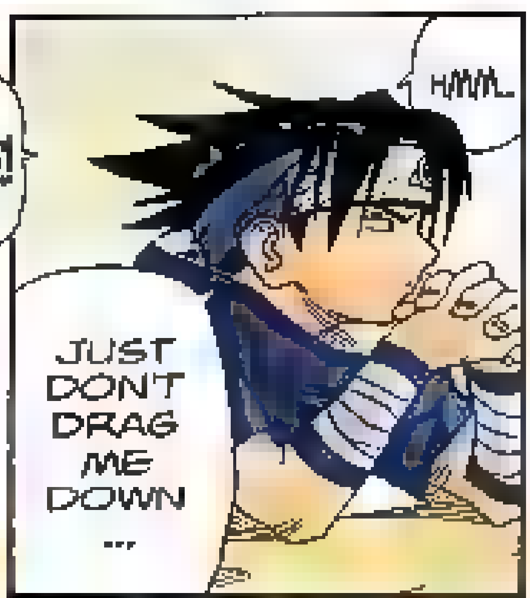

NEXT, CELL NUMBER SEVEN.
HARUNO SAKURA...
UZUMAKI NARUTO...


WHA......T!!
I MADE THE SELECTIONS SO THAT EACH CELL'S ABILITIES WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY EQUAL.


ガク!
OH, YEAH!!
AND... UCHIHA SASUKE!
WOOHOO!
ガク..



MASTER IRUKA!! WHAT WERE YOU THINKING OF, SADDLING A MOST EXCELLENT SHINOBI LIKE MYSELF...
...WITH THAT LOSER?!

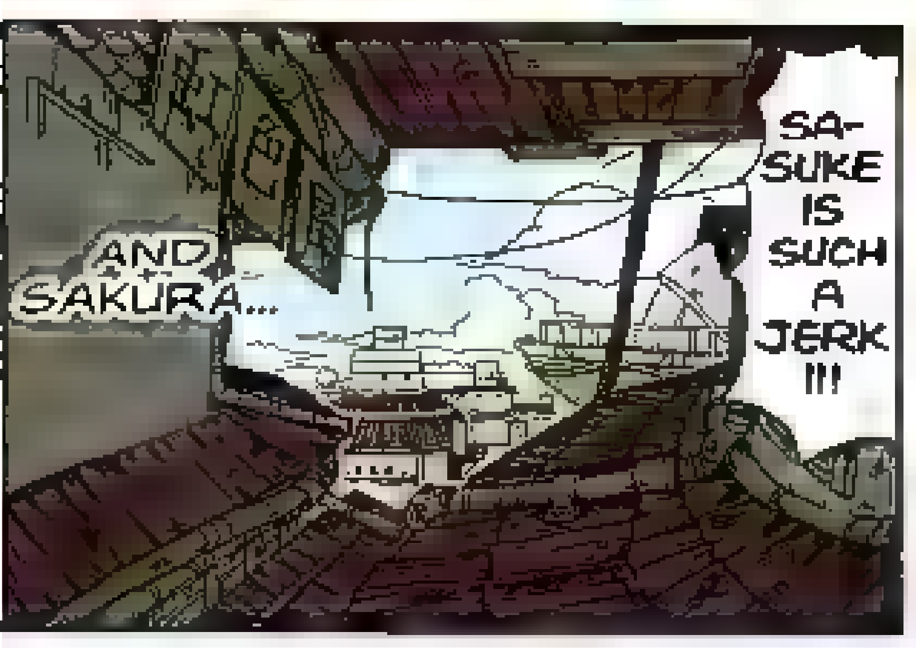
...... OF THE TWENTY-SEVEN OF YOU, SASUKE HAS THE BEST GRADES, NARUTO.
YOU WOULD BE THE BOTTOM OF THE CLASS
THE IDEA IS TO BALANCE YOUR DIFFERENT STRENGTHS.. THAT'S WHY YOU ENDED UP TOGETHER!

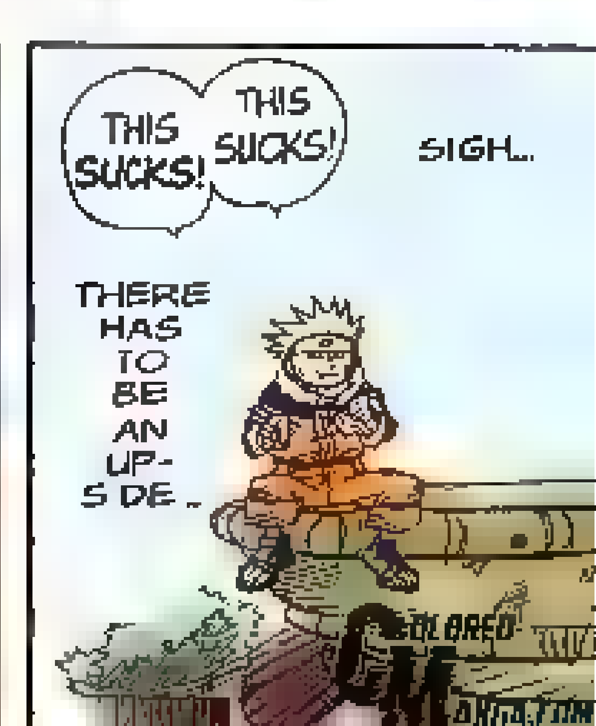
WHAT'D YOU CALL ME?!
JUST KNOCK IT OFF, NARUTO!

...DUNCE!

HMM..
JUST DON'T DRAG ME DOWN ...



...AWW... THEY'LL WORK IT OUT.
ポカ ポカ
EVEN NARUTO...

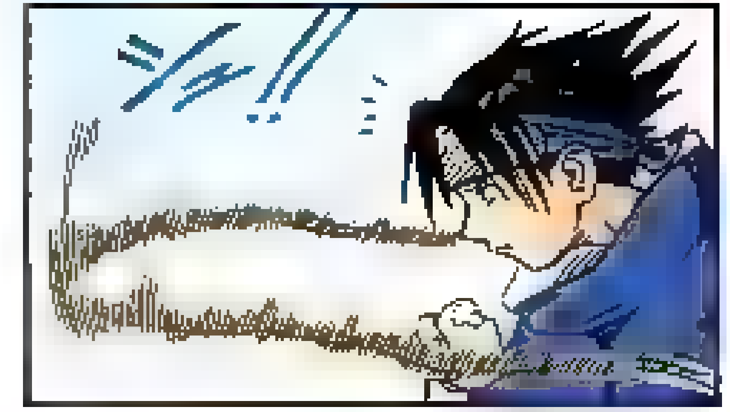

OK, EVERYONE. 'LL BE INTRODUCING YOUR SENIOR NINJUTSU INSTRUCTORS THIS AFTERNOON.
UNTIL THEN, YOU'RE DISMISSED!

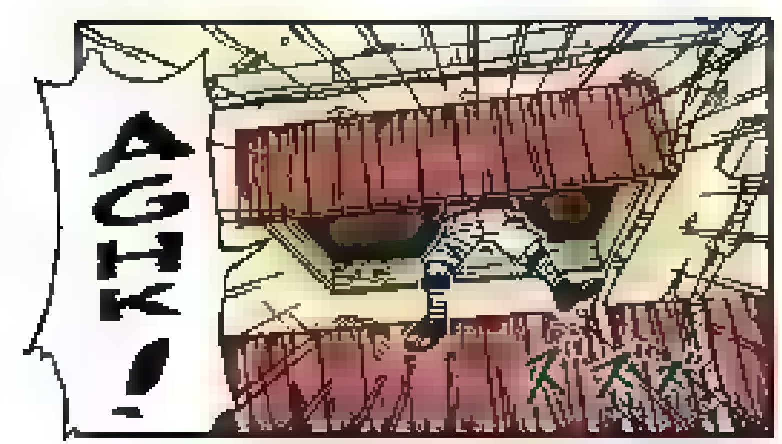
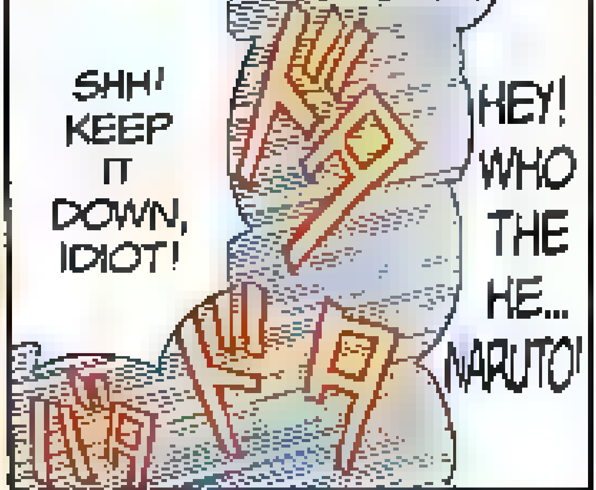

SASUKE IS SUCH A JERK!!!
AND SAKURA...

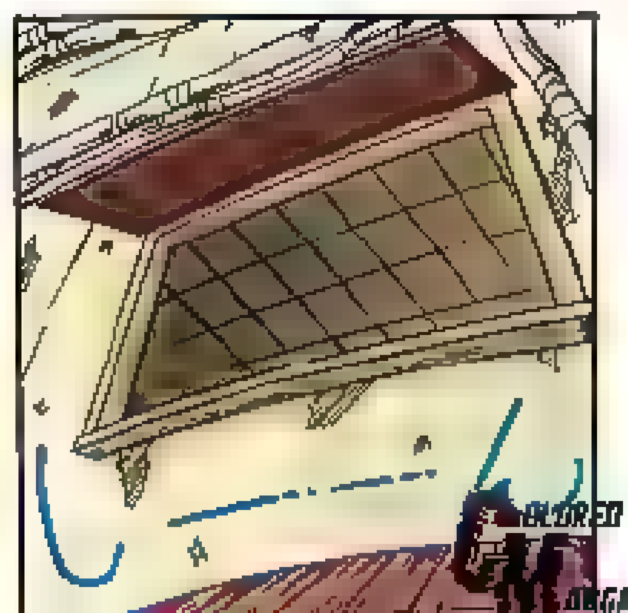

THIS SUCKS!
THIS SUCKS!
SIGH...
THERE HAS TO BE AN UPSIDE...

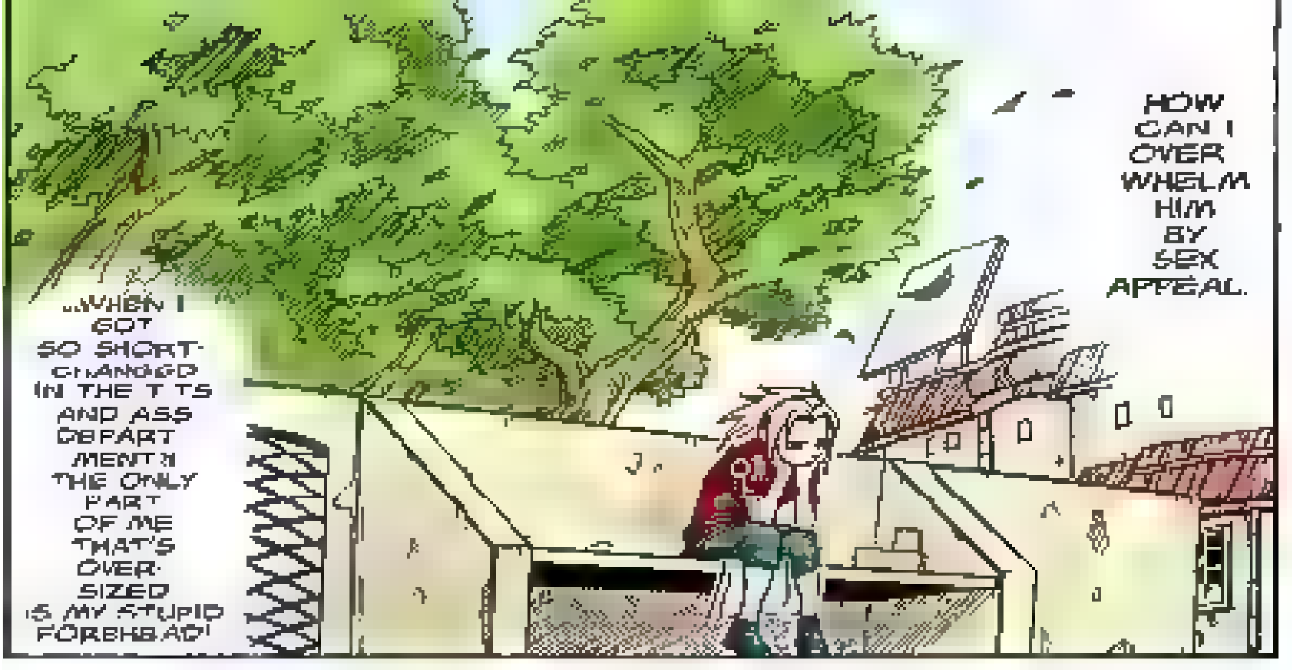
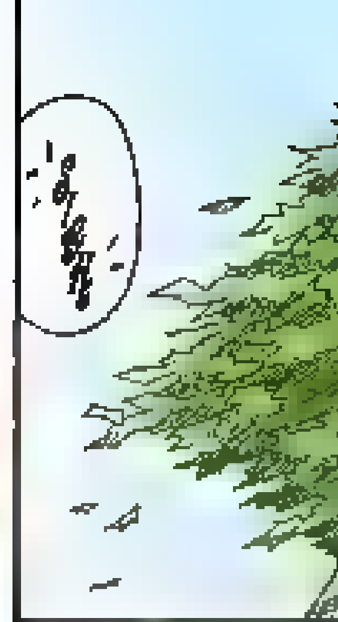
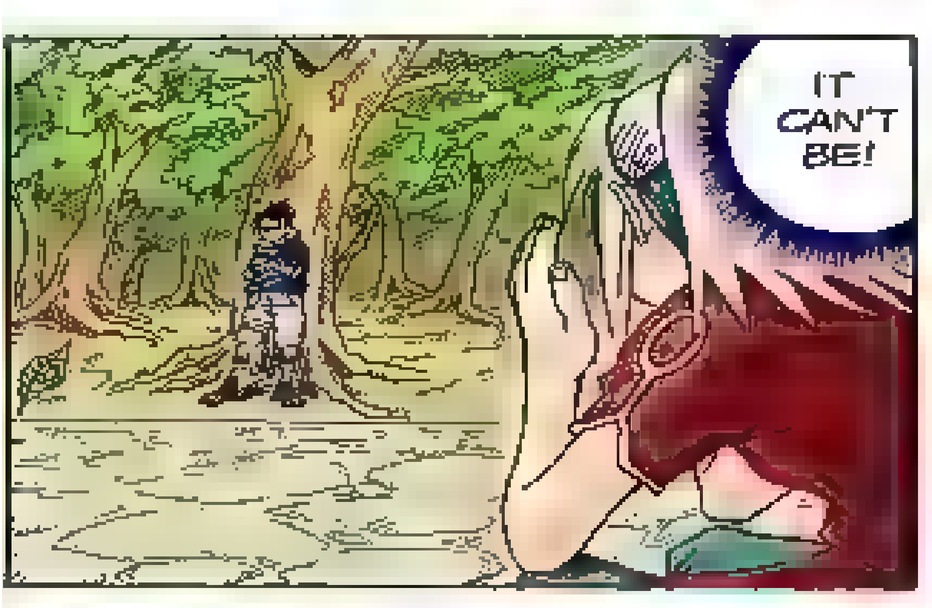
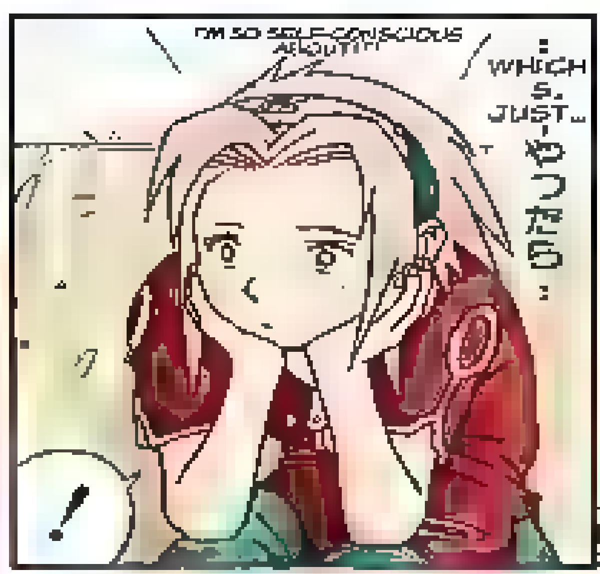

I'VE GOT IT!!





SASUKE LETS HIS GUARD DOWN WHEN HE'S EATING...

AGHK!

HEY! WHO THE HE... NARUTO!
SHH! KEEP IT DOWN, IDIOT!

FOOL...


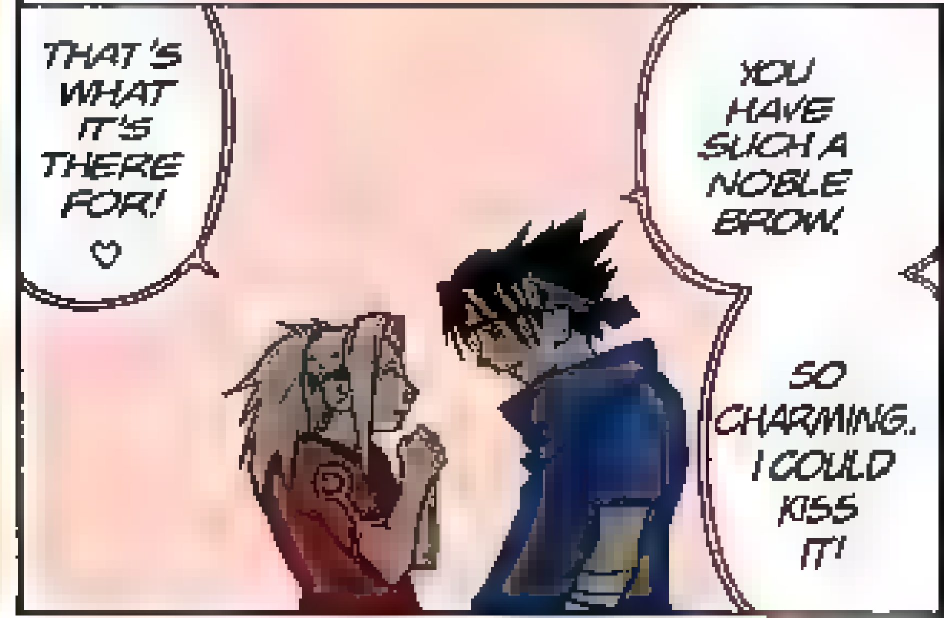

HOW CAN I OVER WHELM HIM BY SEX APPEAL.
...WHEN I GOT SO SHORT-CHANGED IN THE T TS AND ASS DEPART MENT?! THE ONLY PART OF ME THAT'S OVER-SIZED IS MY STUPID FOREHEAD!


IT CAN'T BE!

I'M SO SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT IT!
...WHICH IS JUST...
やつだら
!

LIKE HE CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH ME!!

WITH BED-ROOM EYES!
あんな

BUT IT IS! SASUKE— HE'S LOOKING AT ME!!

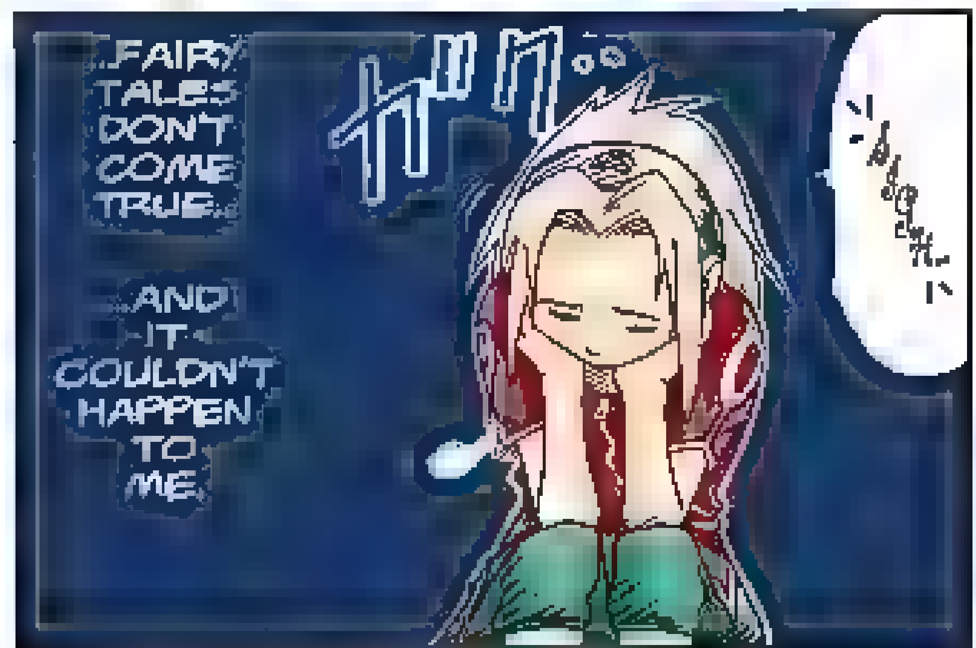
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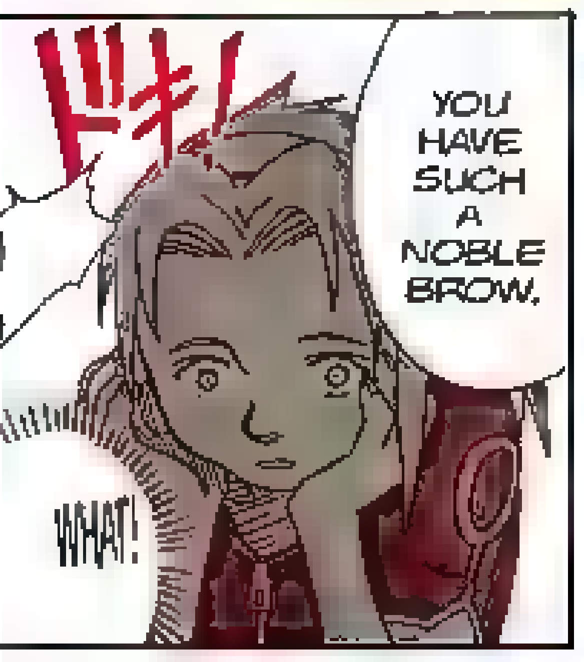
YOU HAVE SUCH A NOBLE BROW.
SO CHARMING.. I COULD KISS IT!
THAT'S WHAT IT'S THERE FOR! ♡



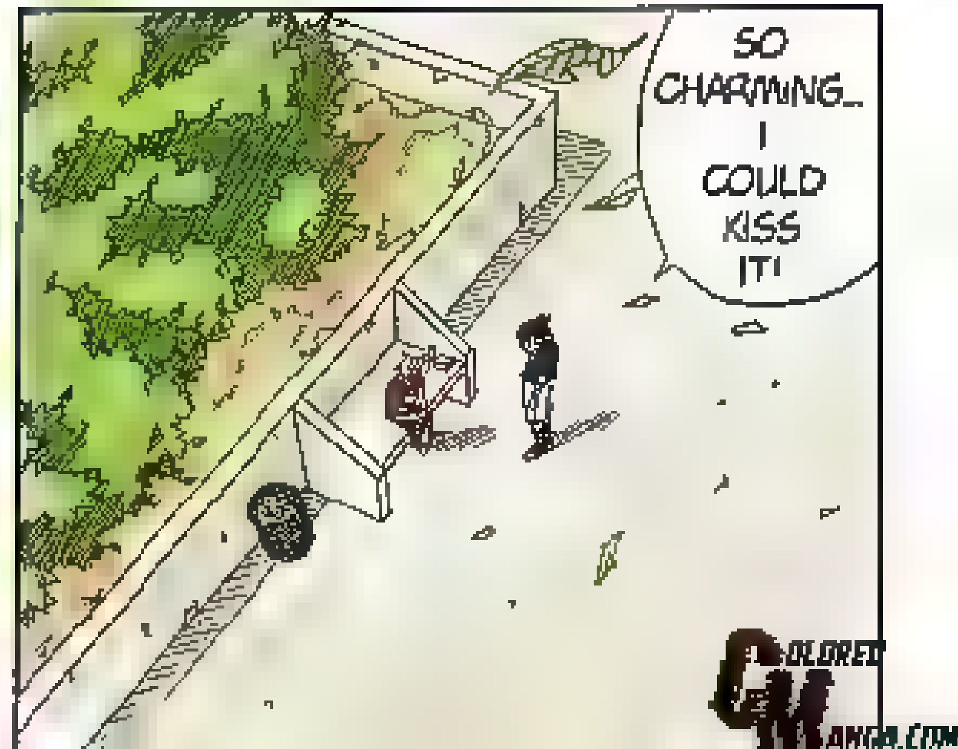
OH--!



...FAIRY TALES DON'T COME TRUE...
...AND IT COULDN'T HAPPEN TO ME.

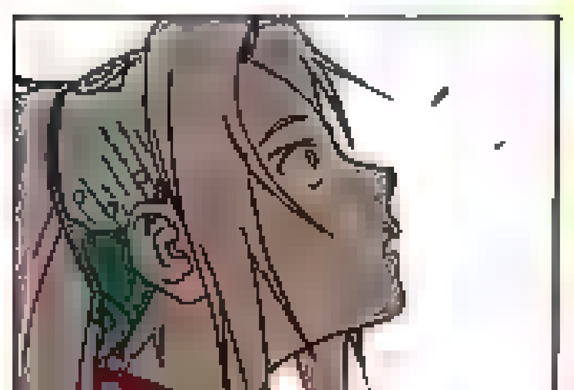


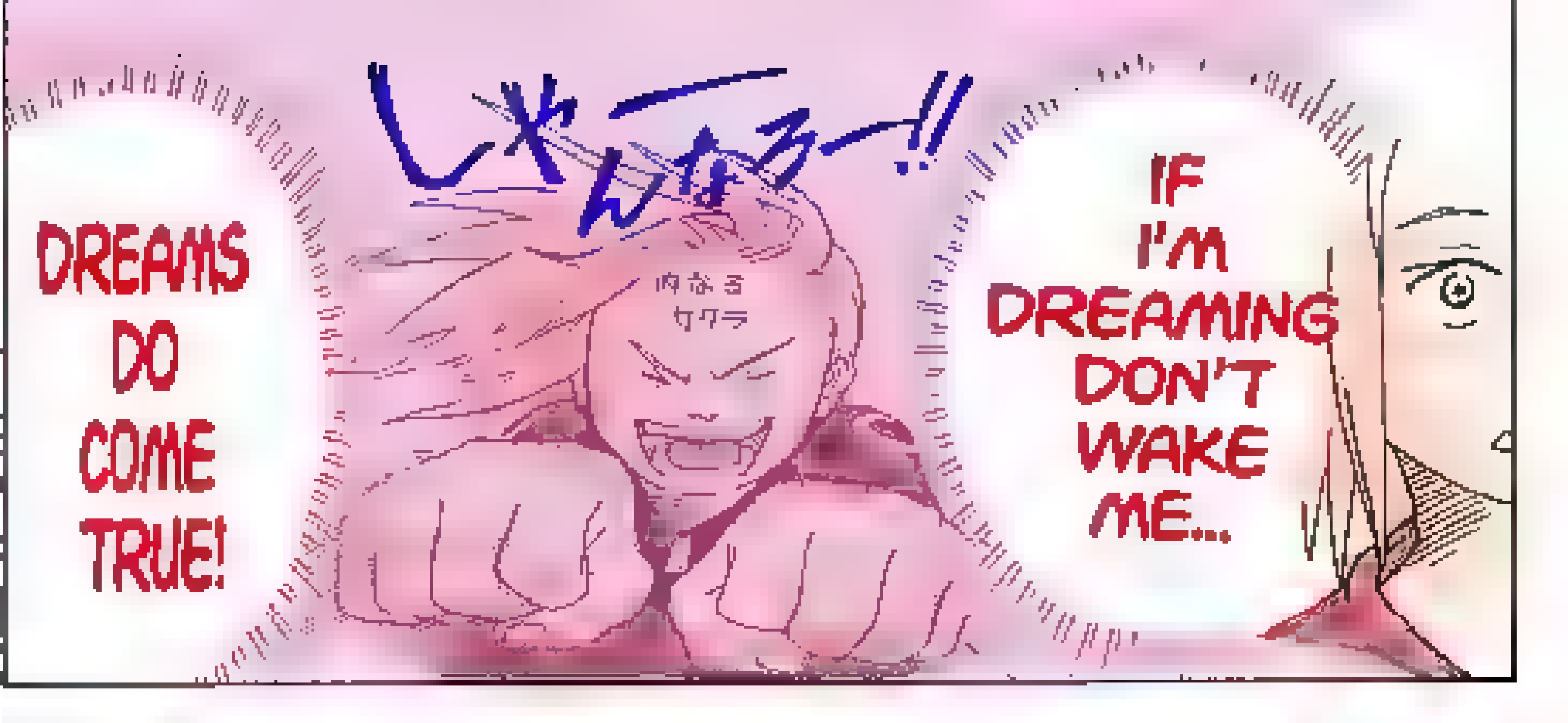
ドキ!
YOU HAVE SUCH A NOBLE BROW.
WHAT!



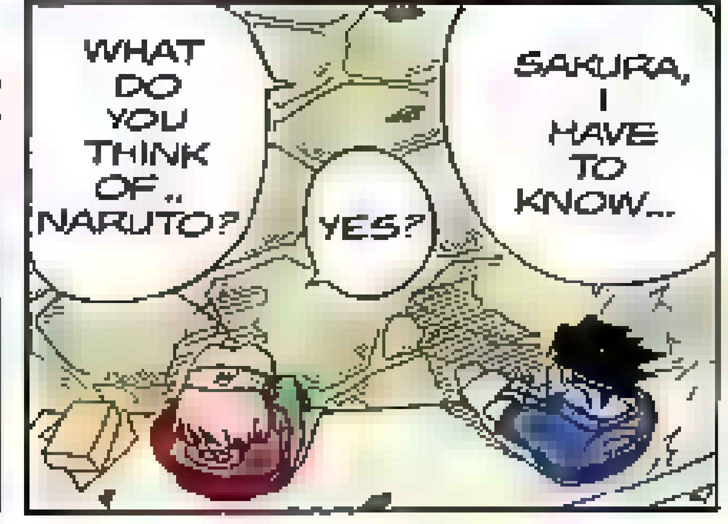
SO CHARMING... I COULD KISS IT!





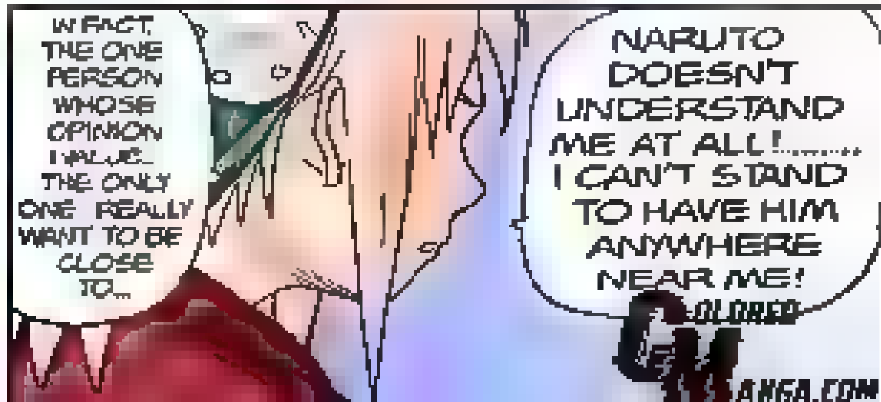

IF I'M DREAMING DON'T WAKE ME...
しゃんなろー!!
内なるサクラ
DREAMS DO COME TRUE!


THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT NARUTO WOULD SAY.

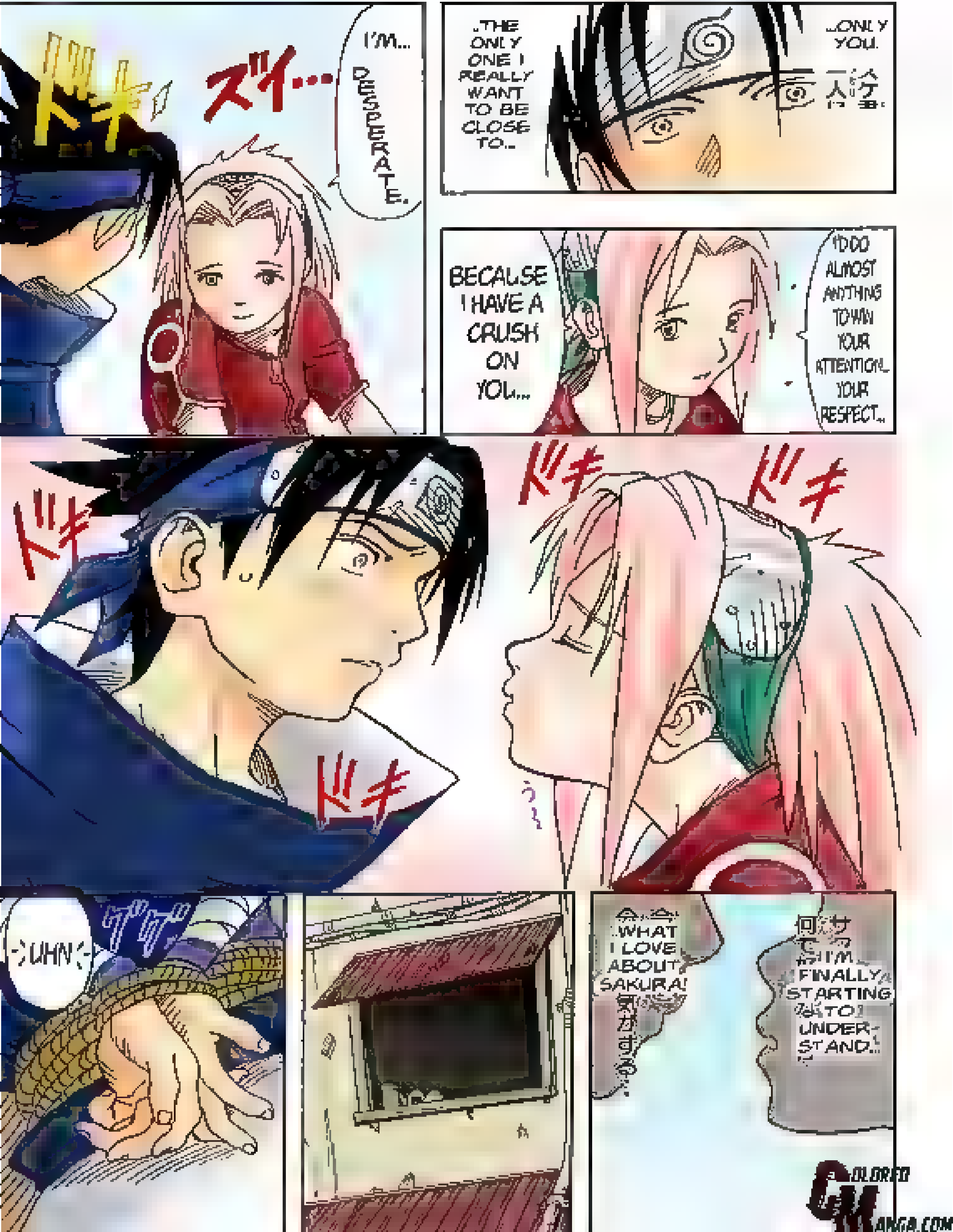

SAKURA, I HAVE TO KNOW...
YES?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF.. NARUTO?


....


...IF HE HAD HIS WAY, I'D NEVER FIND LOVE OR HAPPINESS...
HE RUINS EVERYTHING.. HE ENJOYS TORMENTING ME!


NARUTO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ME AT ALL!....... I CAN'T STAND TO HAVE HIM ANYWHERE NEAR ME!
IN FACT, THE ONE PERSON WHOSE OPINION I VALUE.. THE ONLY ONE I REALLY WANT TO BE CLOSE TO...

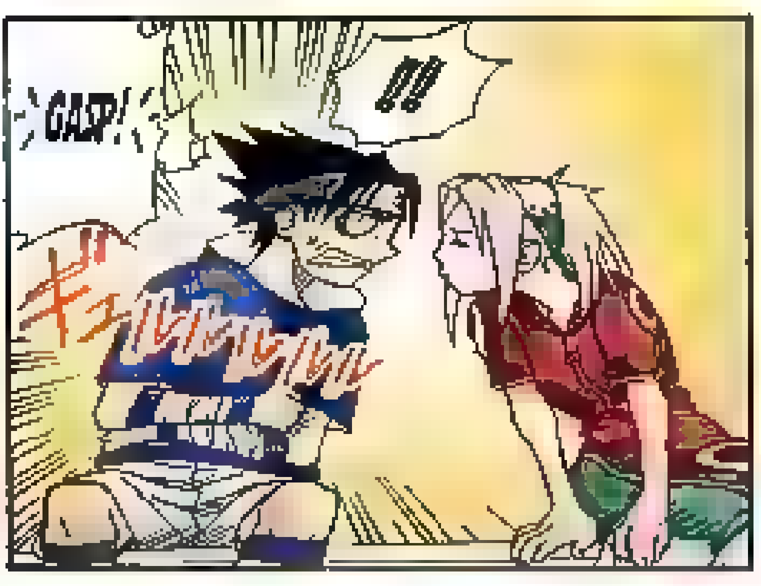

...IS YOU, SASUKE

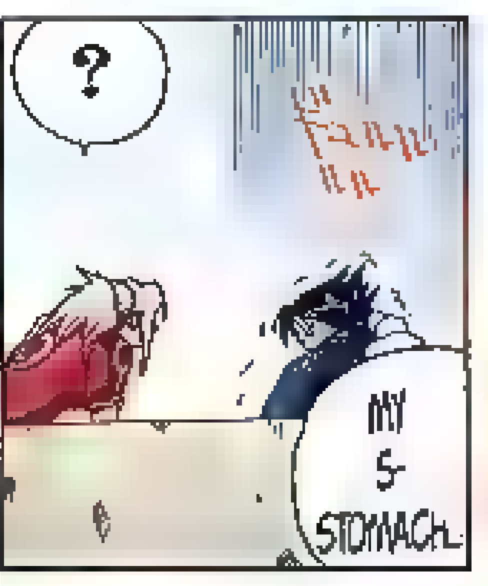


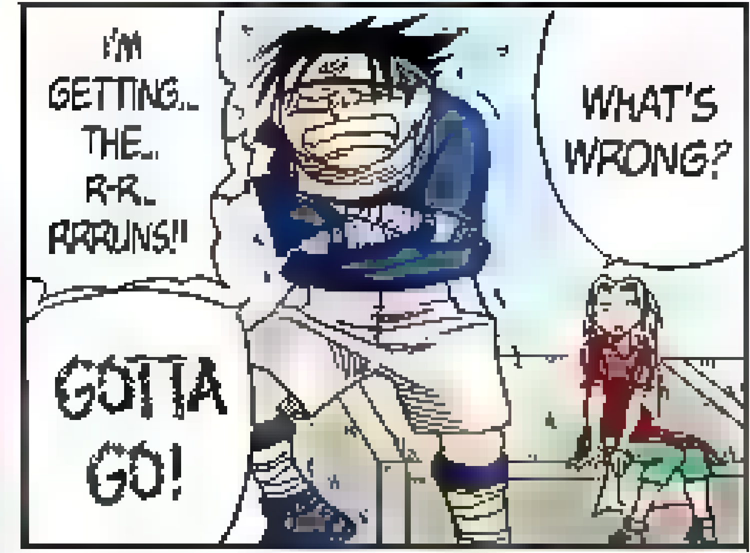
..ONLY YOU.
..THE ONLY ONE I REALLY WANT TO BE CLOSE TO..
I'M... DESPERATE.
ズイ…
ドキッ
I'D DO ALMOST ANYTHING TO WIN YOUR ATTENTION.. YOUR RESPECT..
BECAUSE I HAVE A CRUSH ON YOU...
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ
..WHAT I LOVE ABOUT SAKURA!
..I'M FINALLY STARTING TO UNDERSTAND..
UHN

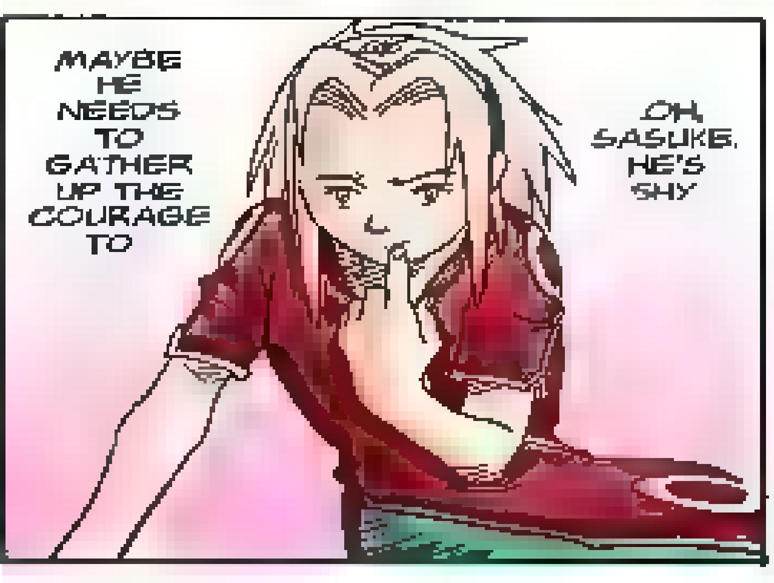
DAMN NARUTO!
USED HIS SHINOBI ILLUSIONS TO PASS AS ME!..
WHAT'S HE UP TO?!

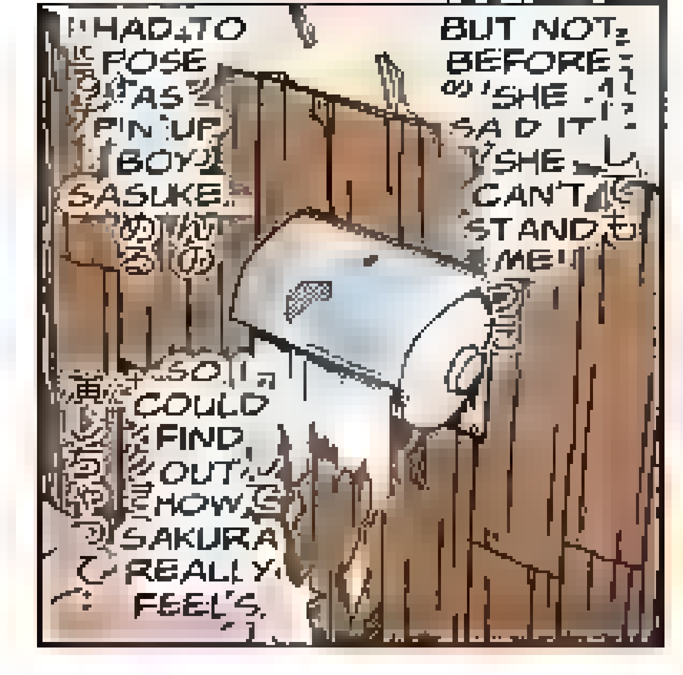
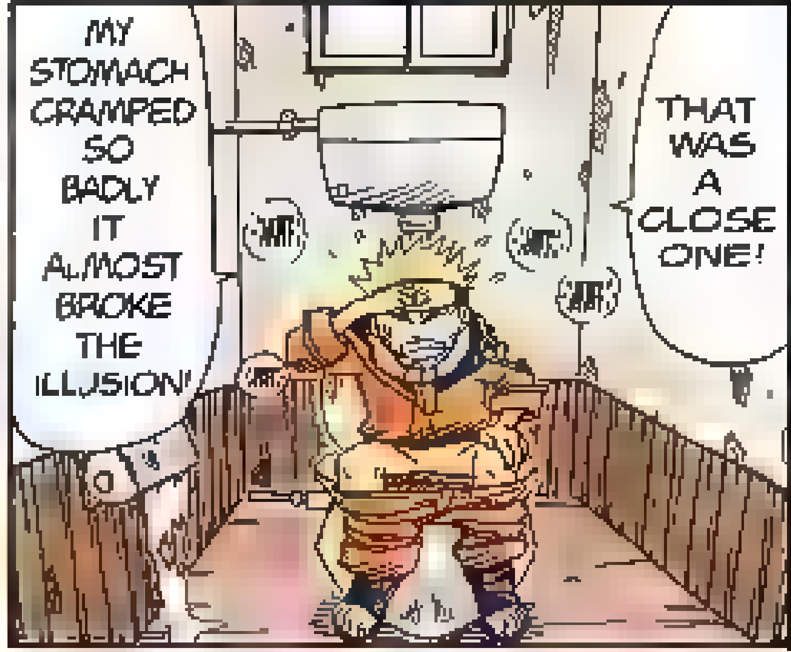
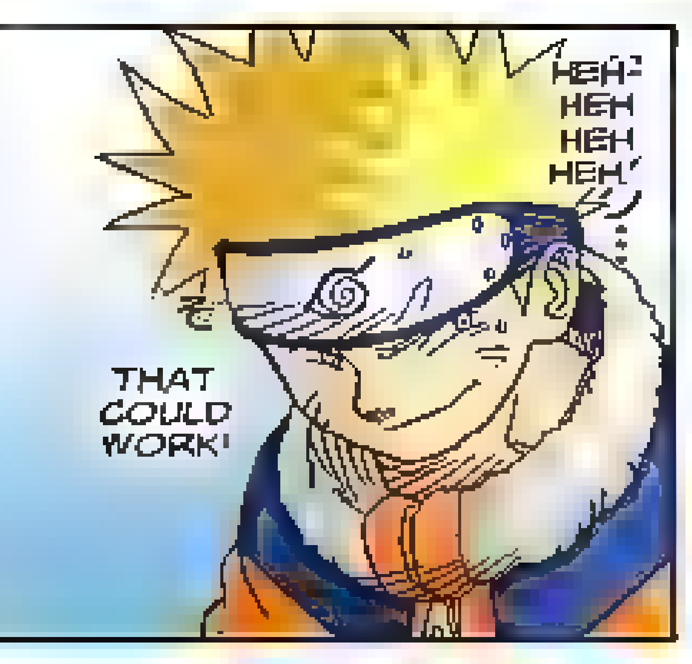
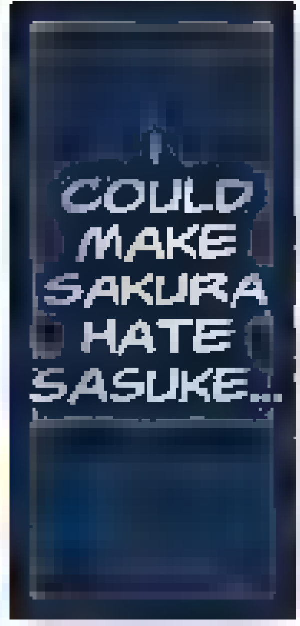
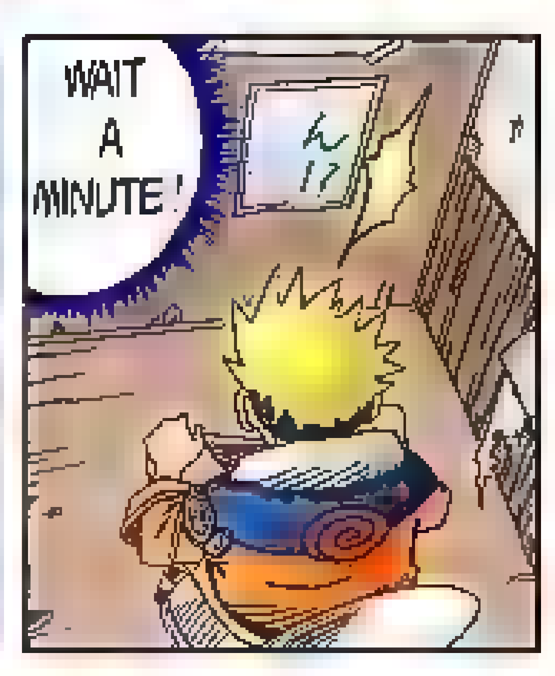
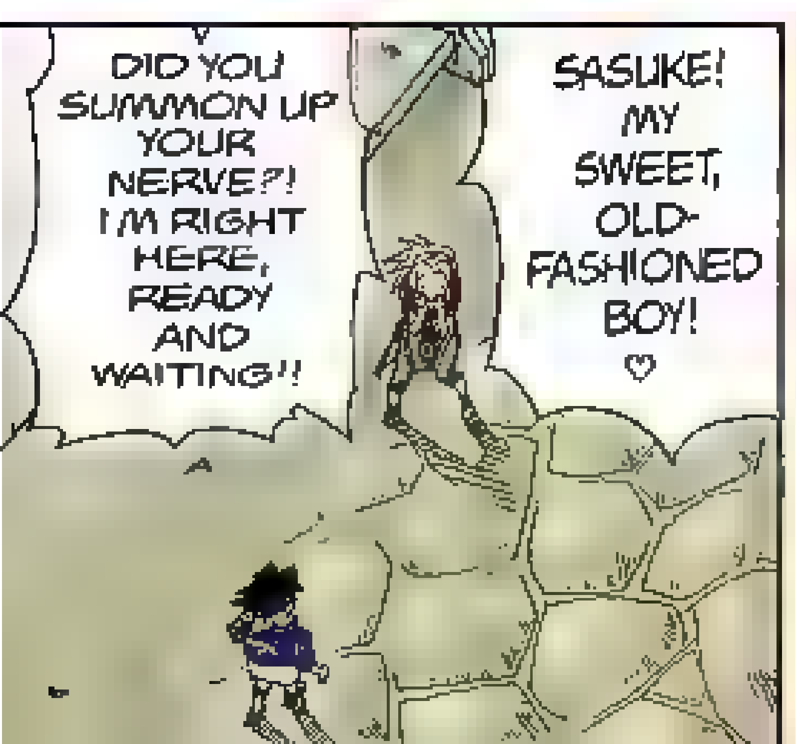
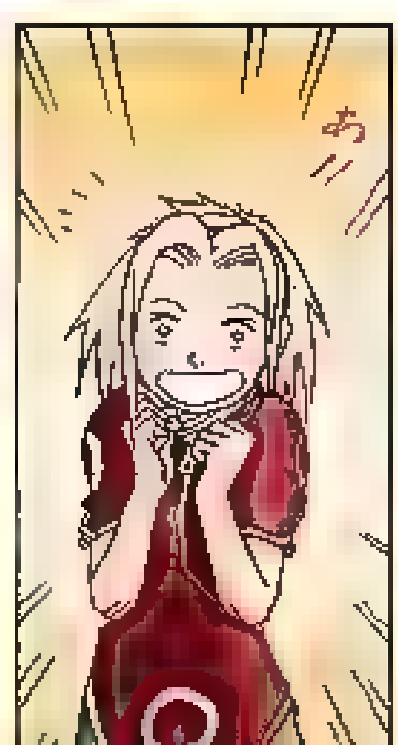
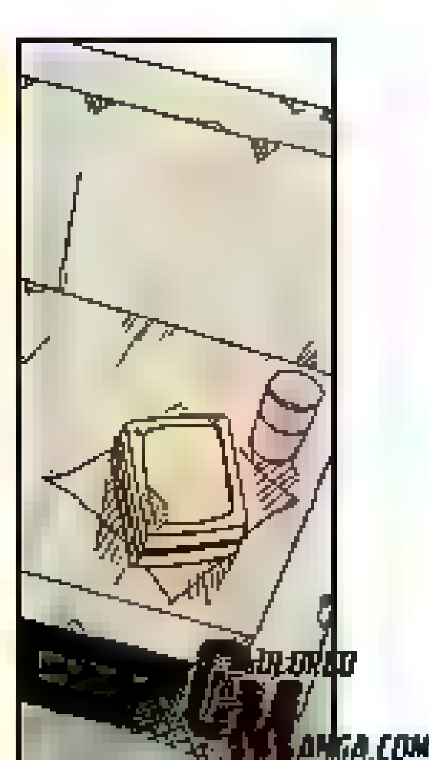


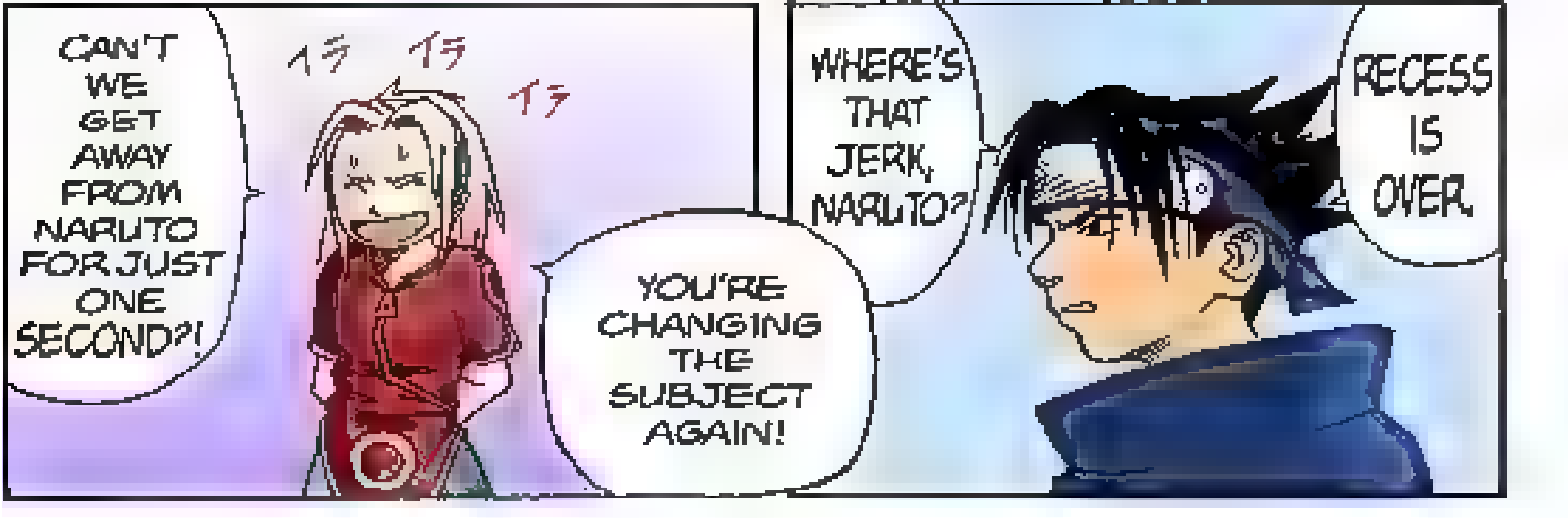






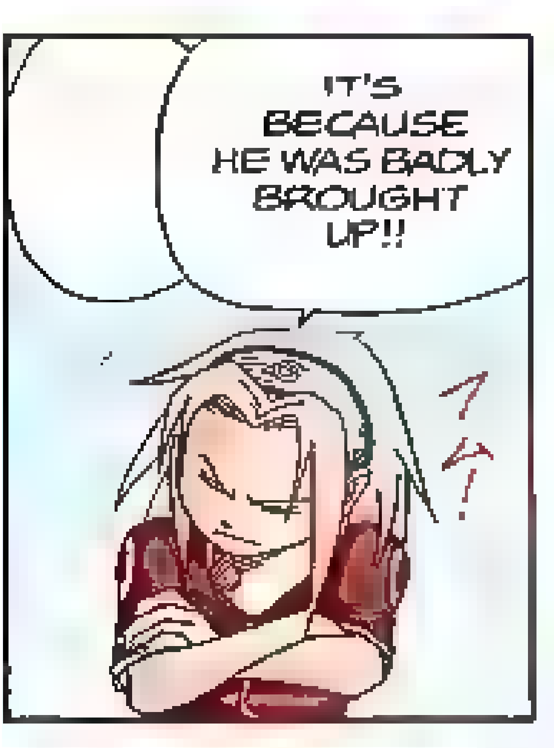


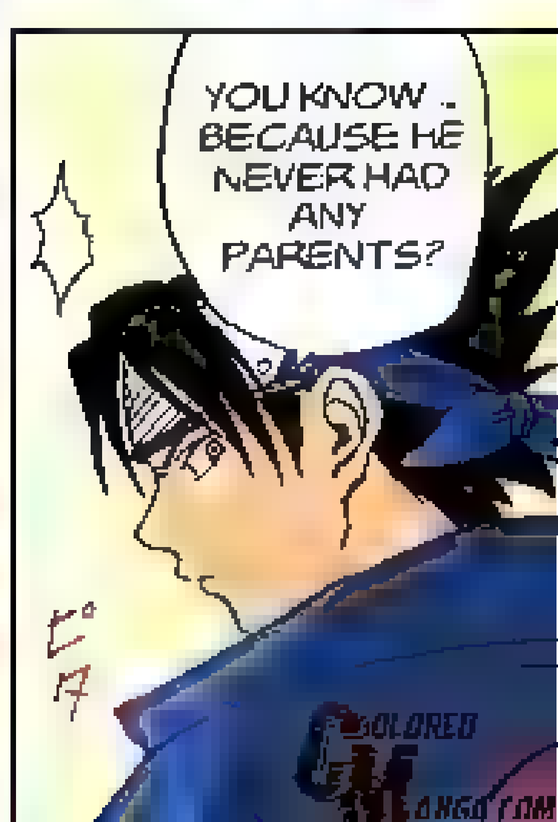

I HAD TO POSE AS PIN UP BOY SASUKE...
BUT NOT BEFORE 'SHE SAID IT' 'SHE CAN'T STAND ME!'
SO I COULD FIND OUT HOW SAKURA REALLY FEEL'S.

MY STOMACH CRAMPED SO BADLY IT ALMOST BROKE THE ILLUSION!
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE!

HEH HEH HEH HEH
THAT COULD WORK!

COULD MAKE SAKURA HATE SASUKE...

WAIT A MINUTE!

DID YOU SUMMON UP YOUR NERVE?! I'M RIGHT HERE, READY AND WAITING!!
SASUKE! MY SWEET, OLD-FASHIONED BOY! ♡



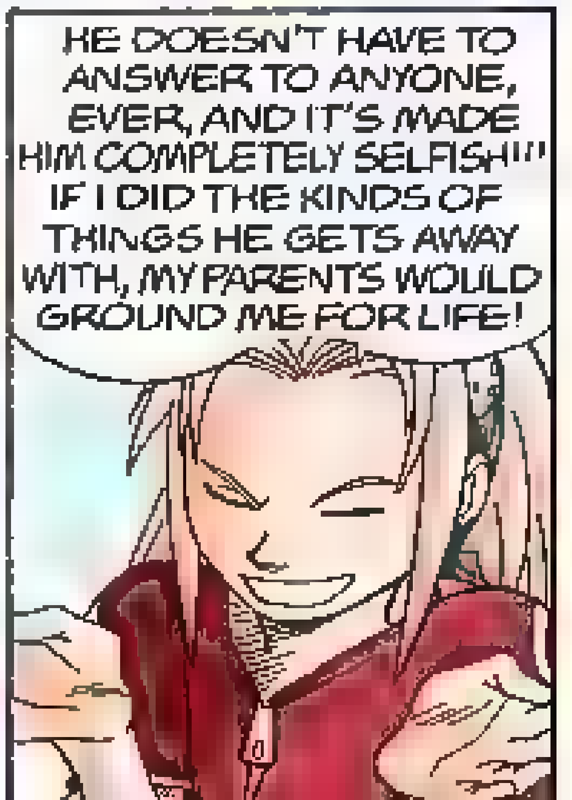

RECESS IS OVER.
WHERE'S THAT JERK, NARUTO?
YOU'RE CHANGING THE SUBJECT AGAIN!
CAN'T WE GET AWAY FROM NARUTO FOR JUST ONE SECOND?!
イラ
イラ
イラ

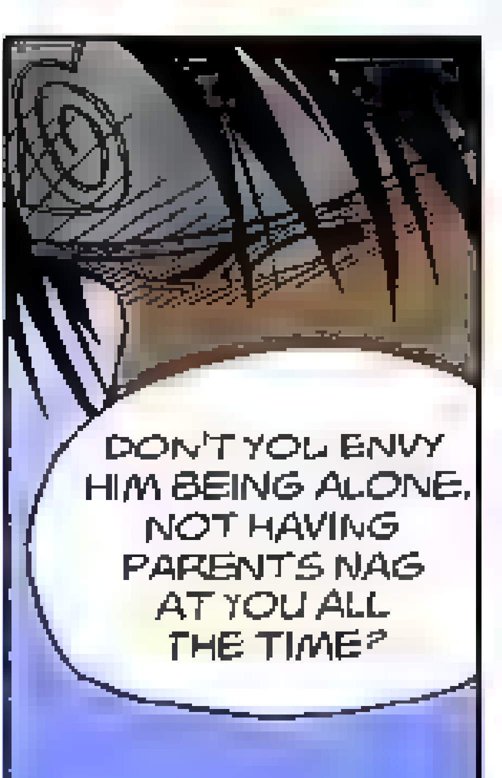

HE ALWAYS COMES BETWEEN US!


テク
テク


IT'S BECAUSE HE WAS BADLY BROUGHT UP!!
ムッ!

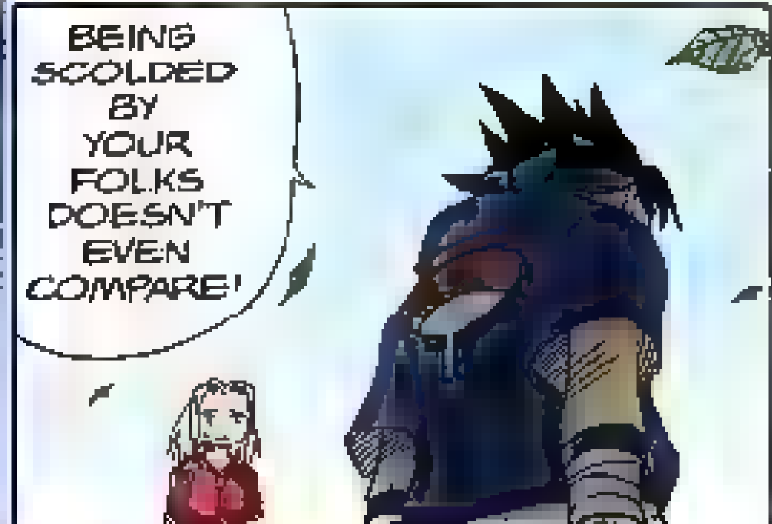

YOU KNOW... BECAUSE HE NEVER HAD ANY PARENTS?

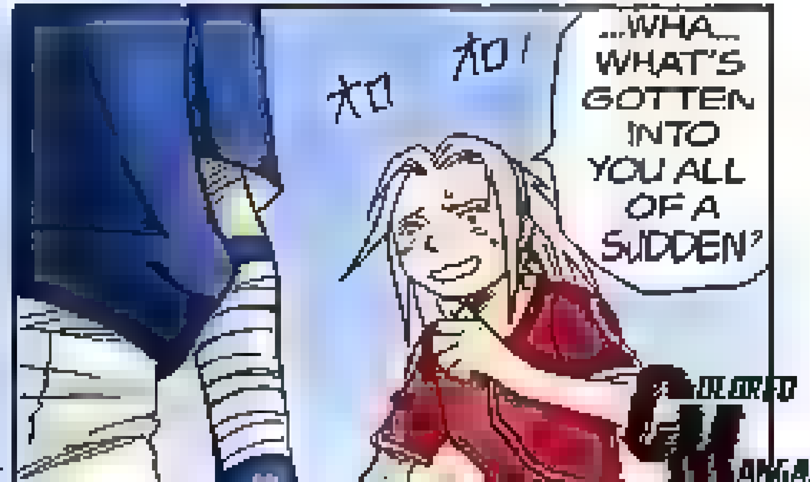

HE DOESN'T HAVE TO ANSWER TO ANYONE, EVER, AND IT'S MADE HIM COMPLETELY SELFISH!!! IF I DID THE KINDS OF THINGS HE GETS AWAY WITH, MY PARENTS WOULD GROUND ME FOR LIFE!


DON'T YOU ENVY HIM BEING ALONE, NOT HAVING PARENTS NAG AT YOU ALL THE TIME?



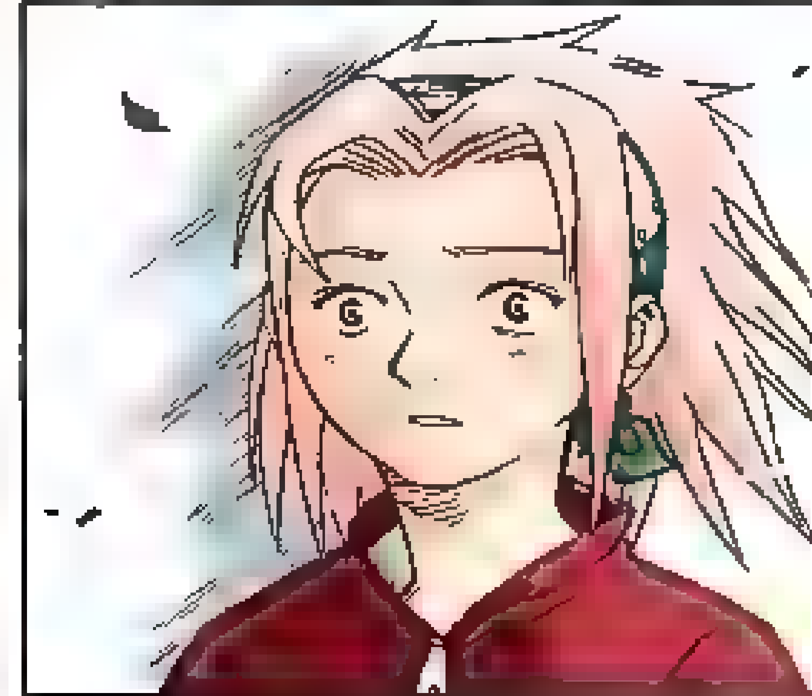


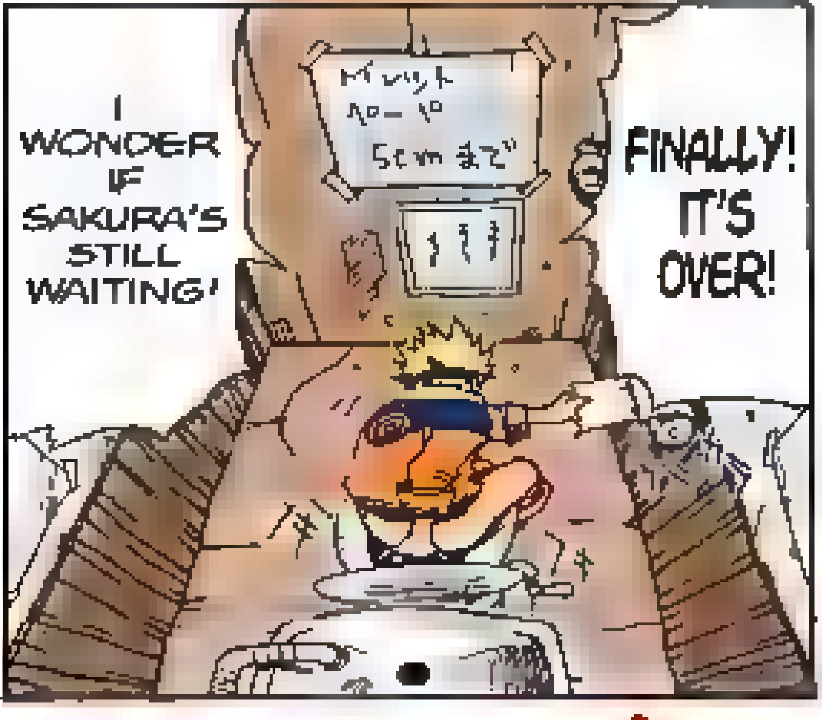


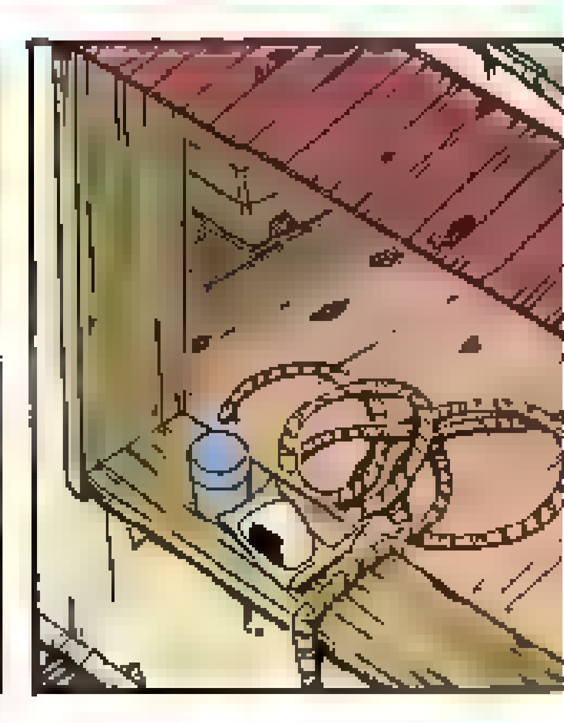


YOU....

MAKE ME SICK!

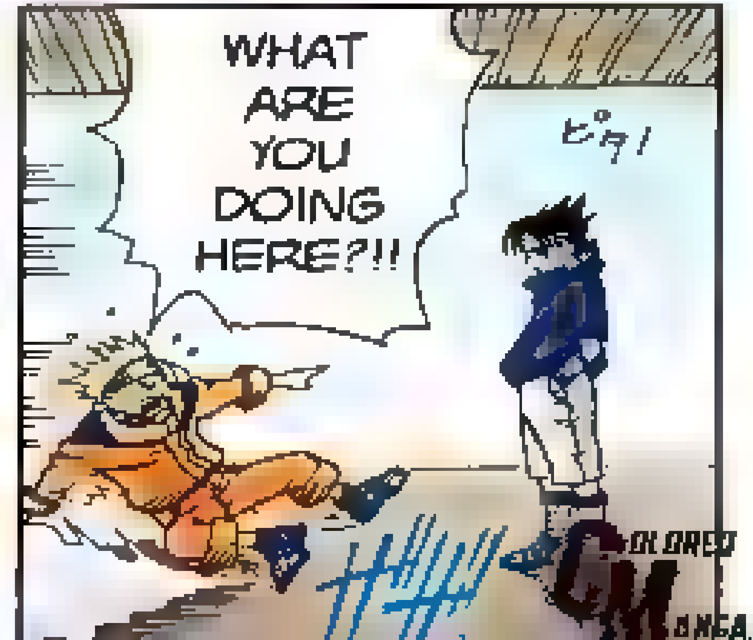


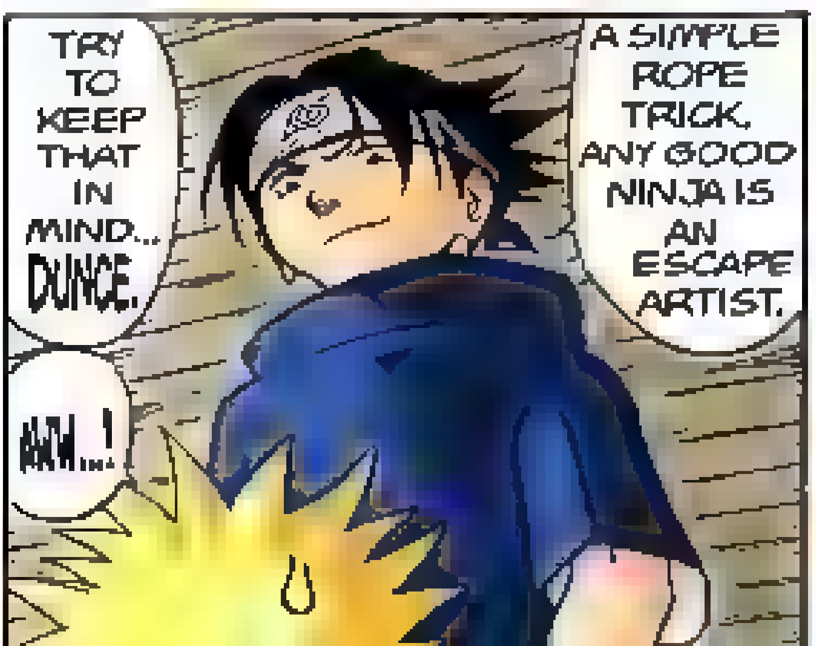

FINALLY! IT'S OVER!
I WONDER IF SAKURA'S STILL WAITING!



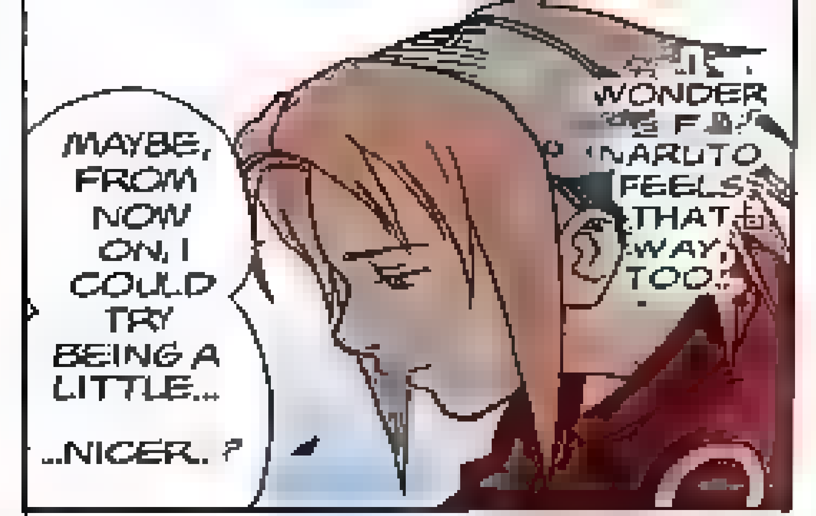


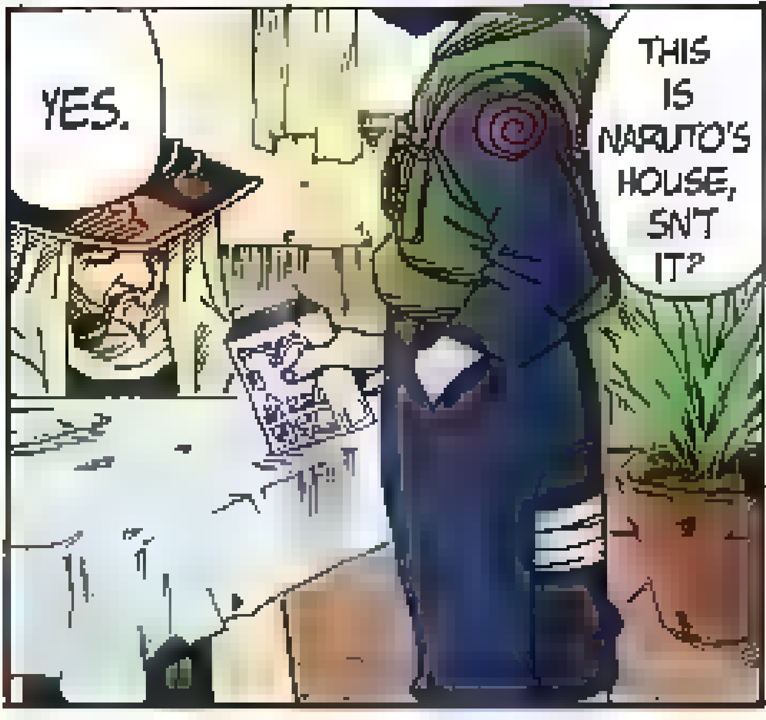

GAAAAH...!

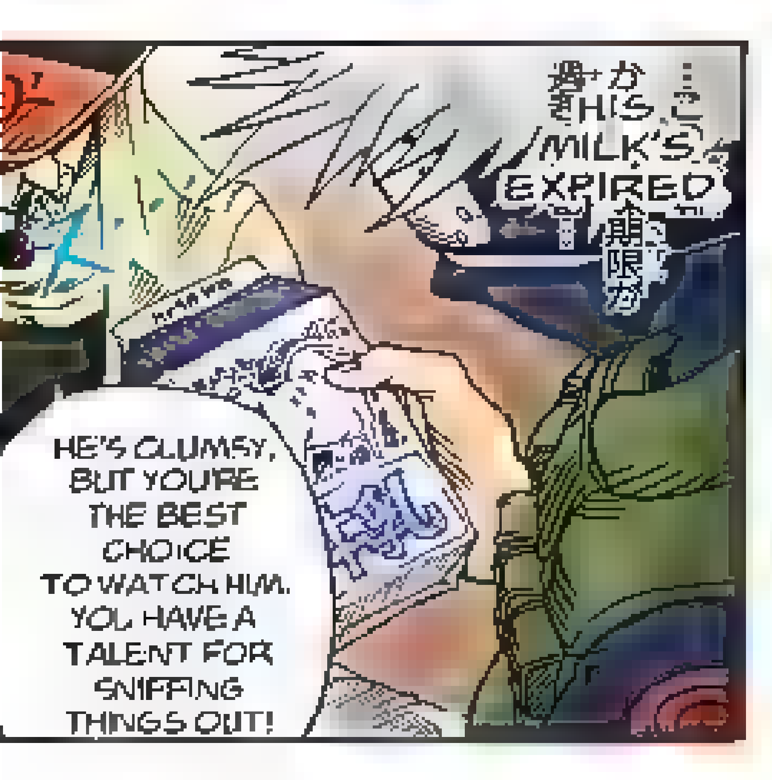

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!!


A SIMPLE ROPE TRICK. ANY GOOD NINJA IS AN ESCAPE ARTIST.
TRY TO KEEP THAT IN MIND... DUNCE.


I MAKE HIM SICK...
.....


WONDER NARUTO FEELS THAT WAY, TOO..
MAYBE, FROM NOW ON, I COULD TRY BEING A LITTLE...
...NICER..?


THIS IS NARUTO'S HOUSE, SN'T IT?
YES.


HIS MILK'S EXPIRED
HE'S CLUMSY, BUT YOU'RE THE BEST CHOICE TO WATCH HIM. YOU HAVE A TALENT FOR SNIFFING THINGS OUT!


WHAT'S MORE, ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE CELL YOU SHALL OVERSEE WILL BE SASUKE, OF THE UCHIHA CLAN. BEST OF LUCK!
THIS COULD BE A TERRIBLE MISSION, BUT...
I'LL DO MY BEST!


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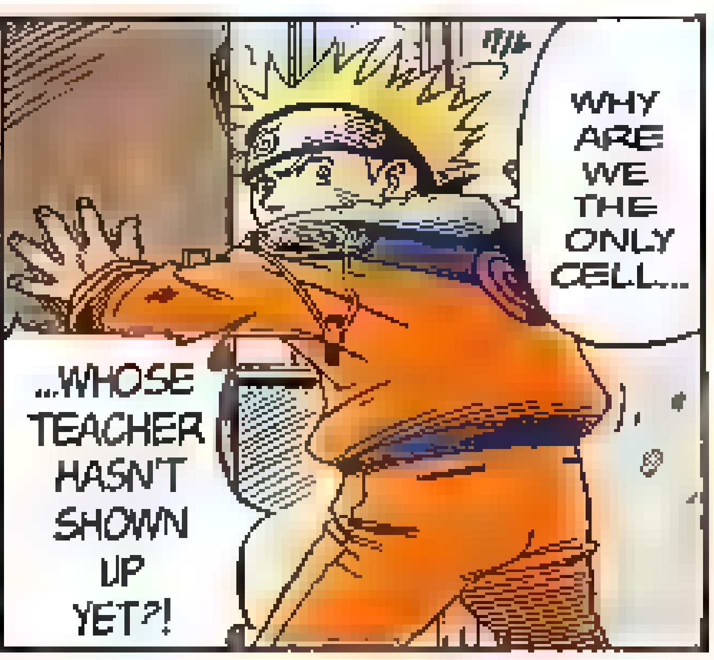
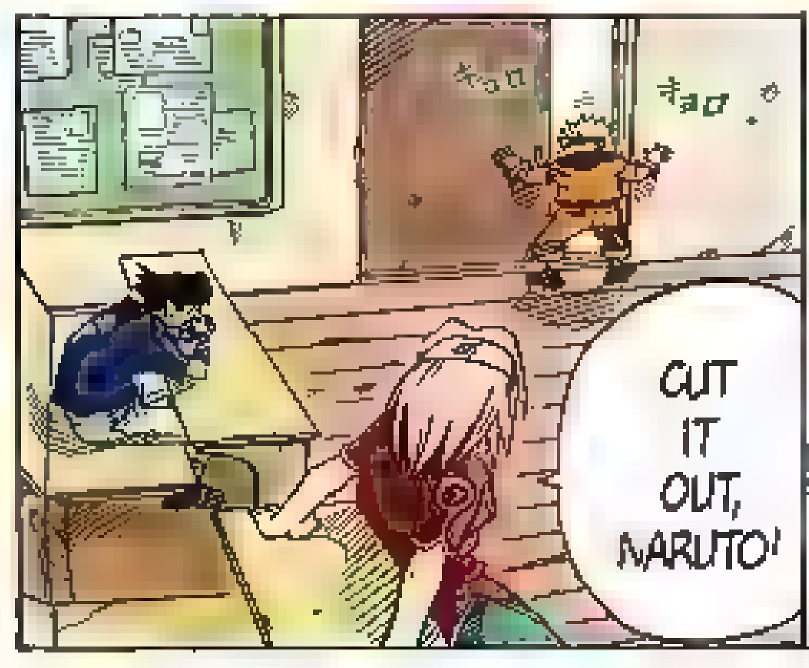
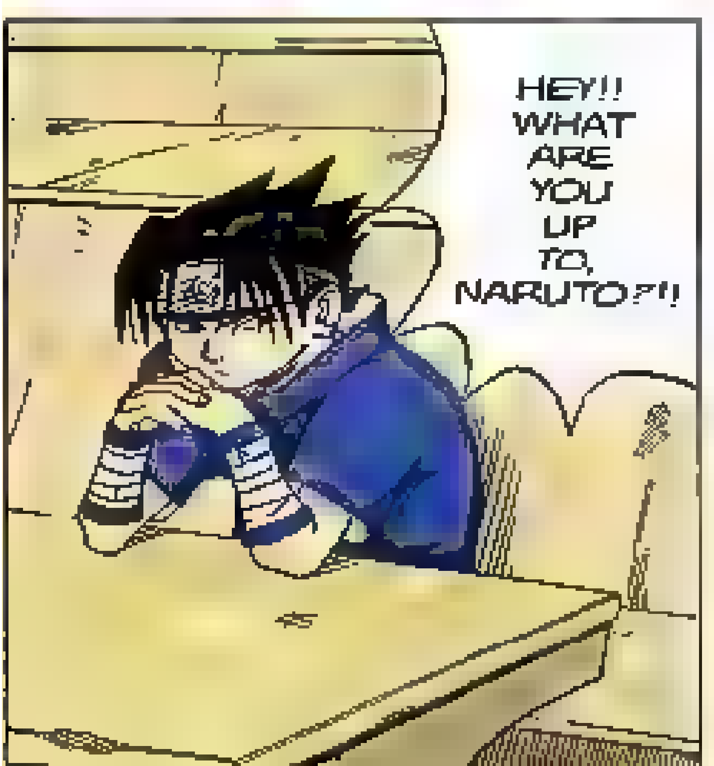
The picture on the right is from Karakuri ("mechanism"), the first story I submitted to Weekly Shonen Jump. Karakuri won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists, which allowed me to get picked up by my current editor and helped me begin my journey down the road of a manga artist. It's a manga that brings back a lot of memories for me. But, man, the hero sure does have intensely terrifying eyes.

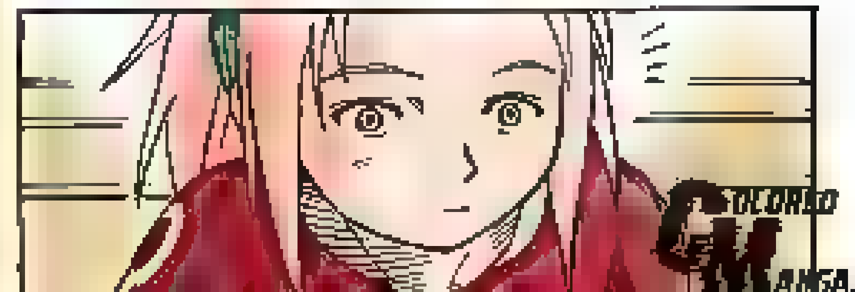
The picture on the right is another one from the first manga I published in Weekly Shonen Jump...that's right, Karakuri! But when the reader polls came in, its popularity was rock bottom! Still, this manga also brings back a lot of memories for me.





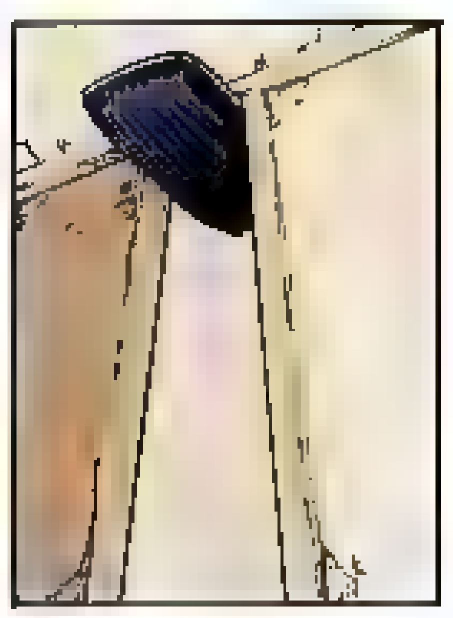
はたけカカシ!!

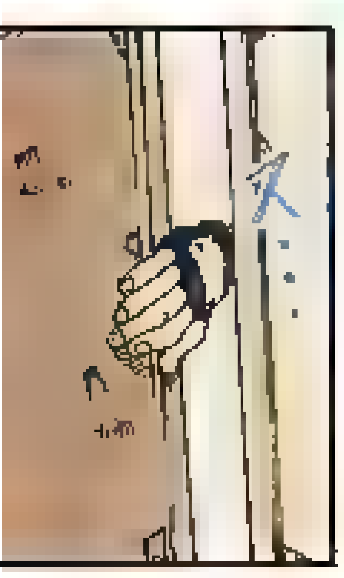


WHY ARE WE THE ONLY CELL...
...WHOSE TEACHER HASN'T SHOWN UP YET?!

CUT IT OUT, NARUTO!

HEY!! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, NARUTO?!!

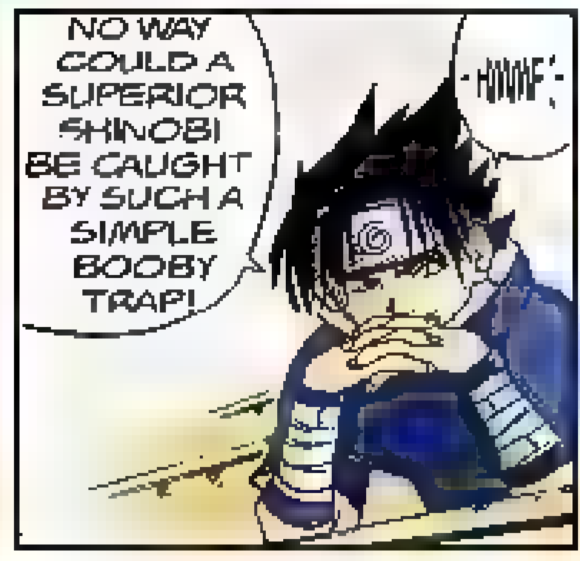
ALL THE OTHER TEAMS HAVE ALREADY GONE OFF WITH THEIR TEACHERS
EVEN MASTER IRUKA HAS GONE!


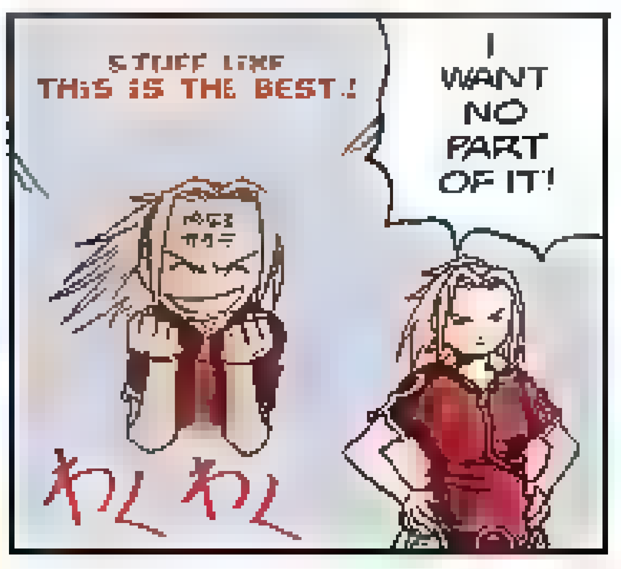
HEH HEH HEH HEH!
CHF



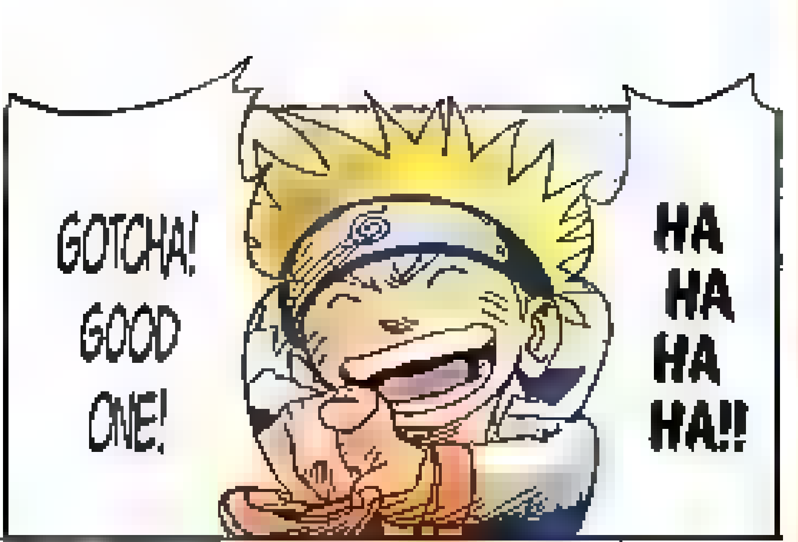










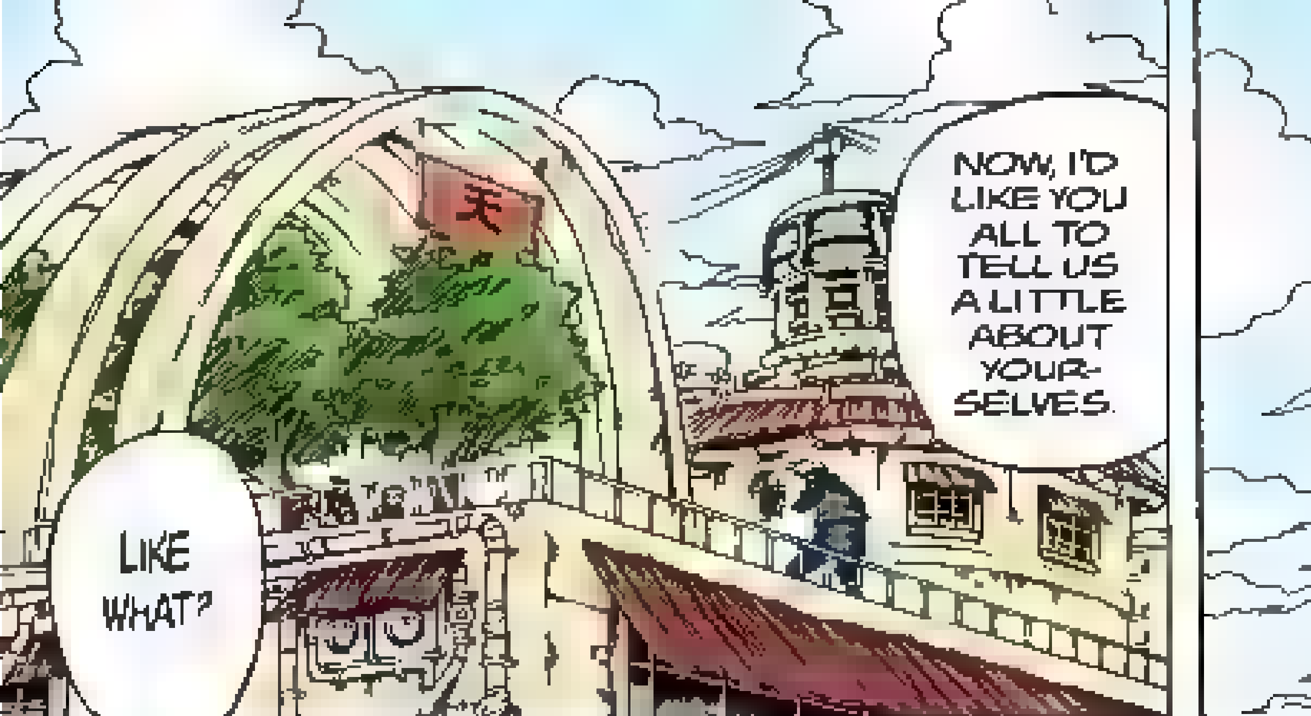

GOTCHA! GOOD ONE!
HA HA HA HA!!

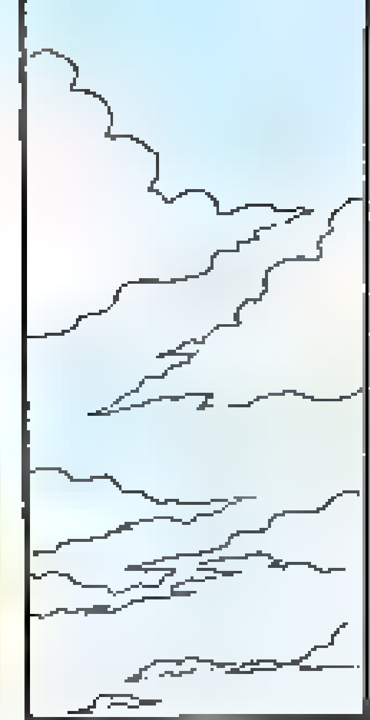

OK!! OK!!
I'M SORRY, SENSEI I TRIED TO STOP HIM, BUT NARUTO...
THAT WAS AWESOME !!

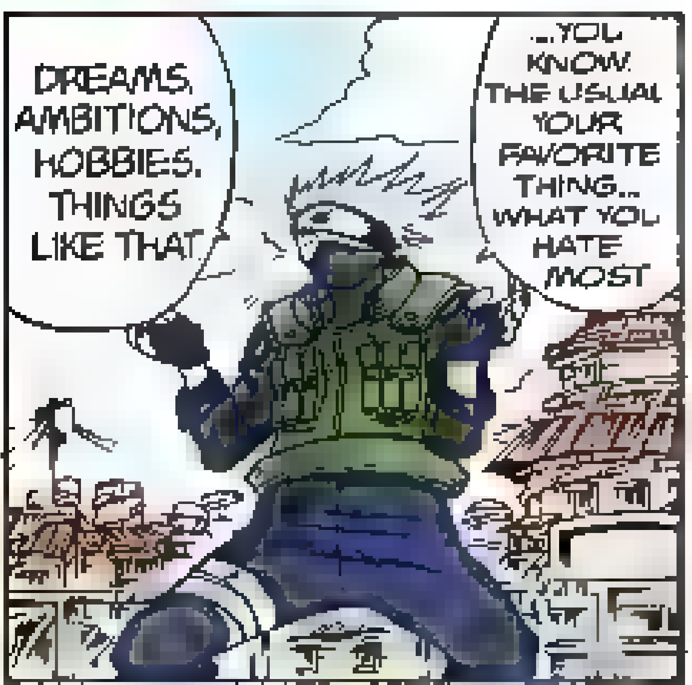

SO.. THIS IS OUR ELITE SHINOB LEADER?
HE LOOKS COMPLETELY WORTH-LESS!

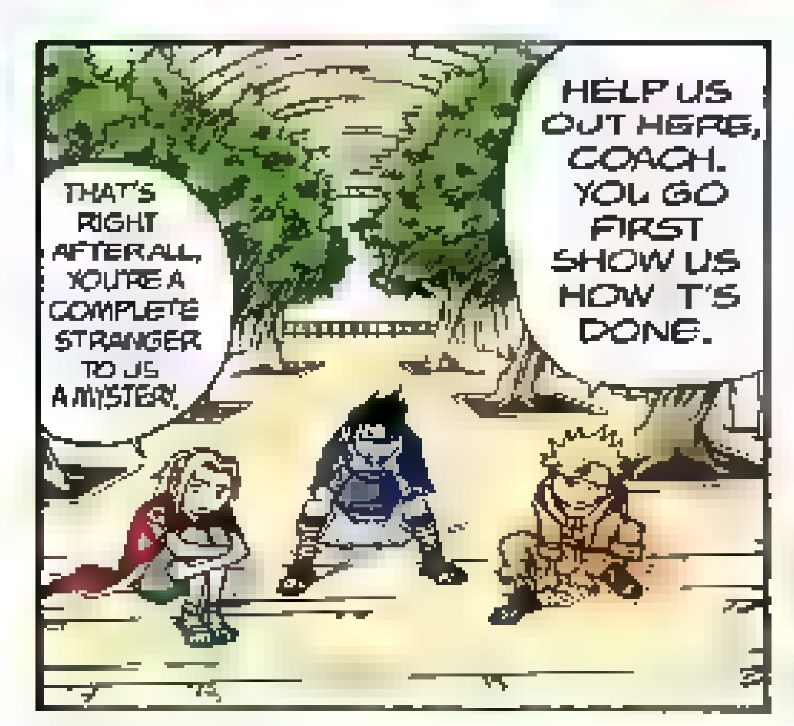

...I HATE YOU!!
....


HMM... HOW SHALL I PUT THIS?
BASED ON MY FIRST IMPRESSION, I'D HAVE TO SAY

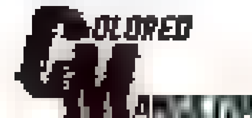

NOW, I'D LIKE YOU ALL TO TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELVES.
LIKE WHAT?

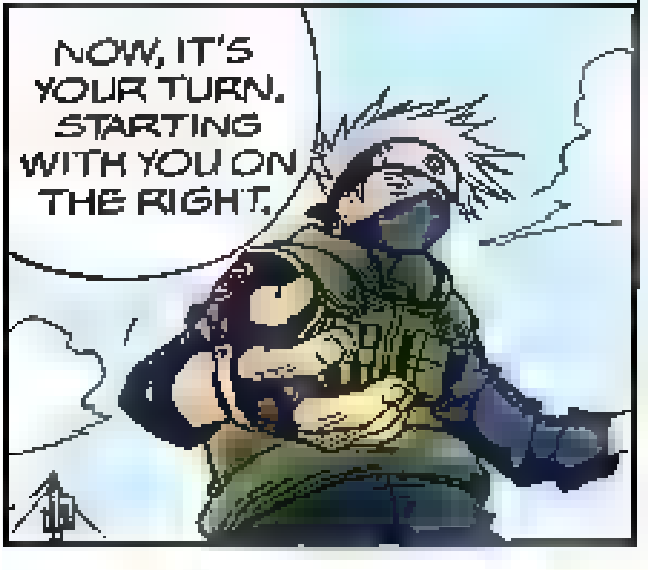


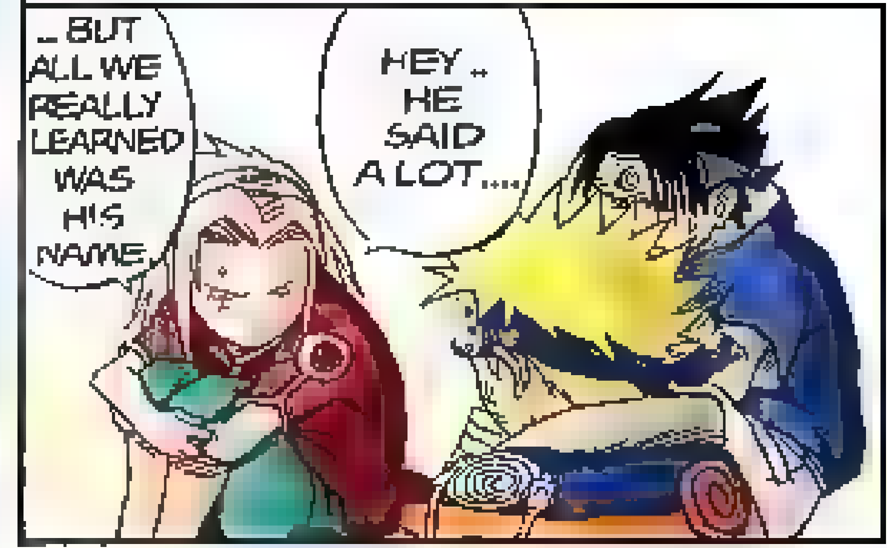

...YOU KNOW. THE USUAL. YOUR FAVORITE THING... WHAT YOU HATE MOST
DREAMS, AMBITIONS, HOBBIES. THINGS LIKE THAT

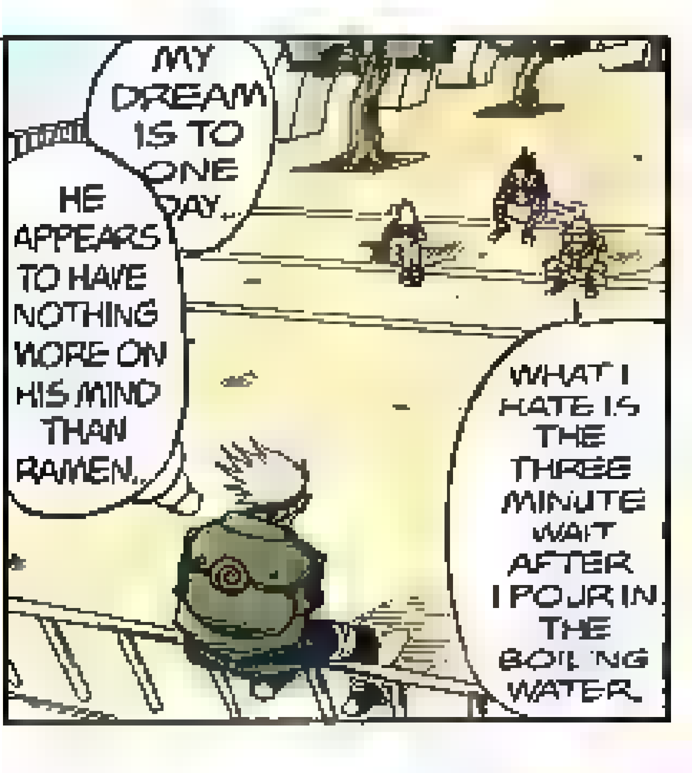

HELP US OUT HERE, COACH. YOU GO FIRST SHOW US HOW IT'S DONE.
THAT'S RIGHT AFTER ALL, YOU'RE A COMPLETE STRANGER TO US A MYSTERY.

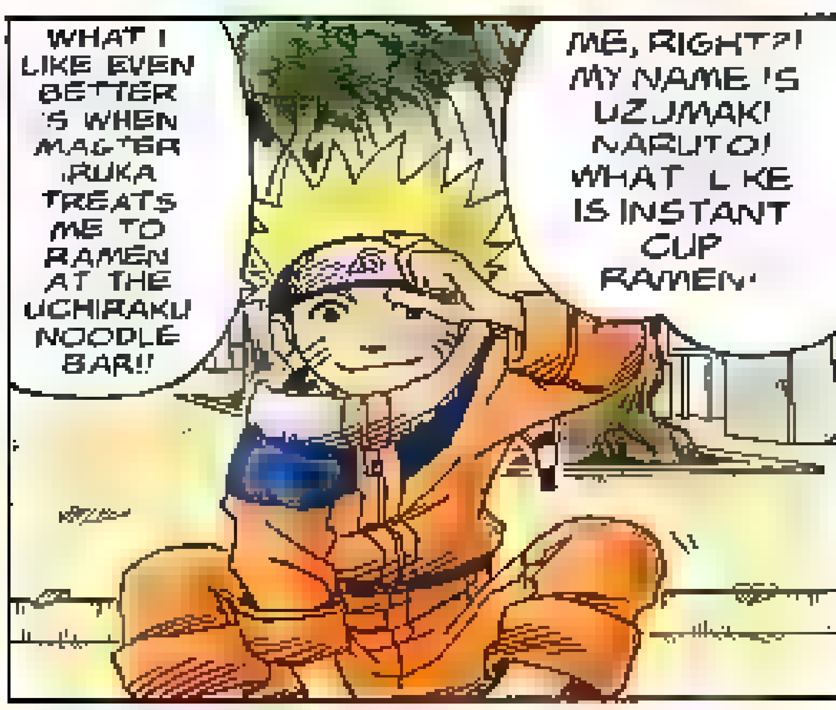

OH.... ME? MY NAME IS HATAKE KAKASHI. I'M THE KIND OF PERSON WHO DOESN'T FEEL LIKE TALKING ABOUT HIS LIKES AND DISLIKES!
MY DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE ARE NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS... BUT ANYWAY, I HAVE LOTS OF HOBBIES.





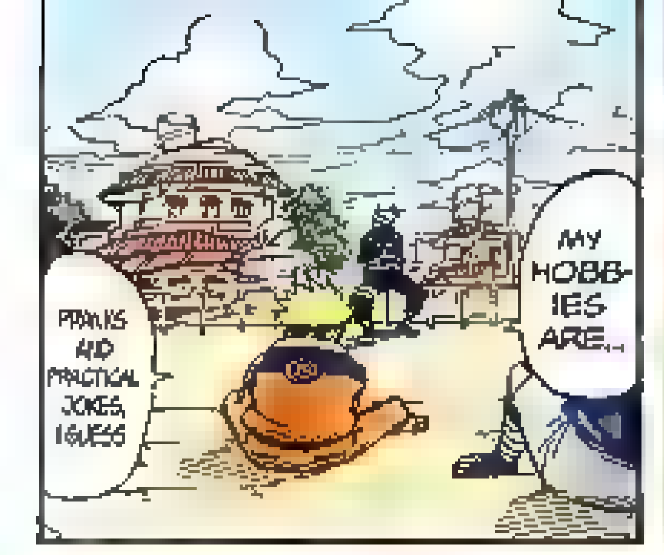


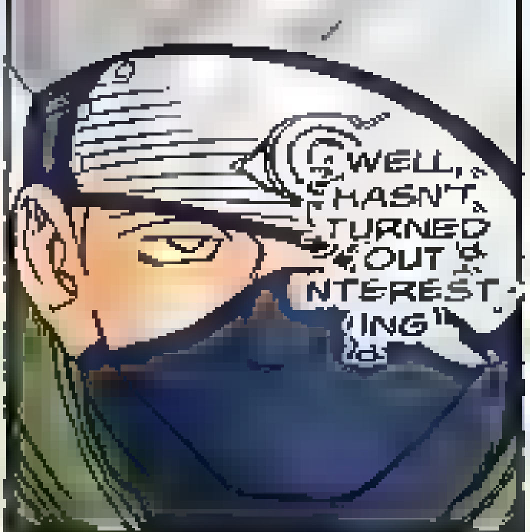




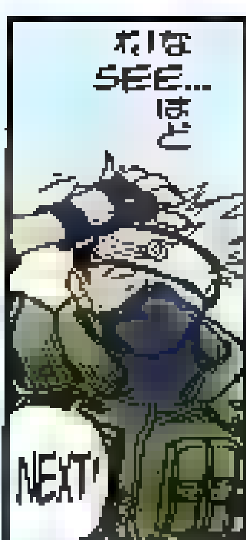
..BE A BETTER SHINOBI THAN LORD HOKAGE!!

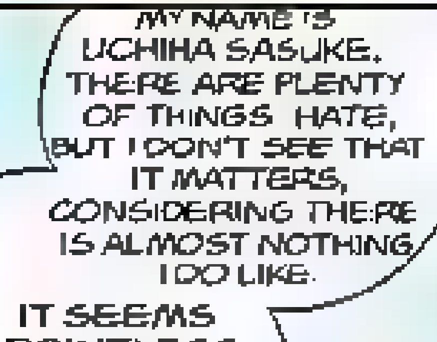
AND THEN ALL THE VILLAGERS WILL HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY EXISTENCE AT LAST!!


MY HOBBIES ARE...
PRANKS AND PRACTICAL JOKES, I GUESS


WELL, HASN'T TURNED OUT INTEREST-ING




SEE...
NEXT!

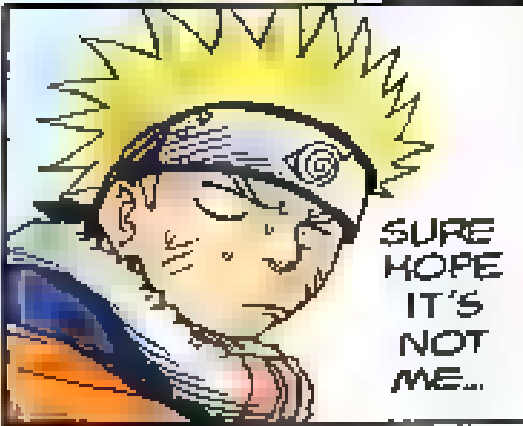

MY NAME IS UCHIHA SASUKE. THERE ARE PLENTY OF THINGS I HATE, BUT I DON'T SEE THAT IT MATTERS, CONSIDERING THERE IS ALMOST NOTHING I DO LIKE.
IT SEEMS POINTLESS TO TALK ABOUT "DREAMS"... THAT'S JUST A WORD...



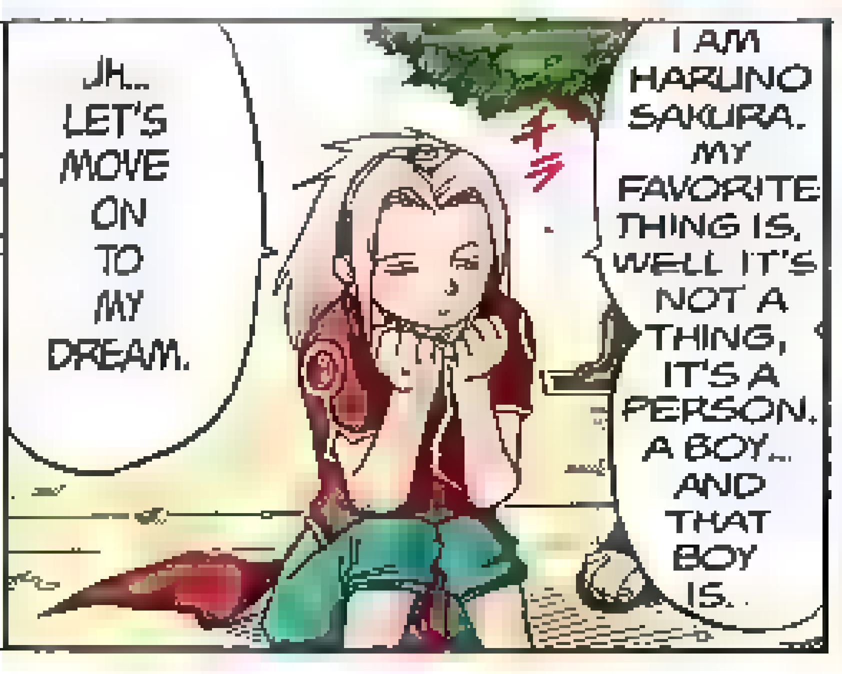

...BUT WHAT I DO HAVE IS DETERMINATION. I PLAN TO RESTORE MY CLAN, AND THERE'S SOMEONE I HAVE SWORN...

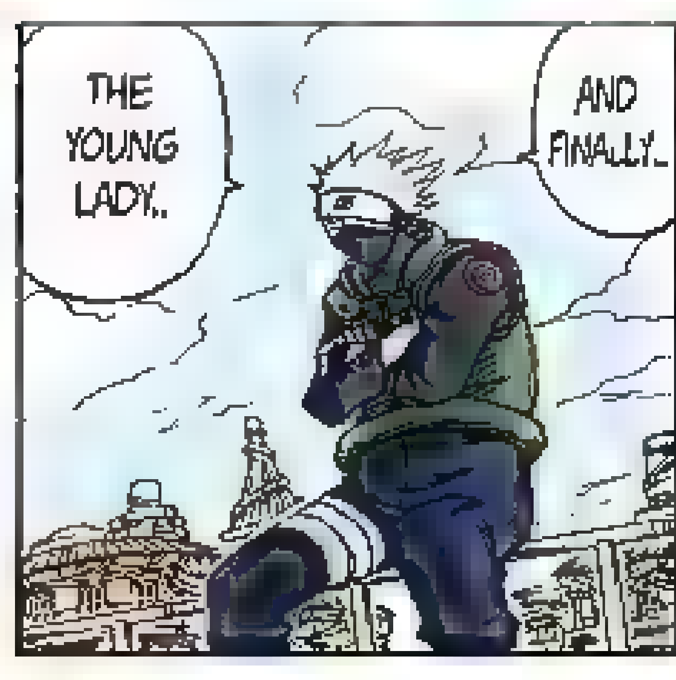
...TO KILL.

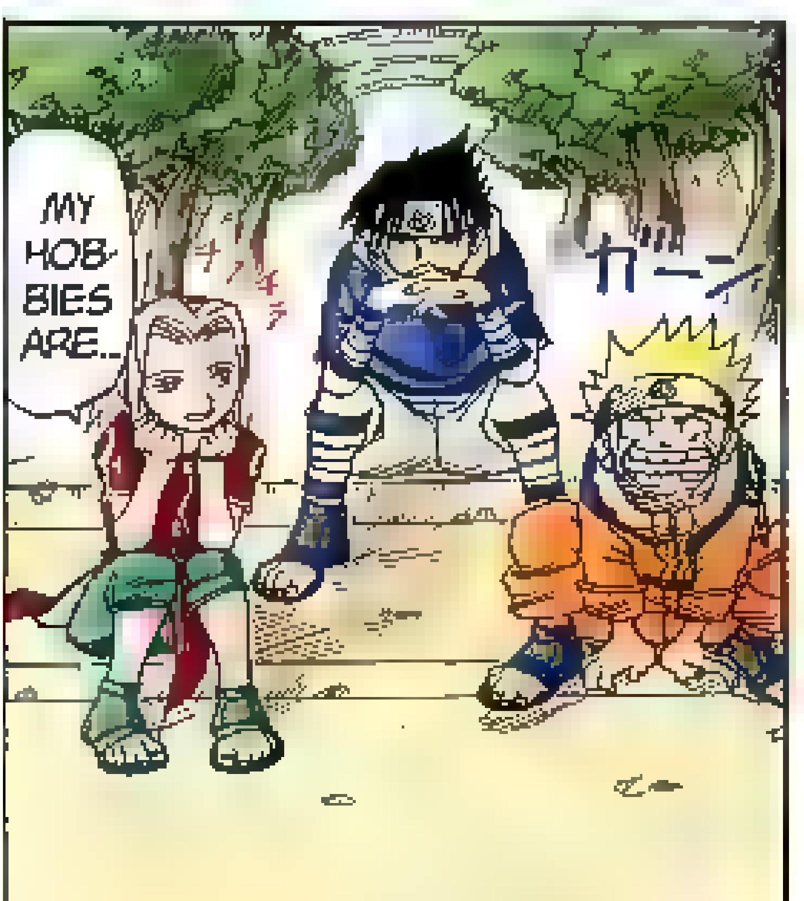

...I SUSPECTED AS MUCH...

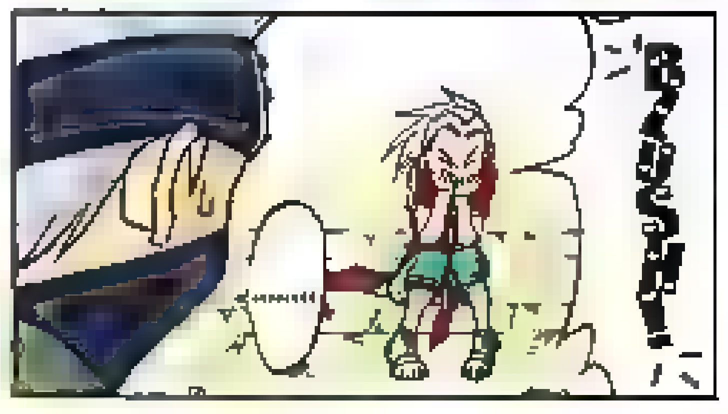

SURE HOPE IT'S NOT ME...

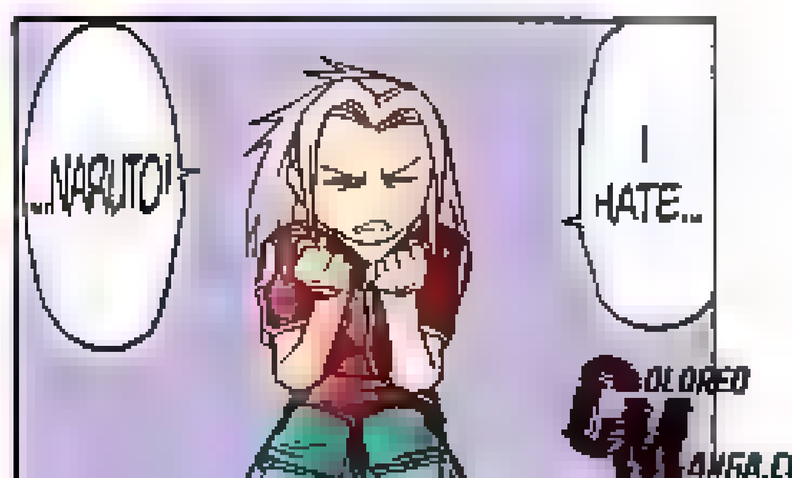

HE IS SO COOL! ♡


I AM HARUNO SAKURA. MY FAVORITE THING IS, WELL IT'S NOT A THING, IT'S A PERSON. A BOY... AND THAT BOY IS...
UH... LET'S MOVE ON TO MY DREAM.

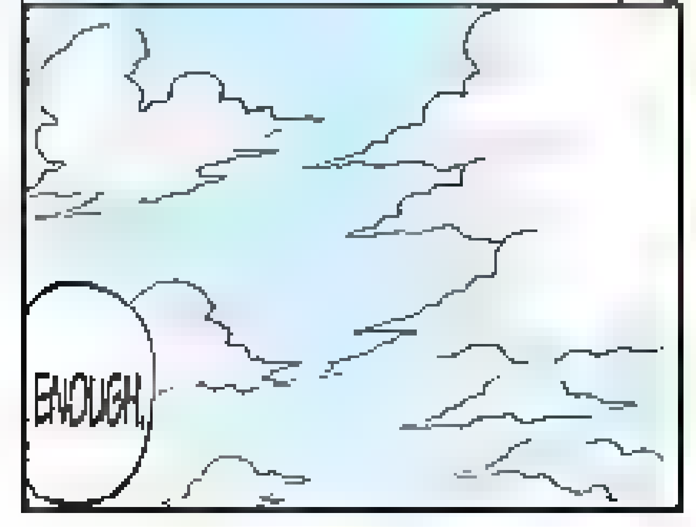

AND FINALLY...
THE YOUNG LADY...

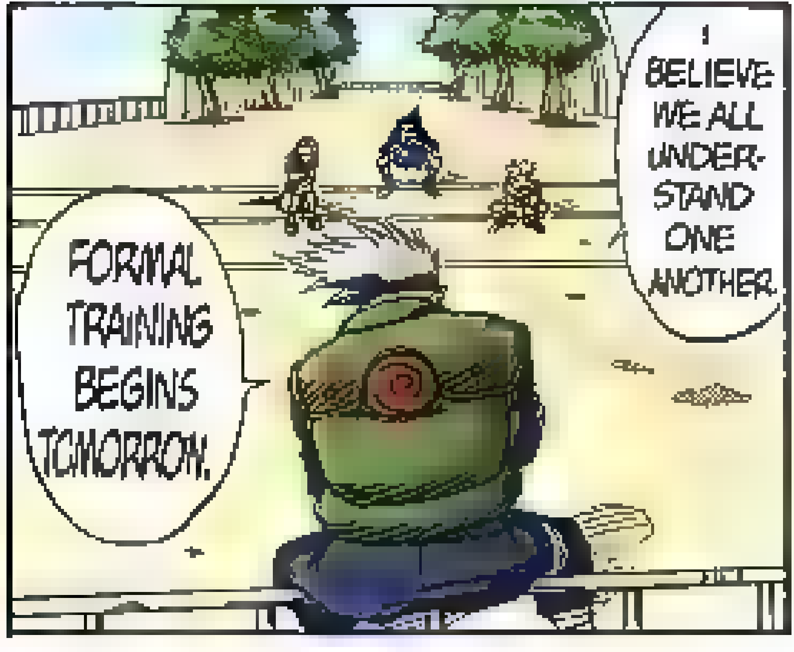

MY HOBBIES ARE...

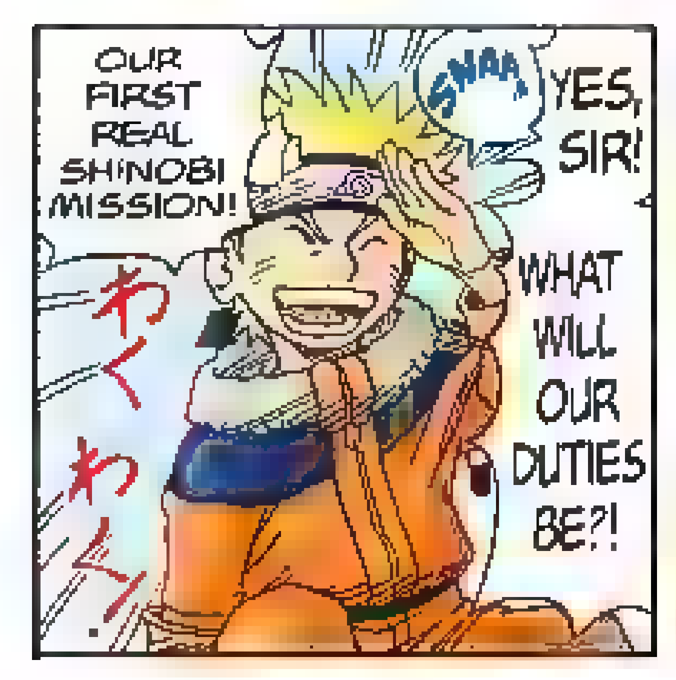

BASH!
......

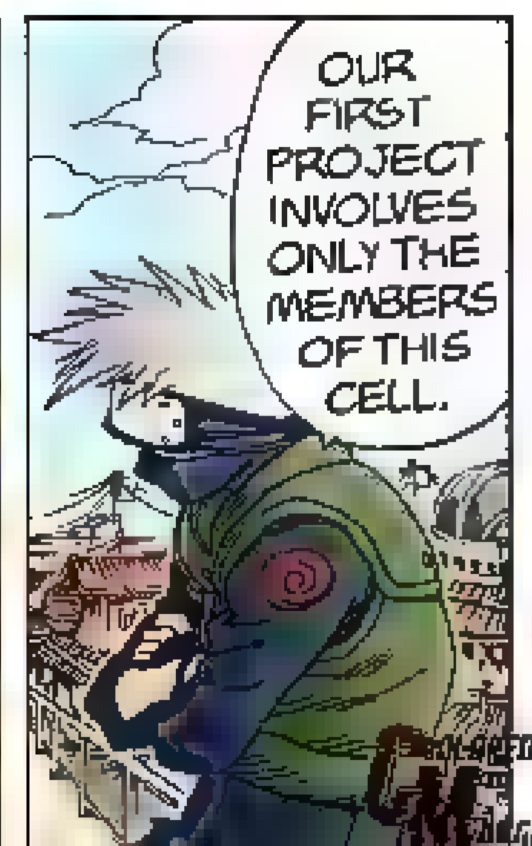

I HATE...
...NARUTO!


IT SOUNDS AS THOUGH YOUNG GIRLS...
...ARE MORE INTERESTED IN LOVE THAN NINJUTSU...


ENOUGH.


I BELIEVE WE ALL UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER.
FORMAL TRAINING BEGINS TOMORROW.

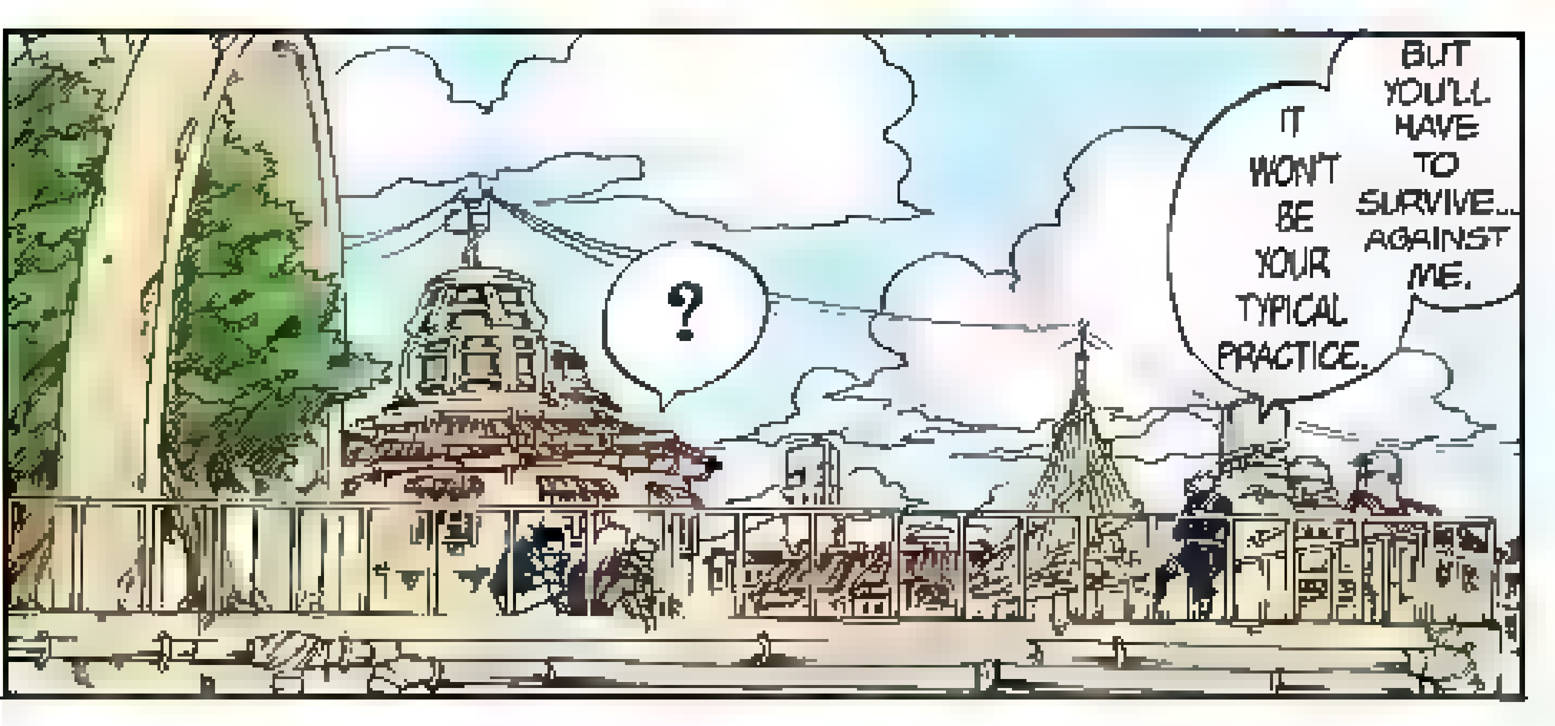

YES, SIR!
OUR FIRST REAL SHINOBI MISSION!
WHAT WILL OUR DUTIES BE?!
わくわく


OUR FIRST PROJECT INVOLVES ONLY THE MEMBERS OF THIS CELL.


WHAT?
WHAT IS IT?


SURVIVAL EXERCISES.

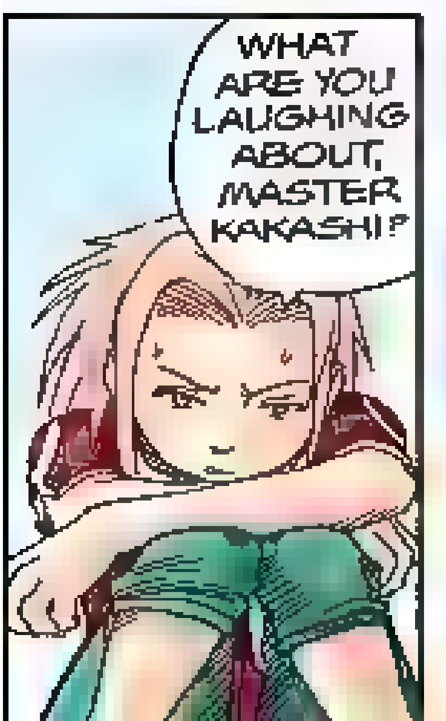

SURVIVAL EXERCISES?
......
BUT WHY WOULD THAT BE A MISSION?
OUR SCHOOL DAYS WERE FULL OF SURVIVAL TRAINING!


IT WON'T BE YOUR TYPICAL PRACTICE.
BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO SURVIVE... AGAINST ME.
?


WELL, THEN, WHAT KIND OF PRACTICE WILL IT BE?


....
SNUFF...




WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT, MASTER KAKASHI?

WHY?!

CHICKEN OUT ...?

IF I TOLD YOU, YOU'D CHICKEN OUT.

OH, NOTHING. IT'S JUST THAT...

THE TEST WE ARE ABOUT TO PERFORM HAS A 66% RATE OF FAILURE.

OF THE TWENTY-SEVEN MEMBERS OF YOUR GRADUATING CLASS, ONLY NINE WILL ACTUALLY BE ACCEPTED AS JUNIOR-LEVEL SHINOBI

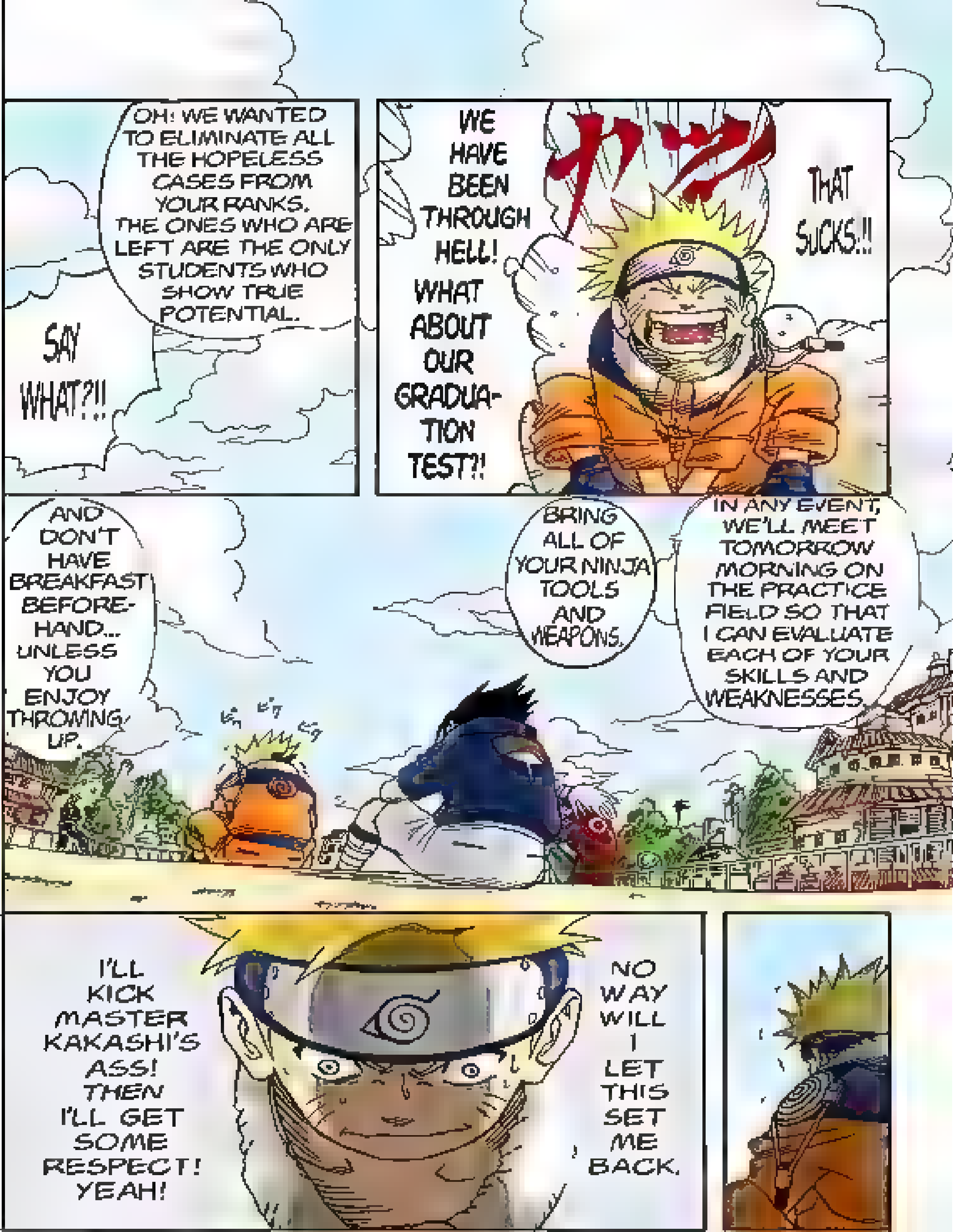
THE OTHER EIGHTEEN MUST GO BACK FOR MORE TRAINING.

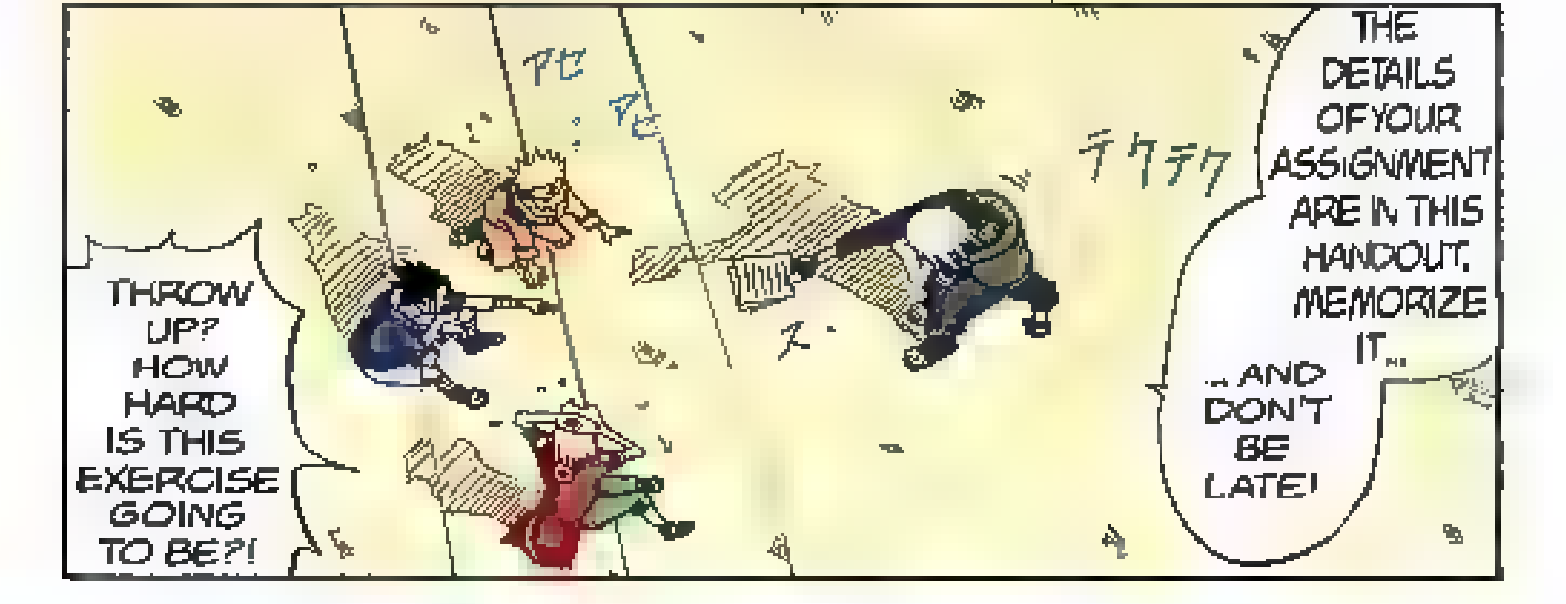
SEE? YOU'RE CHICKENING OUT ALREADY!

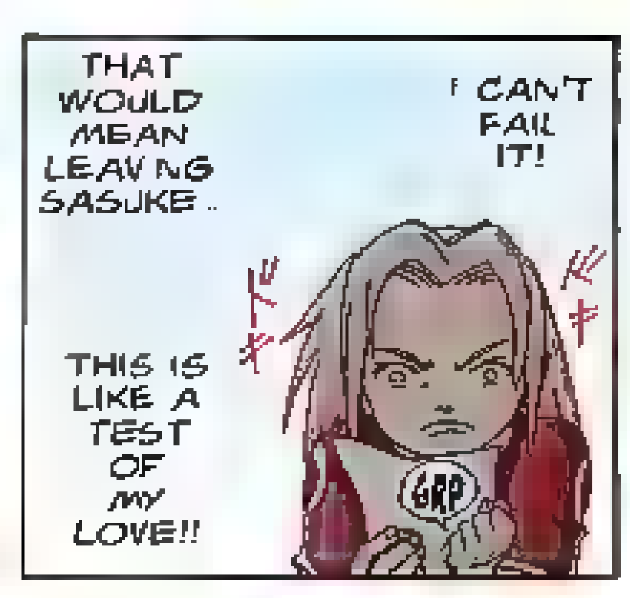
HA HA HA!

......




OH! WE WANTED TO ELIMINATE ALL THE HOPELESS CASES FROM YOUR RANKS. THE ONES WHO ARE LEFT ARE THE ONLY STUDENTS WHO SHOW TRUE POTENTIAL.
SAY WHAT?!!
WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH HELL! WHAT ABOUT OUR GRADUATION TEST?!
THAT SUCKS!!
IN ANY EVENT, WE'LL MEET TOMORROW MORNING ON THE PRACTICE FIELD SO THAT I CAN EVALUATE EACH OF YOUR SKILLS AND WEAKNESSES.
BRING ALL OF YOUR NINJA TOOLS AND WEAPONS.
AND DON'T HAVE BREAKFAST BEFOREHAND... UNLESS YOU ENJOY THROWING UP.
I'LL KICK MASTER KAKASHI'S ASS! THEN I'LL GET SOME RESPECT! YEAH!
NO WAY WILL I LET THIS SET ME BACK.

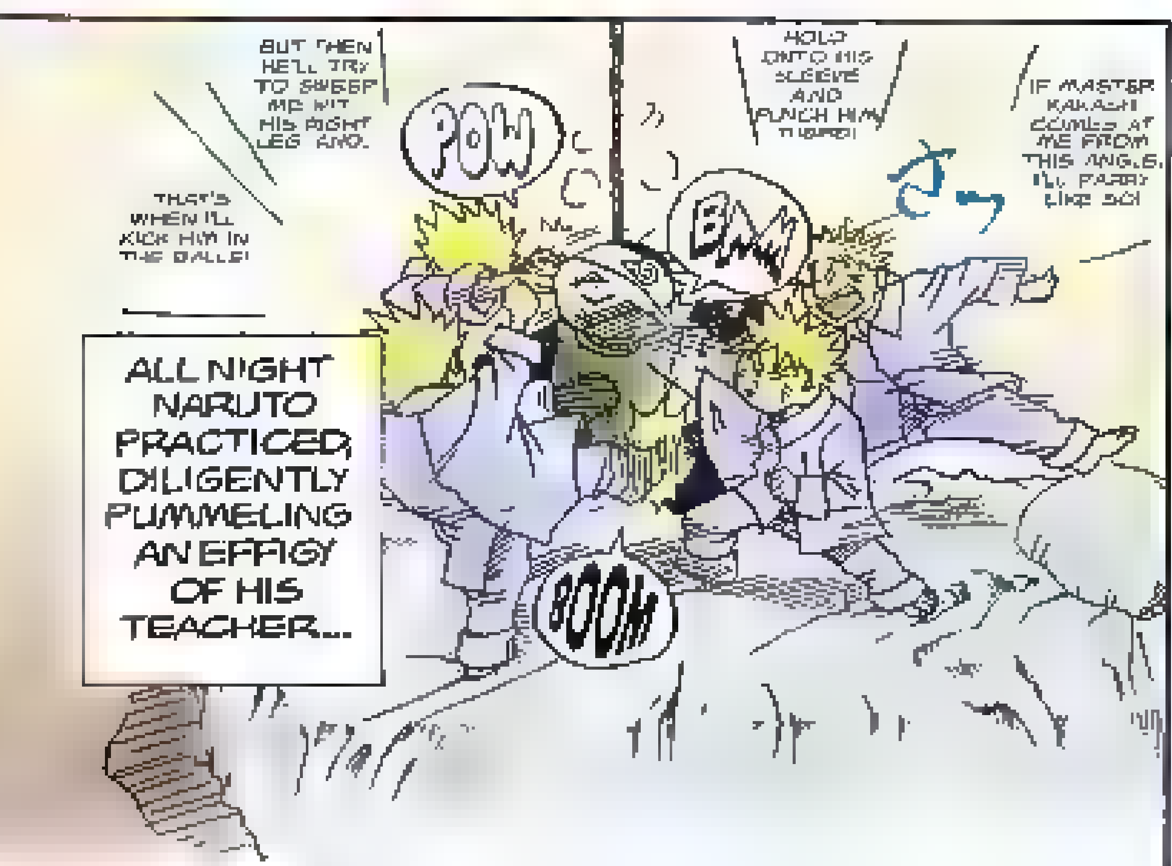

THE DETAILS OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT ARE IN THIS HANDOUT. MEMORIZE IT...
...AND DON'T BE LATE!
テクテク
THROW UP? HOW HARD IS THIS EXERCISE GOING TO BE?!


I CAN'T FAIL IT!
THAT WOULD MEAN LEAVING SASUKE...
THIS IS LIKE A TEST OF MY LOVE!!
GRIP

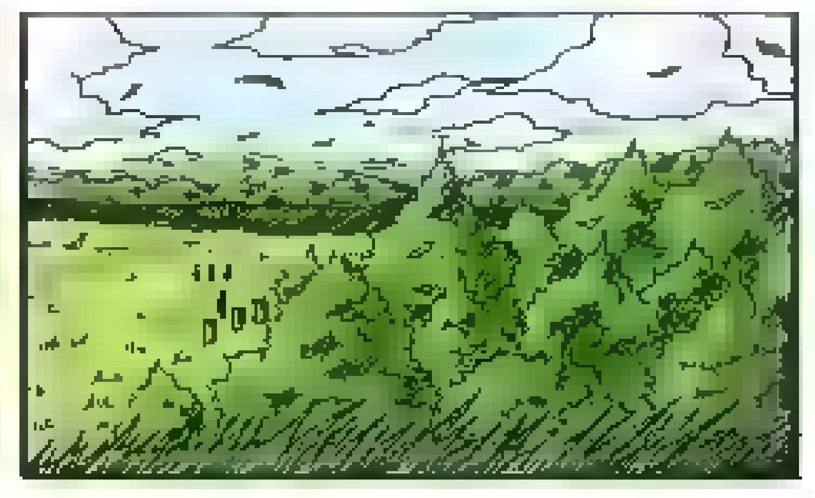

......
KRUMPLE

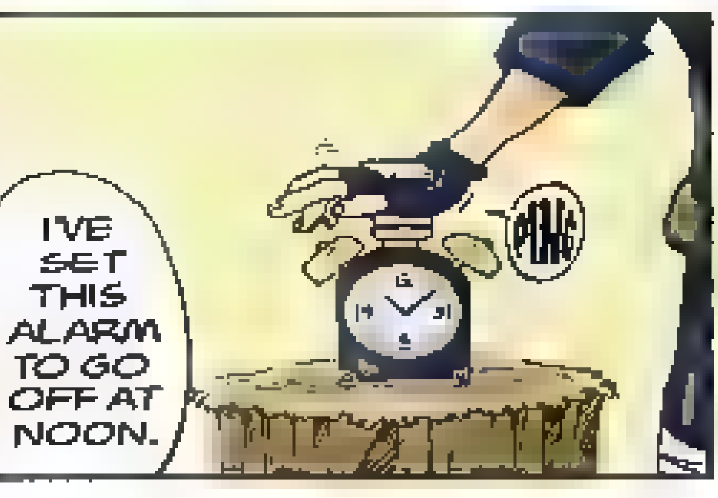

HMMMM..

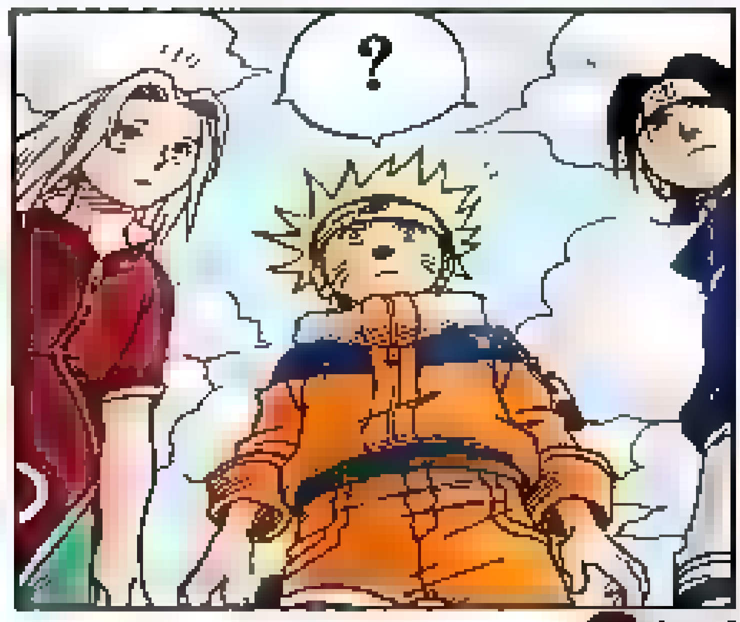


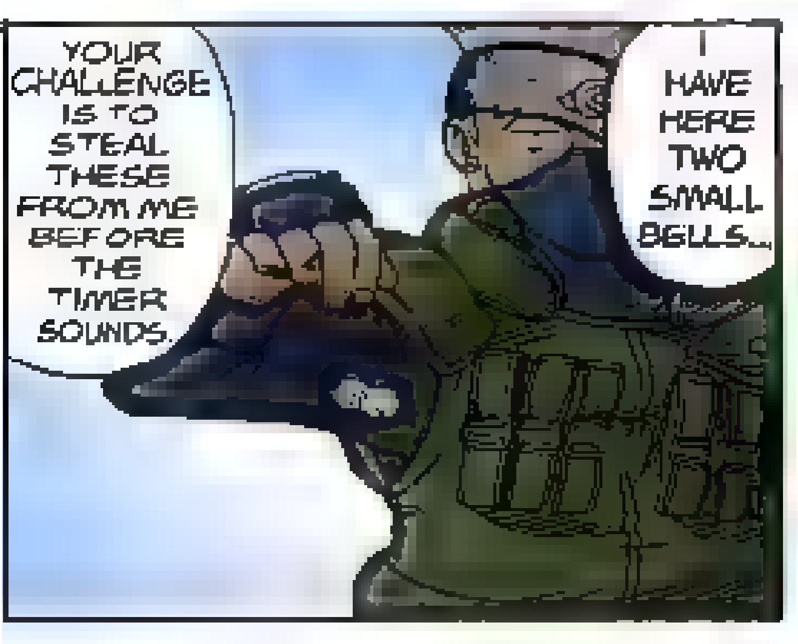

IF MASTER KAKASHI COMES AT ME FROM THIS ANGLE, I'LL PARRY LIKE SO!
HOLD ONTO HIS SLEEVE AND PUNCH HIM THERE!
BAM
BUT THEN HE'LL TRY TO SWEEP ME WITH HIS RIGHT LEG AND...
POW
THAT'S WHEN I'LL KICK HIM IN THE BALLS!
ALL NIGHT NARUTO PRACTICED, DILIGENTLY PUMMELING AN EFFIGY OF HIS TEACHER...
BOOM

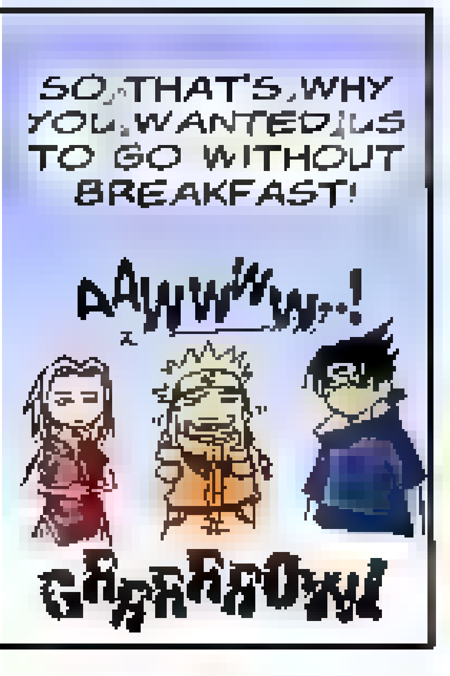
THE NEXT DAY
GOOD MORNING, CLASS!
YOU'RE LATE!!!!

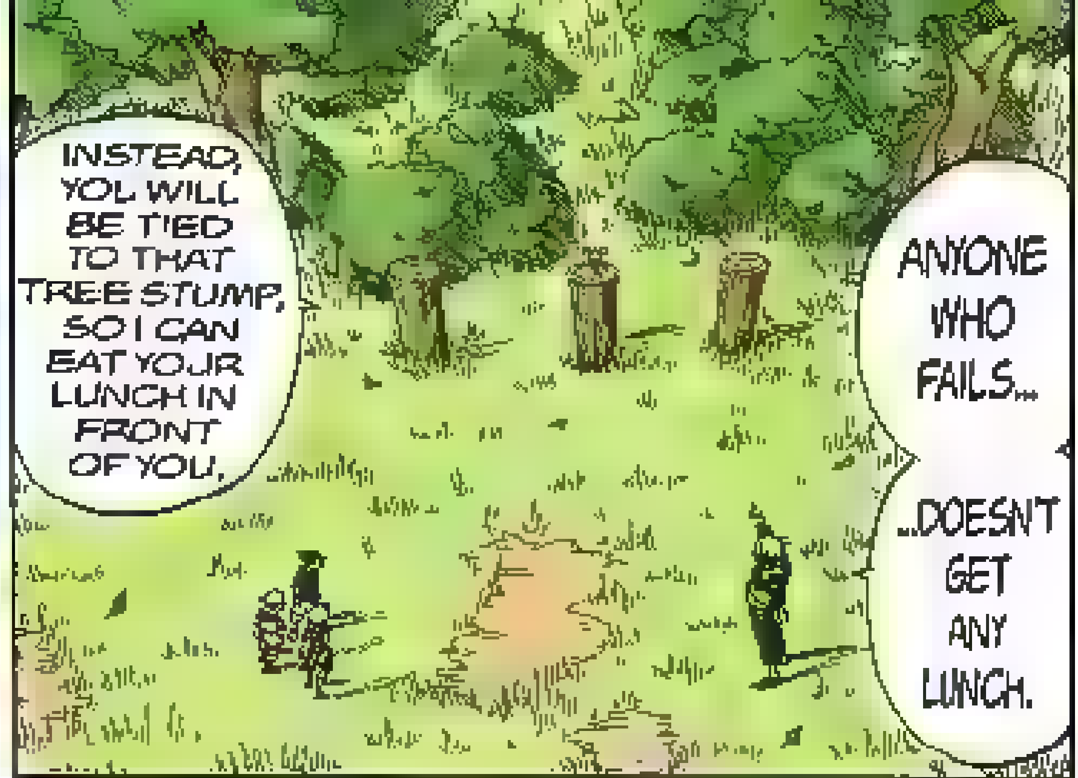



PING
I'VE SET THIS ALARM TO GO OFF AT NOON.

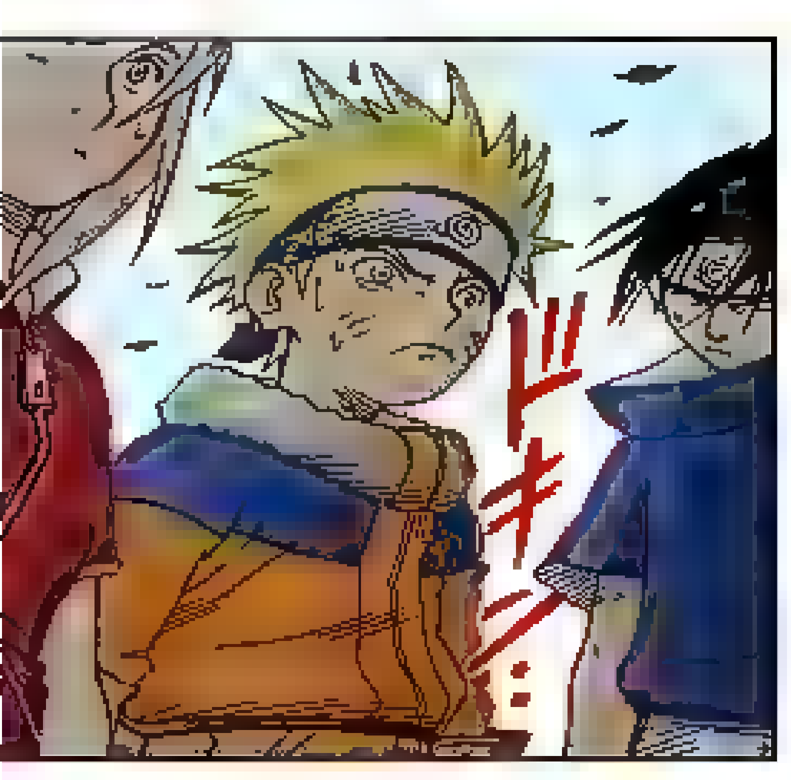

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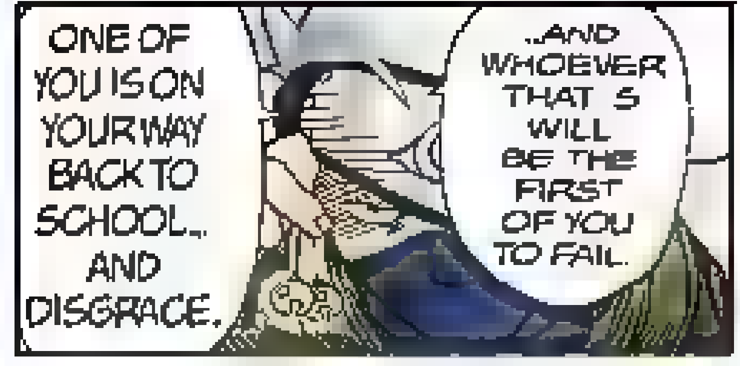

I HAVE HERE TWO SMALL BELLS...
YOUR CHALLENGE IS TO STEAL THESE FROM ME BEFORE THE TIMER SOUNDS.


SO THAT'S WHY YOU WANTED US TO GO WITHOUT BREAKFAST!
AAWWWW..!
GRRRROWL


ANYONE WHO FAILS...
...DOESN'T GET ANY LUNCH.
INSTEAD, YOU WILL BE TIED TO THAT TREE STUMP, SO I CAN EAT YOUR LUNCH IN FRONT OF YOU.

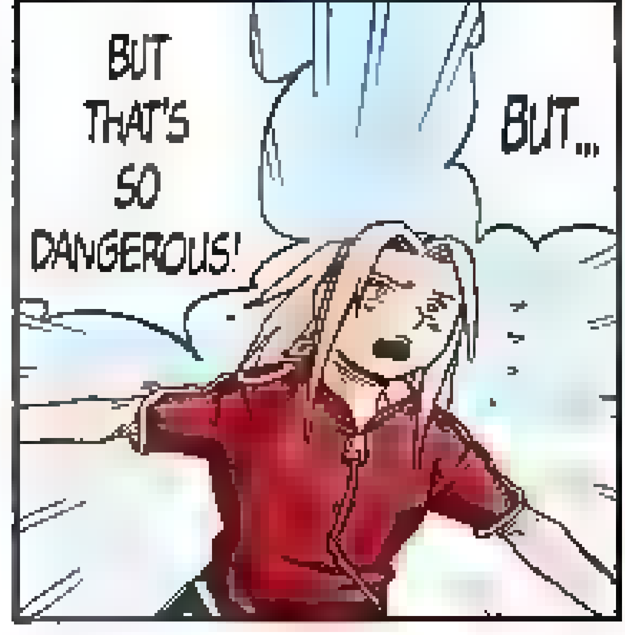

ALL YOU NEED IS JUST ONE BELL... APIECE.
BUT SINCE THERE AREN'T ENOUGH TO GO AROUND, ONE OF YOU IS DEFINITELY HEADED FOR THE STUMP

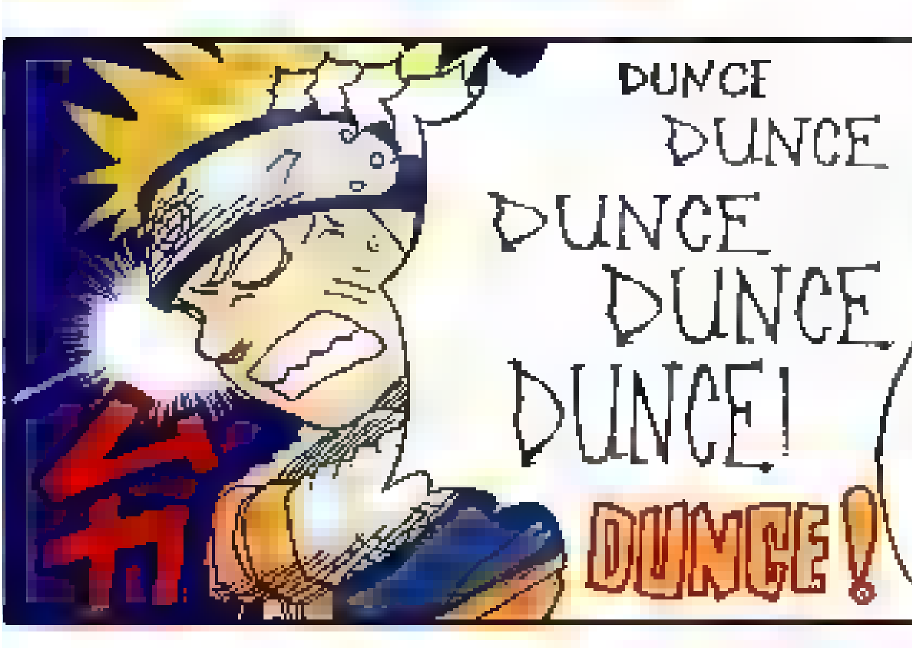



...AND WHOEVER THAT IS WILL BE THE FIRST OF YOU TO FAIL.
ONE OF YOU IS ON YOUR WAY BACK TO SCHOOL... AND DISGRACE.

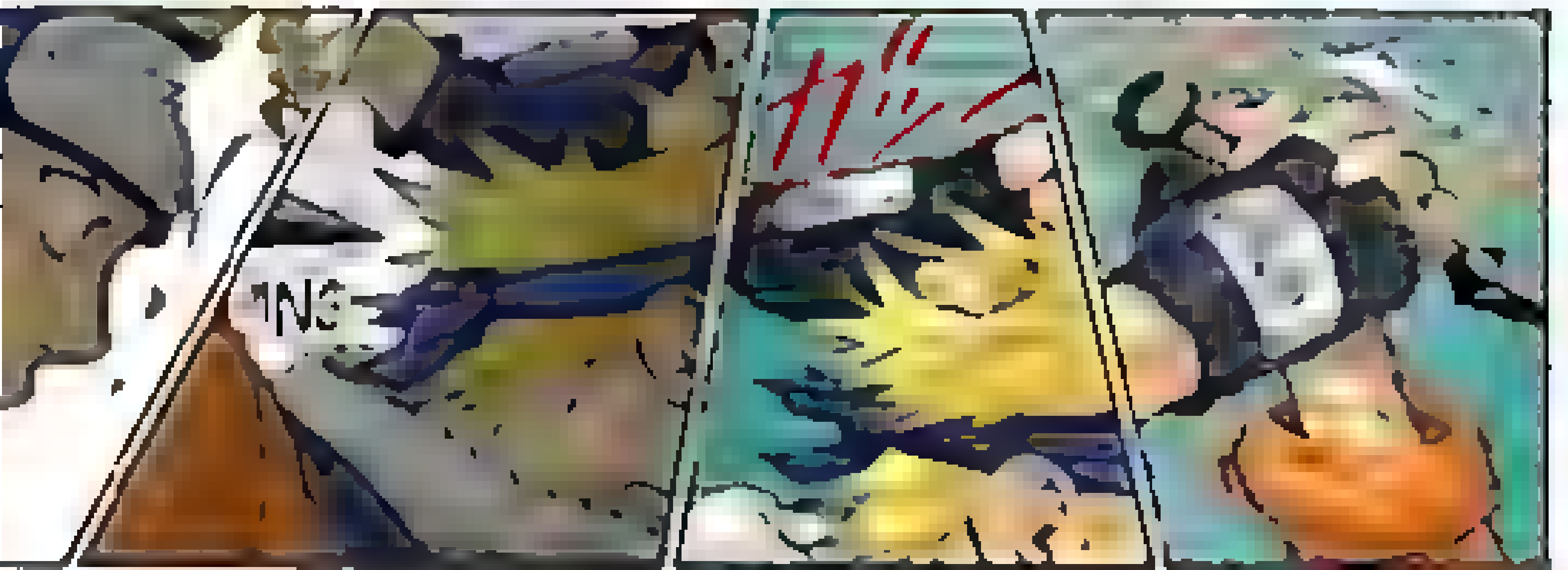

YOU MAY, IF YOU CHOOSE, USE SHURIKEN.
ATTACK AS THOUGH YOU MEAN TO KILL OR YOU'LL NEVER STAND A CHANCE.
COLORED MANGA.COM


YOU'RE GONNA GET YOURSELF KILLED!
YOU COULDN'T EVEN DODGE AN ERASER!!


BUT THAT'S SO DANGEROUS!
BUT...


DUNCE
DUNCE
DUNCE
DUNCE
DUNCE!
DUNCE!


MUST YOU TALK SO BIG?
ONLY THE WEAK SPEAK LOUDLY.
NOW, LET'S FORGET THE DUNCE, AND WE'LL START ON MY SIGNAL!

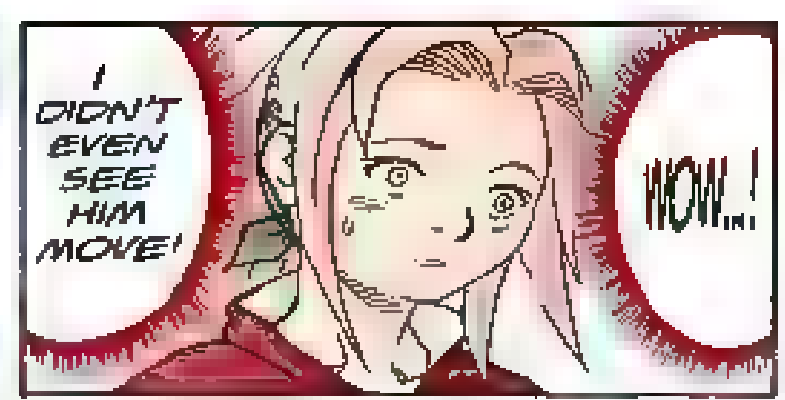


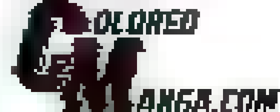


I DIDN'T SAY, "GO."

NOT SO FAST.

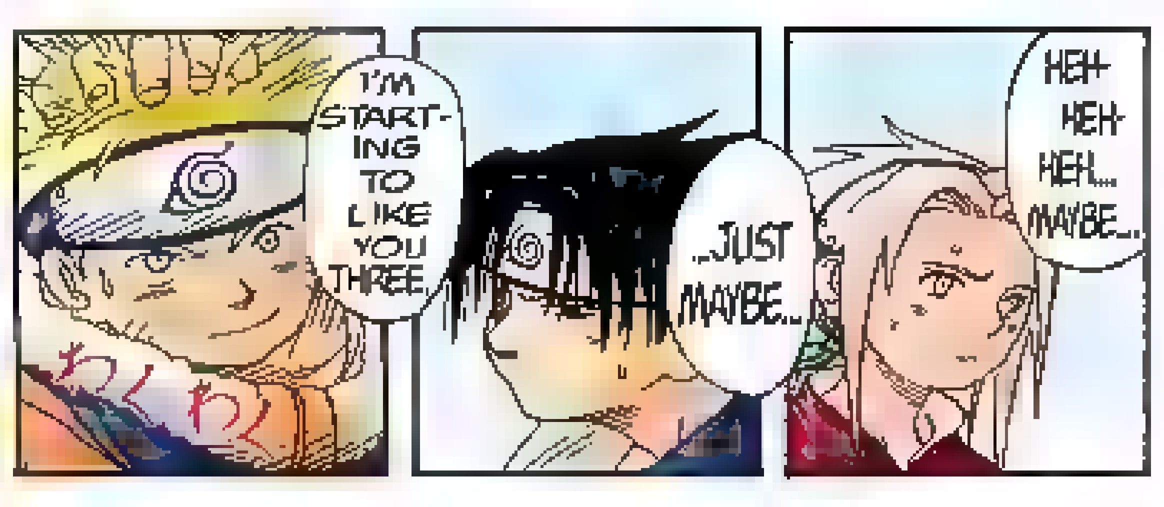







SO, IT SEEMS YOU'VE BEGUN TO RESPECT ME
BUT AT LEAST YOU STRUCK TO KILL...


...AND NOW... READY...
...STEADY...


I'M START-ING TO LIKE YOU THREE.
わくわく
...JUST MAYBE...
HEH-HEH-HEH... MAYBE...

GO!!!

THE MAKING OF NARUTO!!!

The Kakashi That Might Have Been

The Rejected Outline for the Second Chapter

My original plan for Kakashi's first appearance was to have him show up in the second chapter of **Naruto** (see **page #61**). He was meant to be a cool, affected, upper-level ninja who ended sentences (in the original Japanese) with the very polite "*de gozaru*" verb form. This was going to be before Sakura and Sasuke had been introduced. Kakashi would suddenly appear on the scene as Naruto's teacher. This idea was discarded after a discussion with my editor at **Weekly Shonen Jump**. As an outgrowth of things we discussed together, I was able to flesh out Kakashi, Sasuke, and Sakura into the characters they are today.


ナンバー
5：油断大敵!!
ゆだんたいてき
PRIDE GOETH BEFORE A FALL
NARUTO
COLORED MANGA.COM

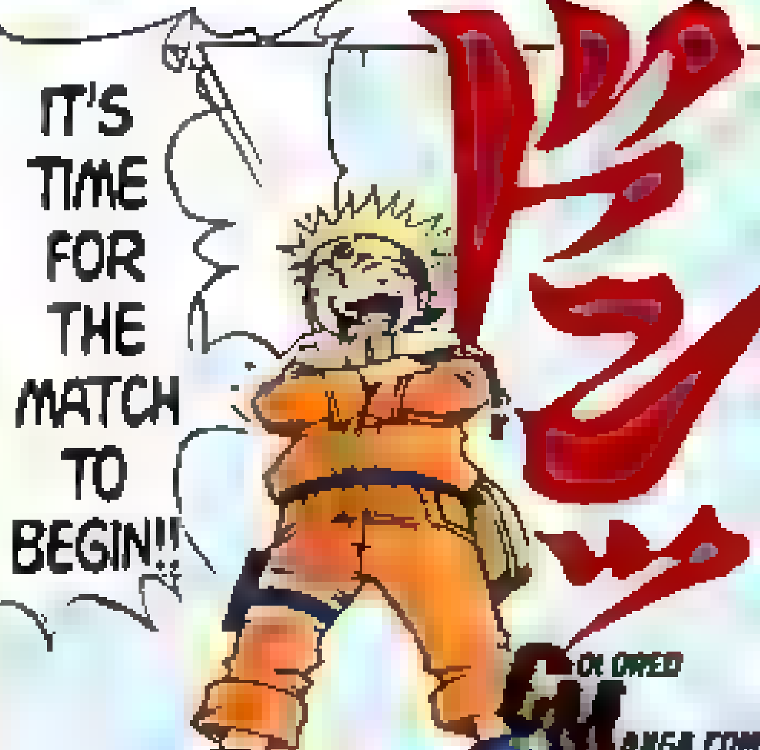
THE BASIS OF ALL SHINOBI ARTS IS TO BECOME INVISIBLE.. ERADICATE YOURSELF..

SKF











SHFF

RUSTLE

THE ONLY WRONG THING HERE IS YOUR HAIRSTYLE!











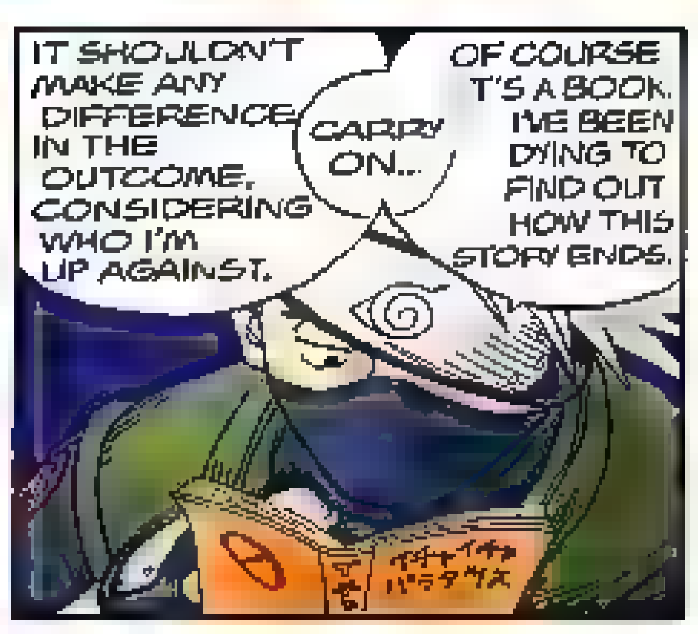




イチャイチャパラダイス
中巻

!?





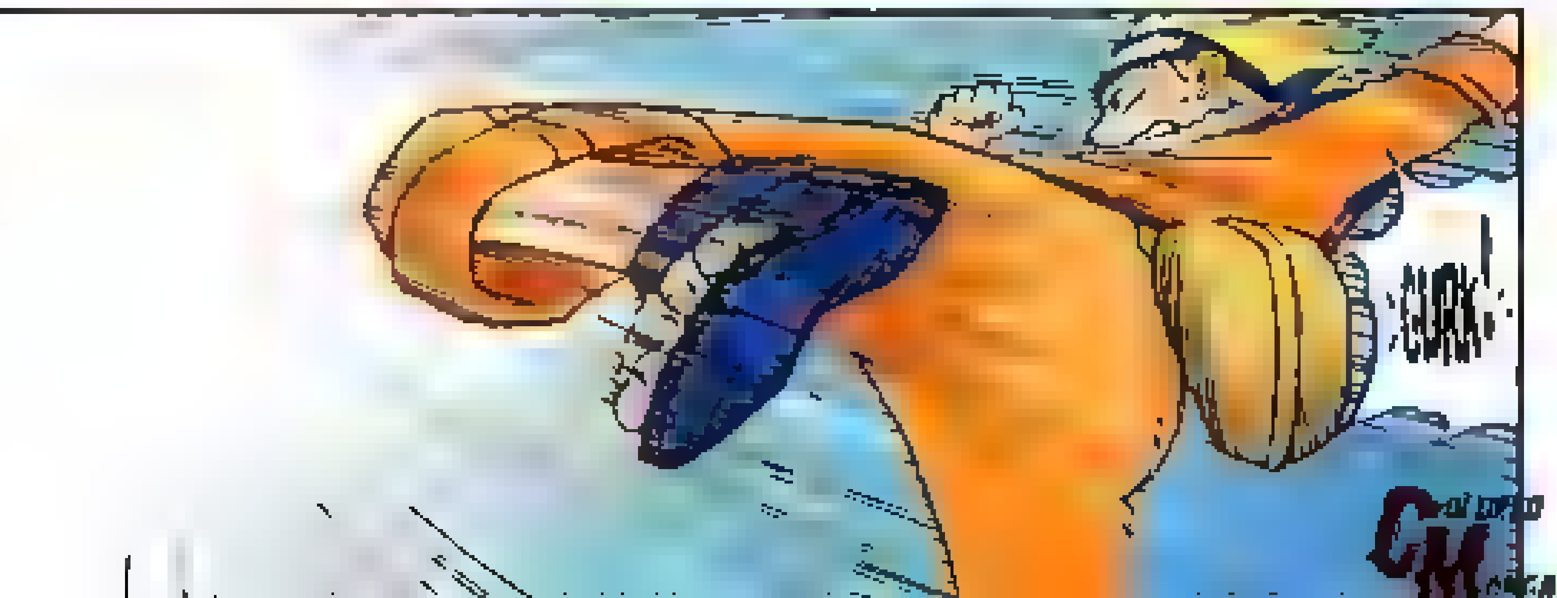




!!

I'M GONNA FLATTEN YOU!

GRRAAA--!!

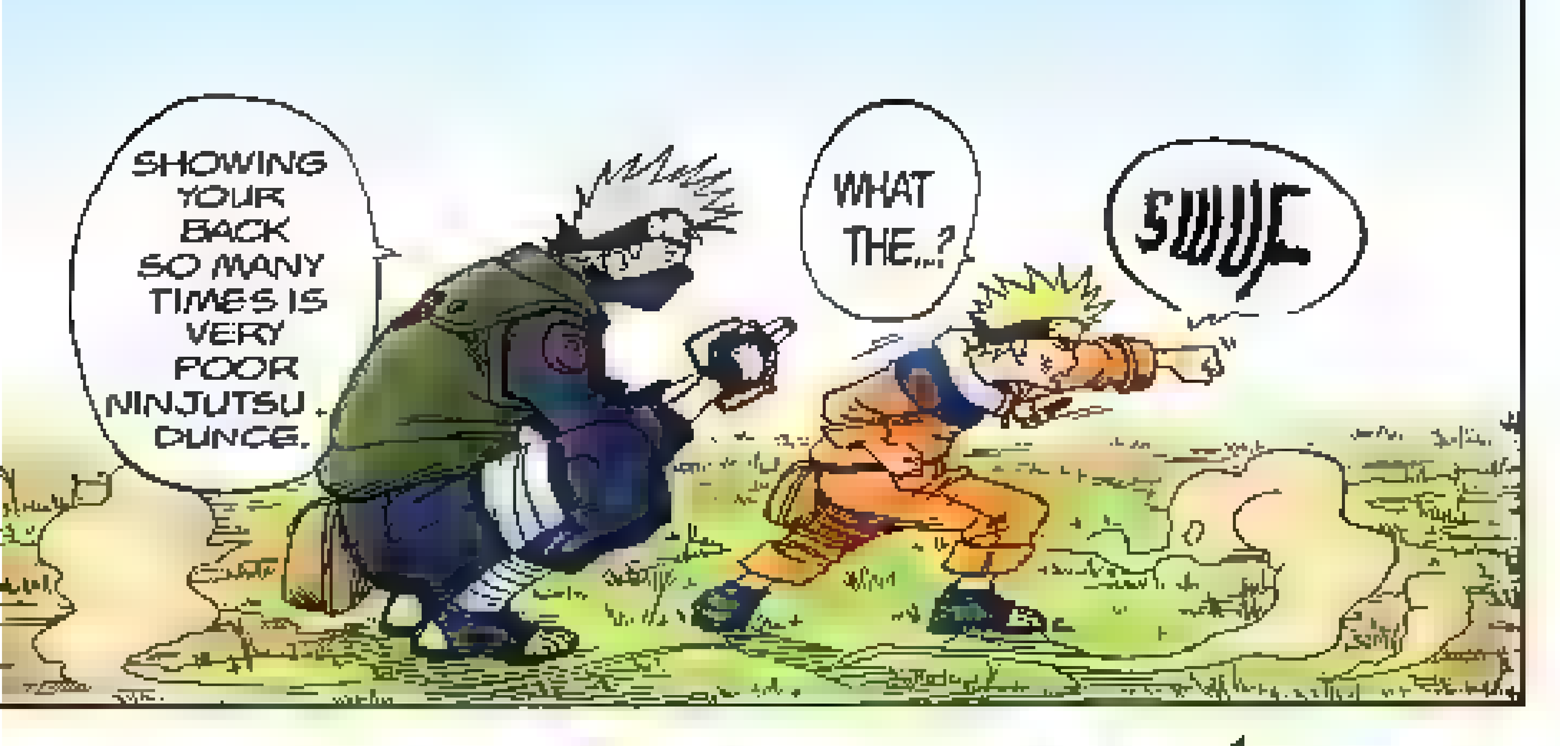


HMF!

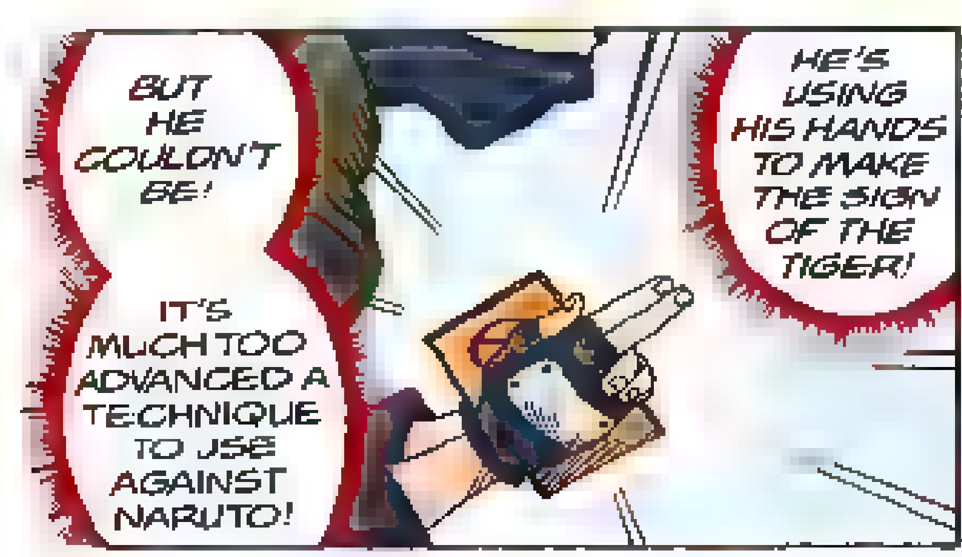
ALL RGHT! THAT'S IT!!

CHARGE!!

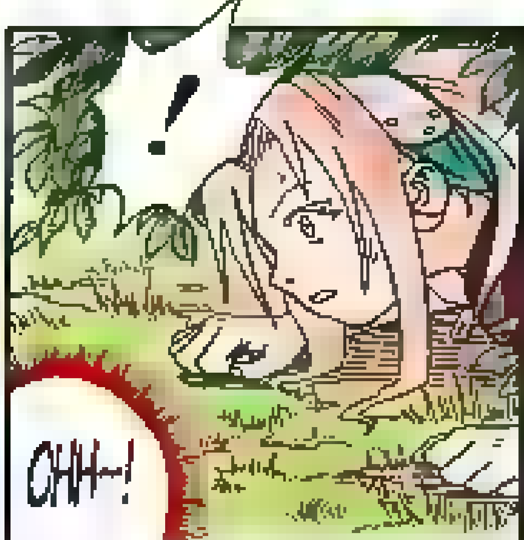




SHOWING YOUR BACK SO MANY TIMES IS VERY POOR NINJUTSU, DUNCE.
WHAT THE..?
SWUF



BUT HE COULDN'T BE!
IT'S MUCH TOO ADVANCED A TECHNIQUE TO USE AGAINST NARUTO!
HE'S USING HIS HANDS TO MAKE THE SIGN OF THE TIGER!



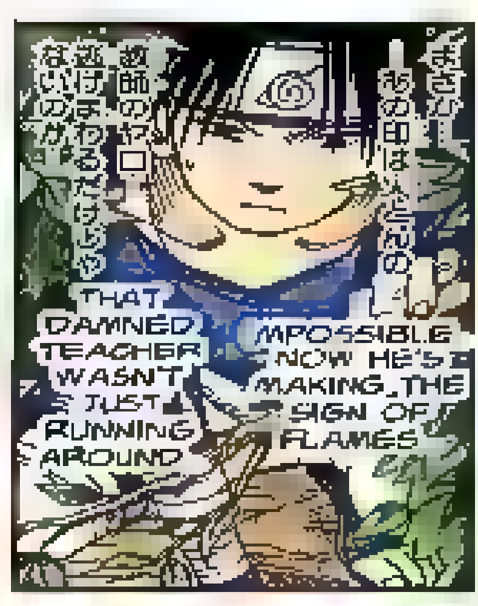
!
OHH--!



WHAT?
TOO LATE.



YOU'LL BE KILLED!
NARUTO---!!! GET OUT OF THERE!!!

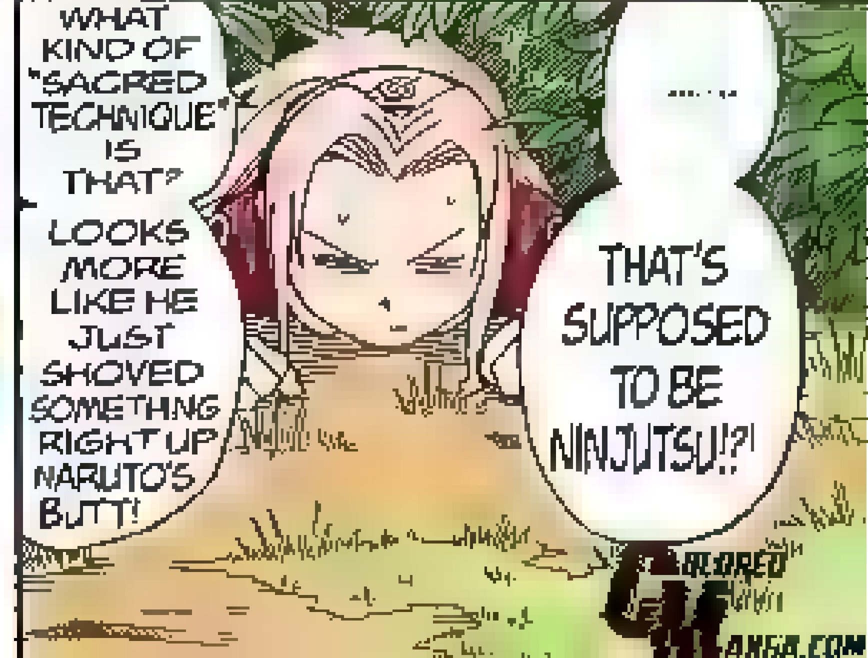


まさか…
教師のヤロー
逃げまわるだけじゃ
ないのか
IMPOSSIBLE NOW HE'S MAKING THE SIGN OF FLAMES
THAT DAMNED TEACHER WASN'T JUST RUNNING AROUND



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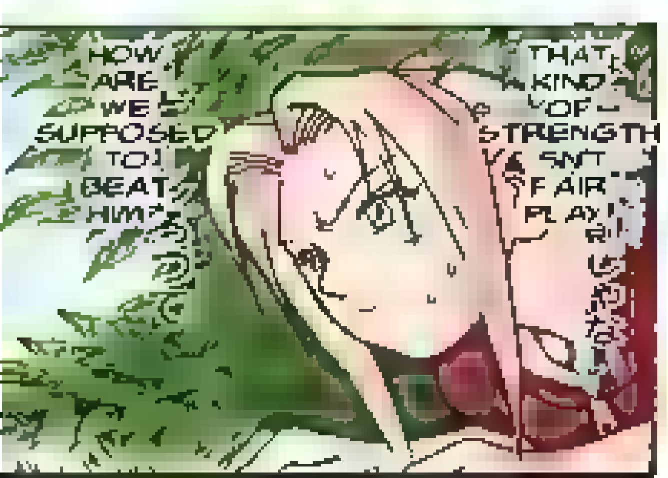
KONOHAGAKURE VILLAGE'S MOST SECRET AND MOST SACRED TECHNIQUE!!
ONE THOUSAND YEARS OF DEATH!

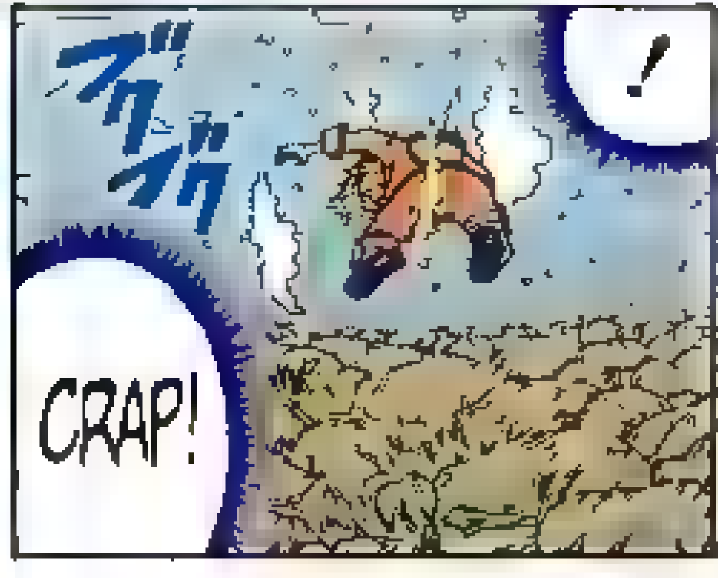


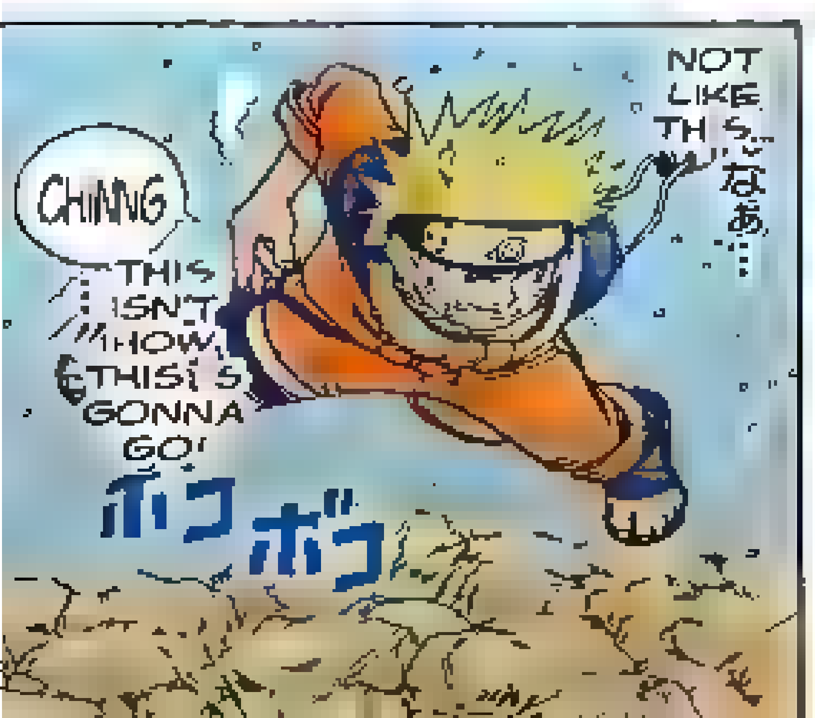



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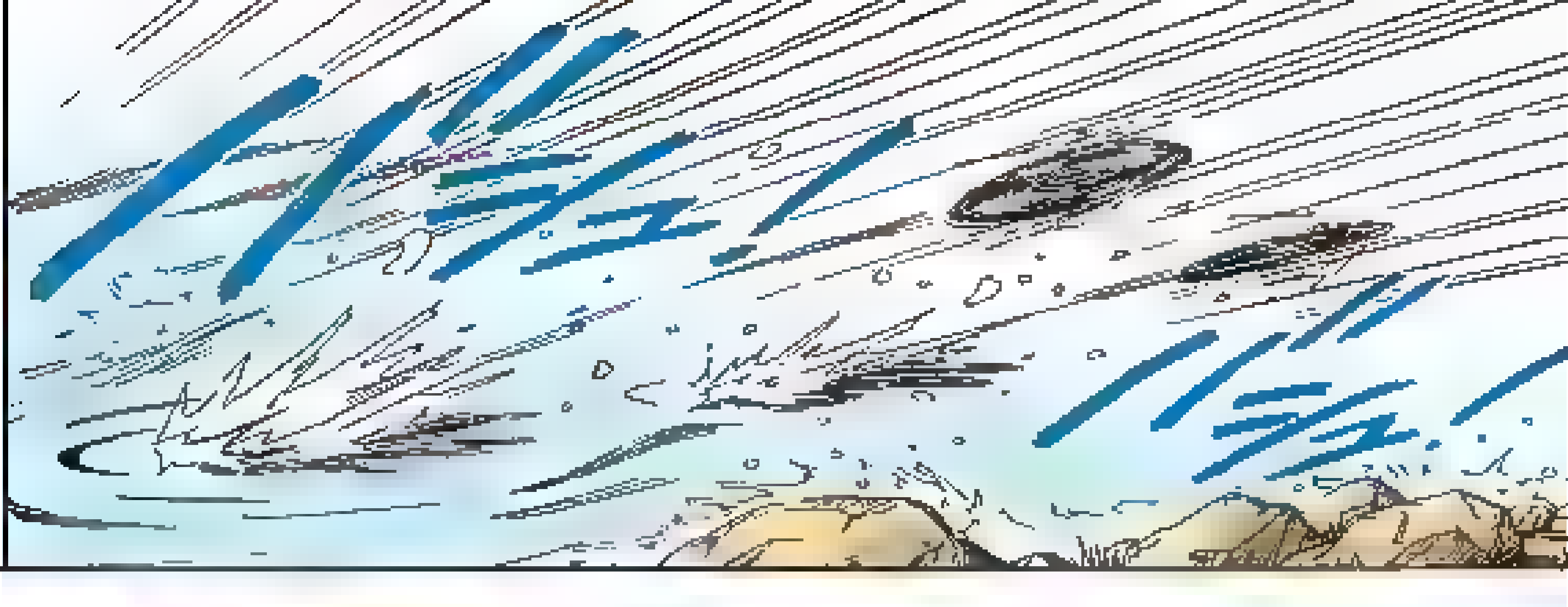


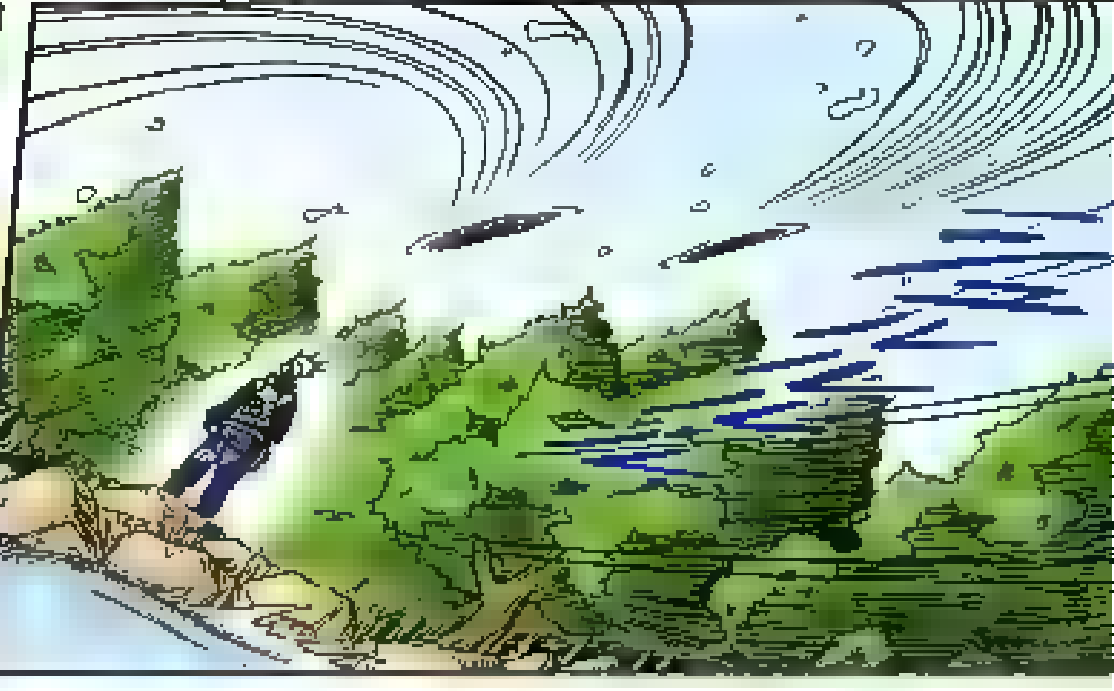

THAT KIND OF STRENGTH ISN'T FAIR PLAY!
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BEAT HIM?


!
CRAP!


NOT LIKE THIS...
CHINNG
THIS ISN'T HOW THIS IS GONNA GO!


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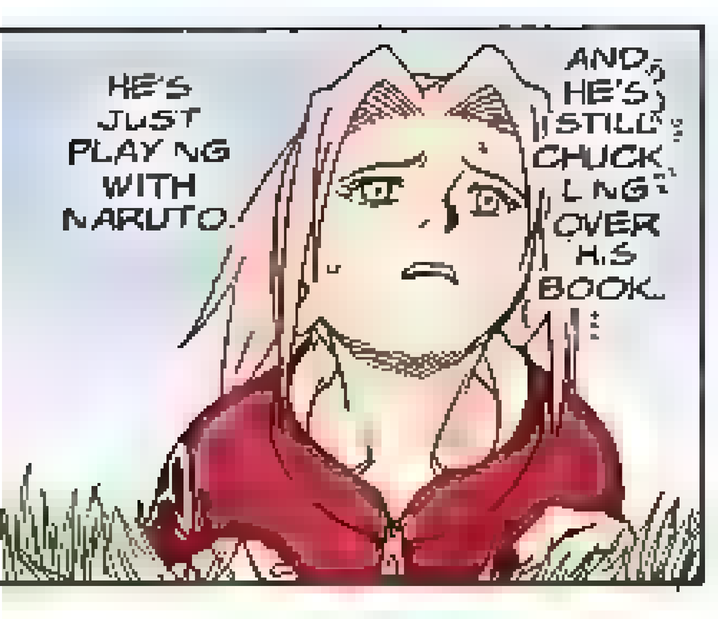

!!


HA HA HA HA.

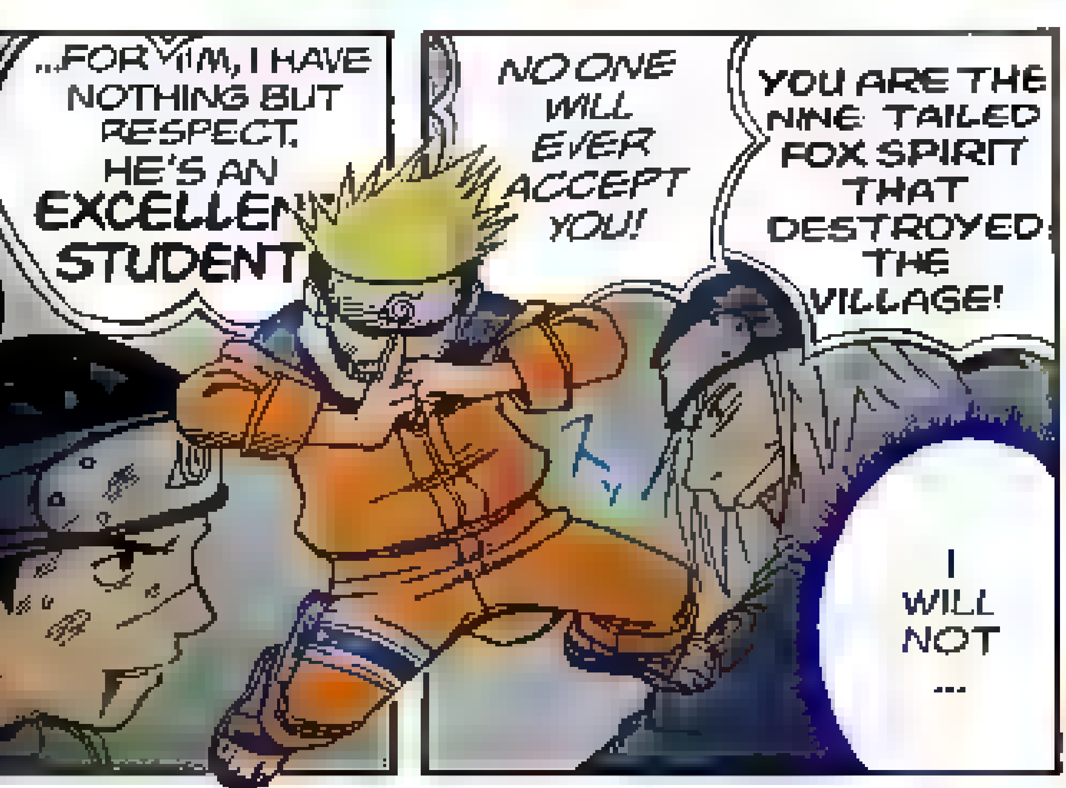

くるりくるり
...


NOOOOO!

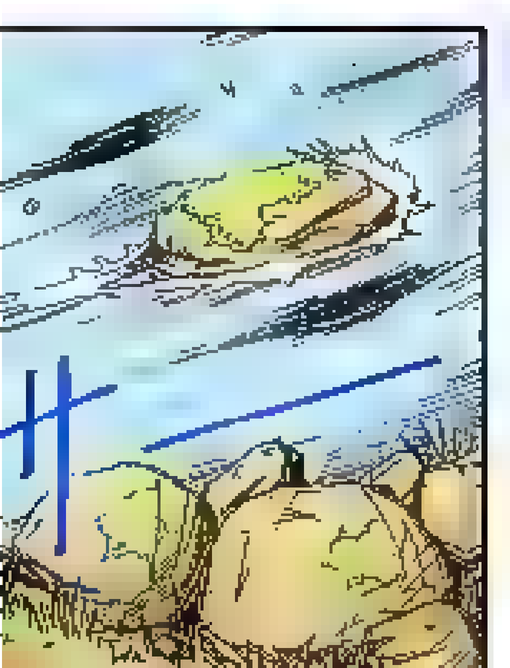

......


HE'S JUST PLAY NG WITH NARUTO.
AND HE'S STILL CHUCK L NG OVER H S BOOK...


I WILL...


YOU ARE THE NINE TAILED FOX SPIRIT THAT DESTROYED THE VILLAGE!
NO ONE WILL EVER ACCEPT YOU!
I WILL NOT ...
...FOR HIM, I HAVE NOTHING BUT RESPECT. HE'S AN EXCELLENT STUDENT


I WILL NOT BACK DOWN!

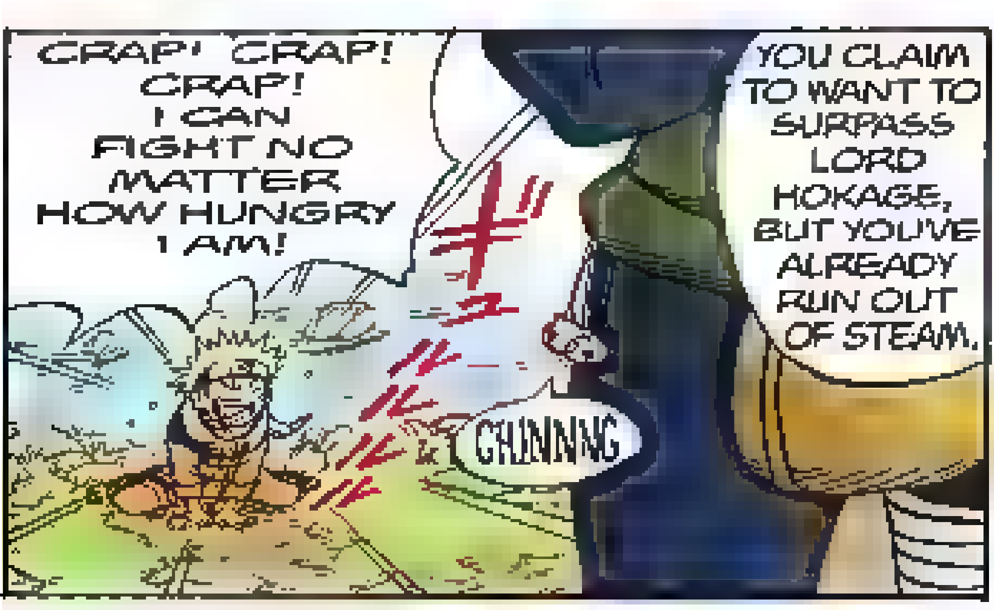


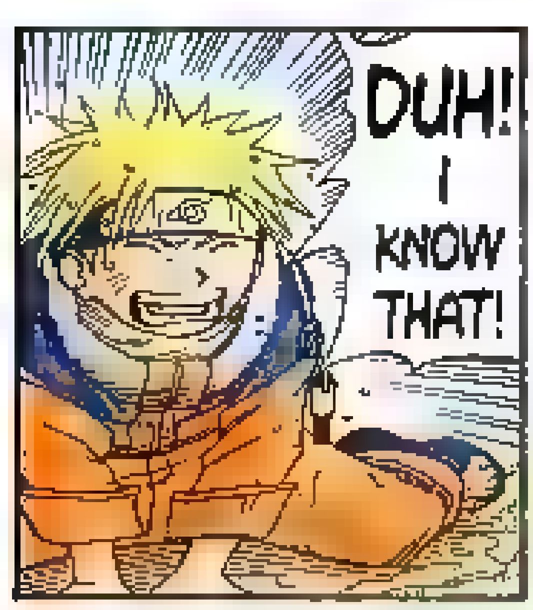
KOFF-KOFF!

!!

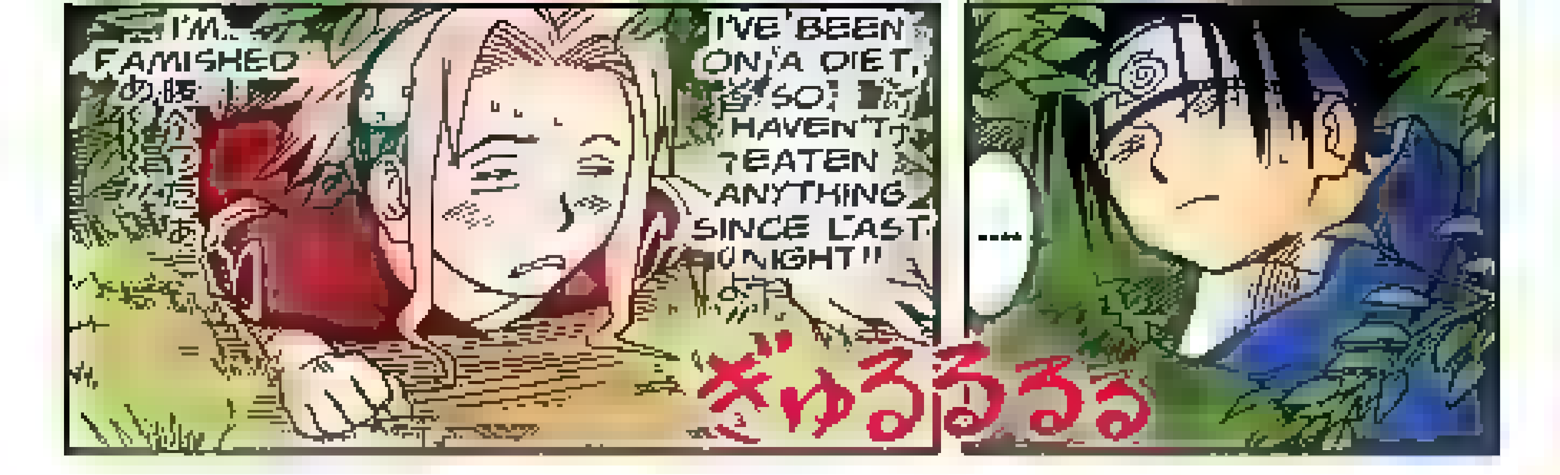
WELL? WHAT'S THE HOLD UP?

GET ONE OF THESE BELLS BY LUNCH, OR YOU'LL HAVE NO LUNCH!

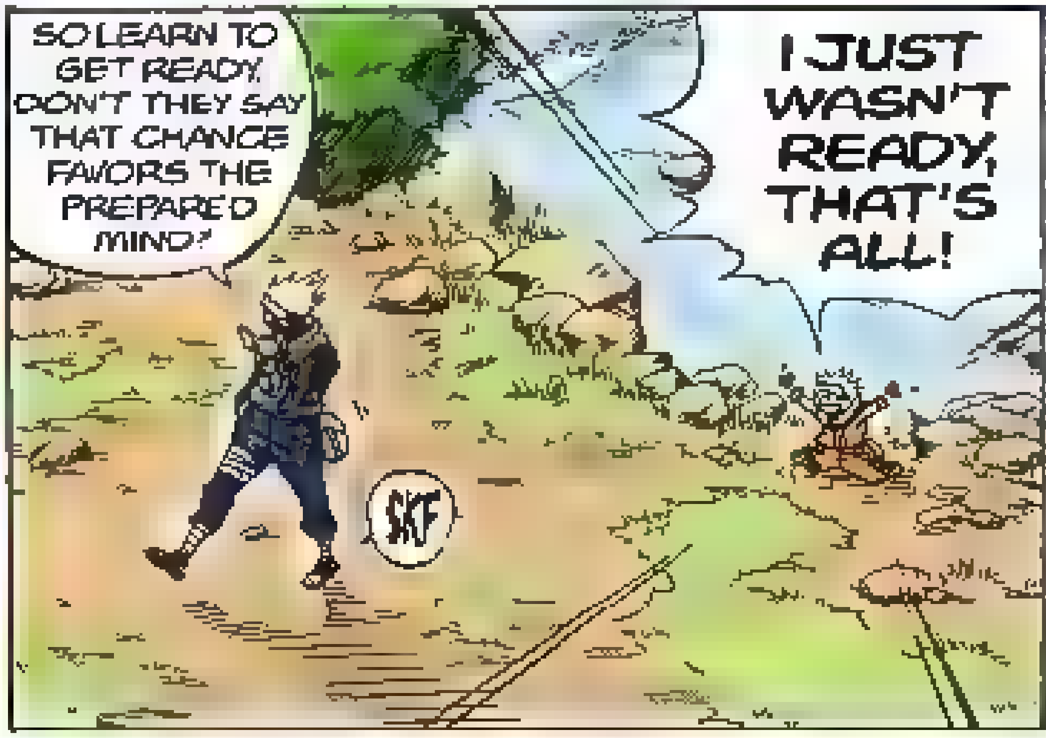








I'M... FAMISHED
I'VE BEEN ON A DIET, SO I HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING SINCE LAST NIGHT!!
.....
ぎゅるるるる



I JUST WASN'T READY, THAT'S ALL!
SO LEARN TO GET READY. DON'T THEY SAY THAT CHANCE FAVORS THE PREPARED MIND?
SKF



CRAP! I'M STARVING...
....
...AND COMPLETELY OUT OF GAS...



...BUT...
I HAVE TO GET A BELL... NO MATTER WHAT!



AND I HAVE TO EARN HIS RESPECT!!



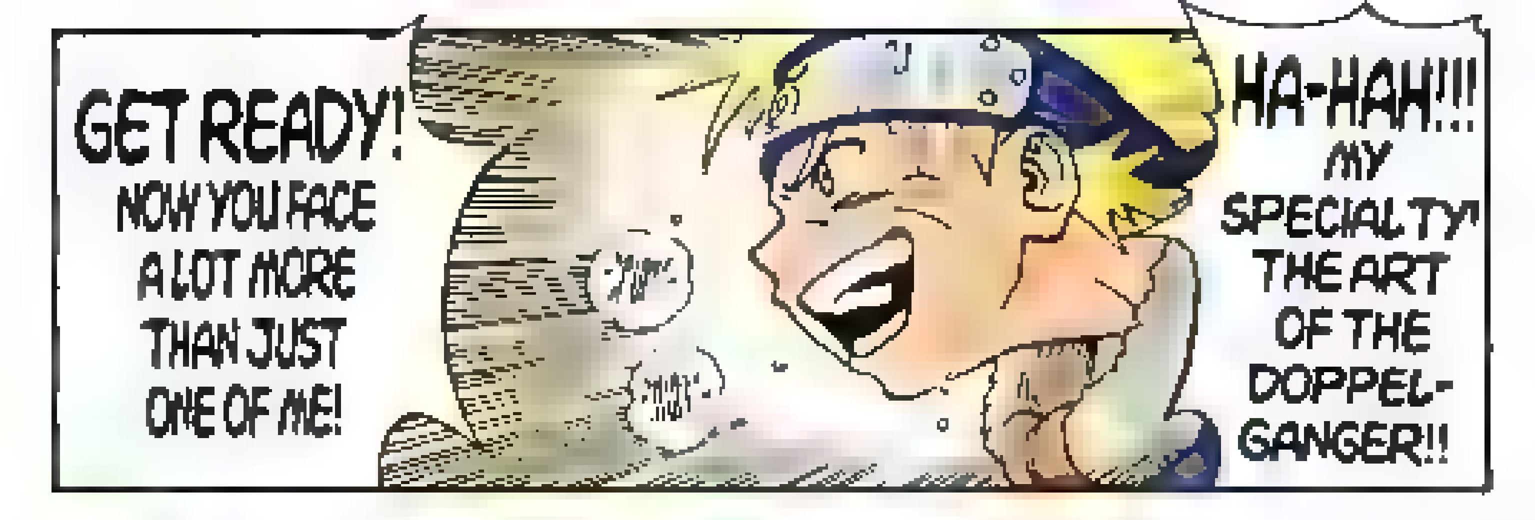

NO MATTER WHAT!

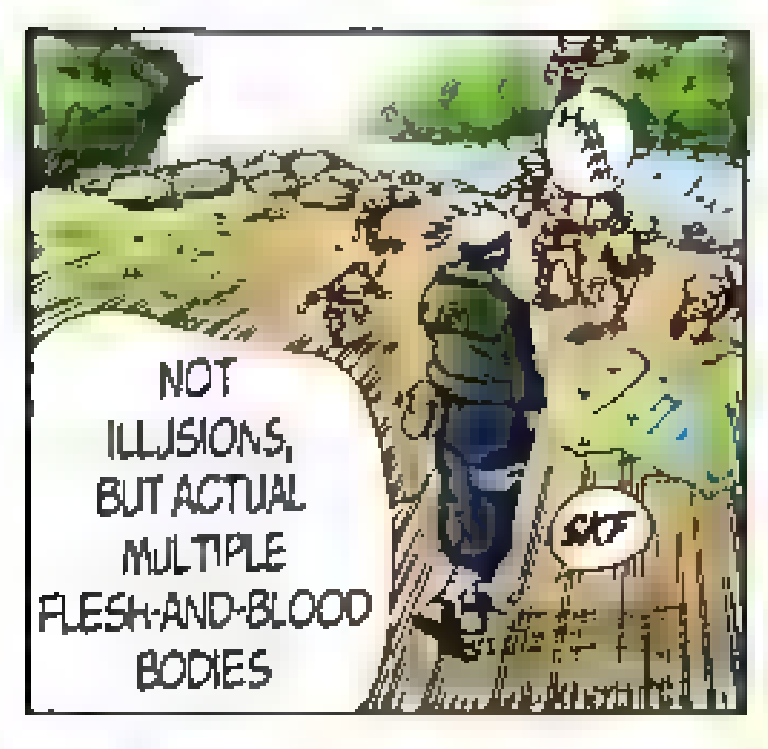


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I HAVE TO BECOME A TRUE SHINOBI.

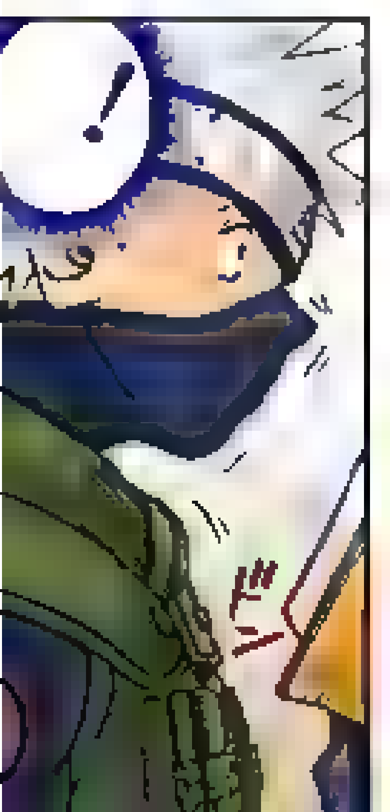


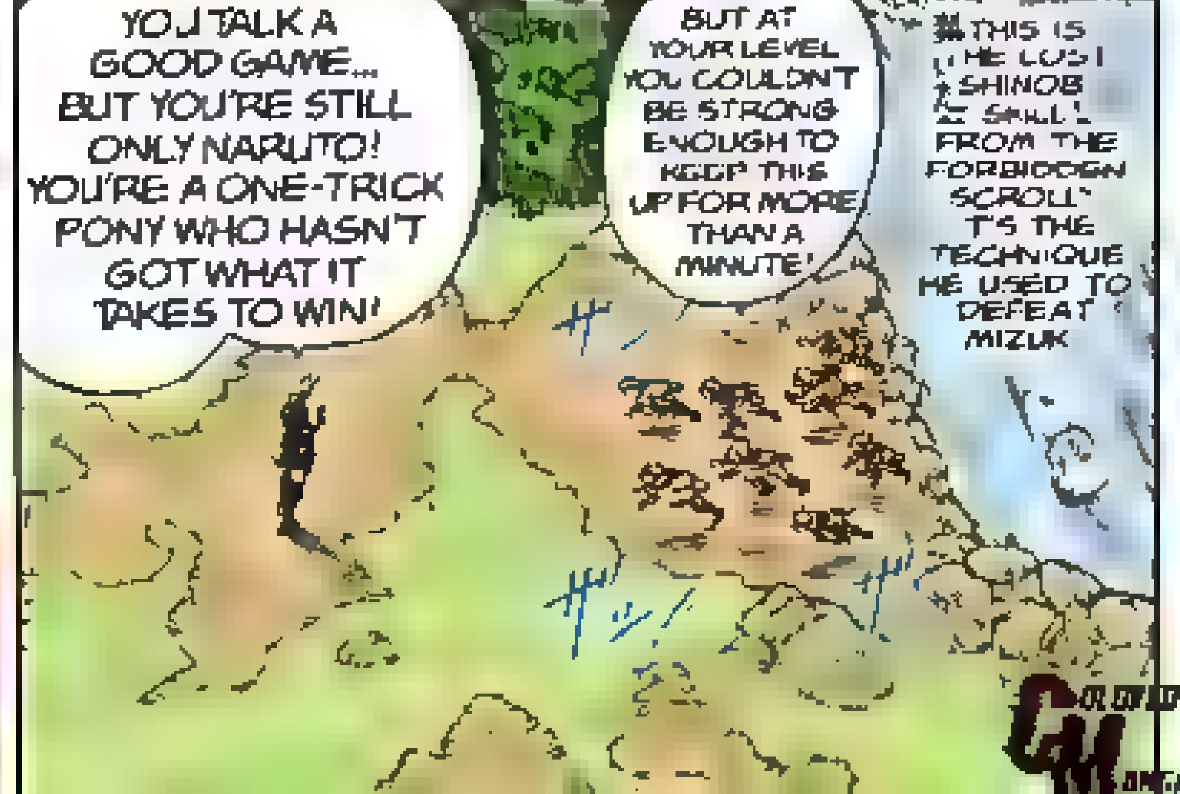

GET READY! NOW YOU FACE A LOT MORE THAN JUST ONE OF ME!
HA-HAH!!! MY SPECIALTY! THE ART OF THE DOPPEL-GANGER!!


NOT ILLUSIONS, BUT ACTUAL MULTIPLE FLESH-AND-BLOOD BODIES


THEY'RE NOT ILLUSIONS! EVERY ONE IS SOLID!


ONE.. TWO... THREE... EIGHT DISTINCT BODIES!! WHAT TECHNIQUE IS HE USING?



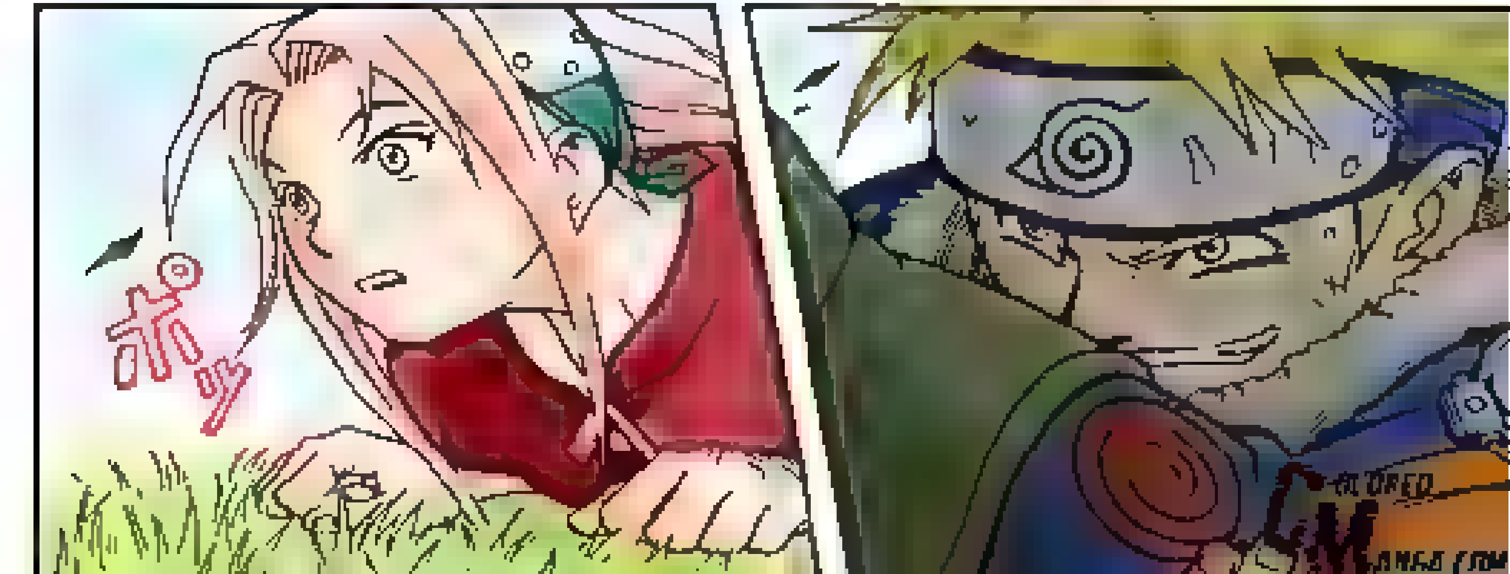

YOU TALK A GOOD GAME... BUT YOU'RE STILL ONLY NARUTO! YOU'RE A ONE-TRICK PONY WHO HASN'T GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN!
BUT AT YOUR LEVEL YOU COULDN'T BE STRONG ENOUGH TO KEEP THIS UP FOR MORE THAN A MINUTE!
FROM THE FORBIDDEN SCROLL. IT'S THE TECHNIQUE HE USED TO DEFEAT MIZUK

WH-WHAT--?


ポッ


BEHIND ME!!!!
CHING

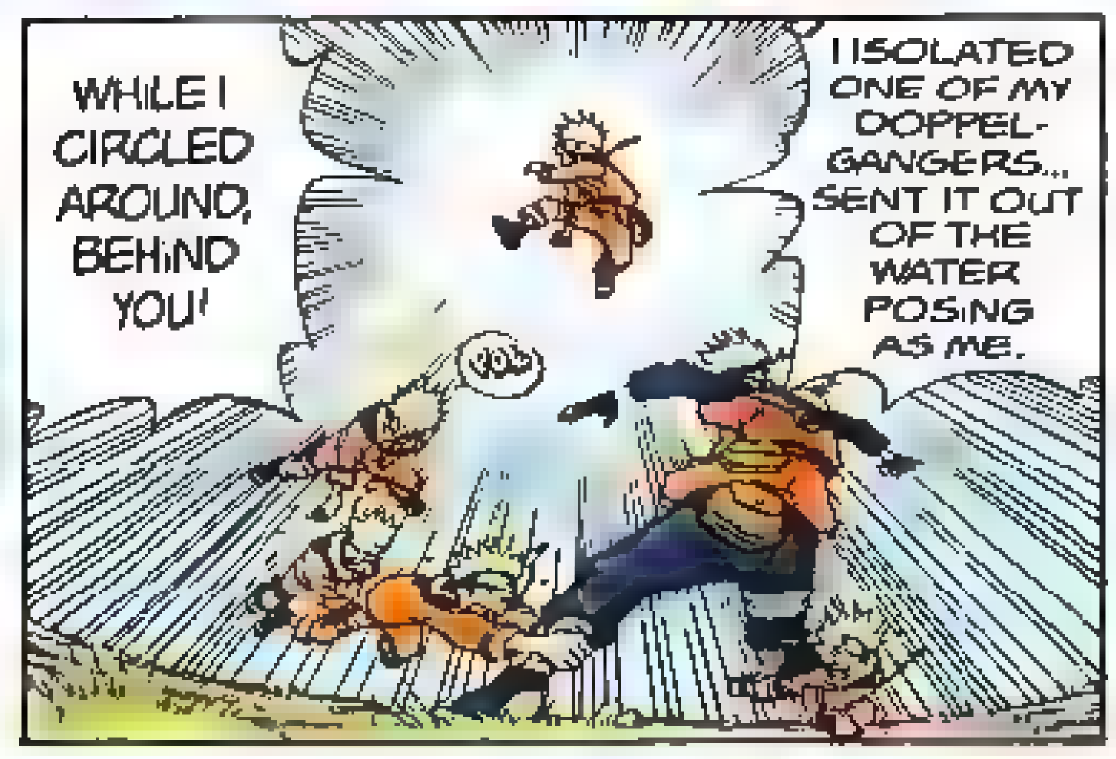
WH-WHAT--?



...MASTER!!

HEH-HEH-HEH... NICE TO SEE YOUR BACK...

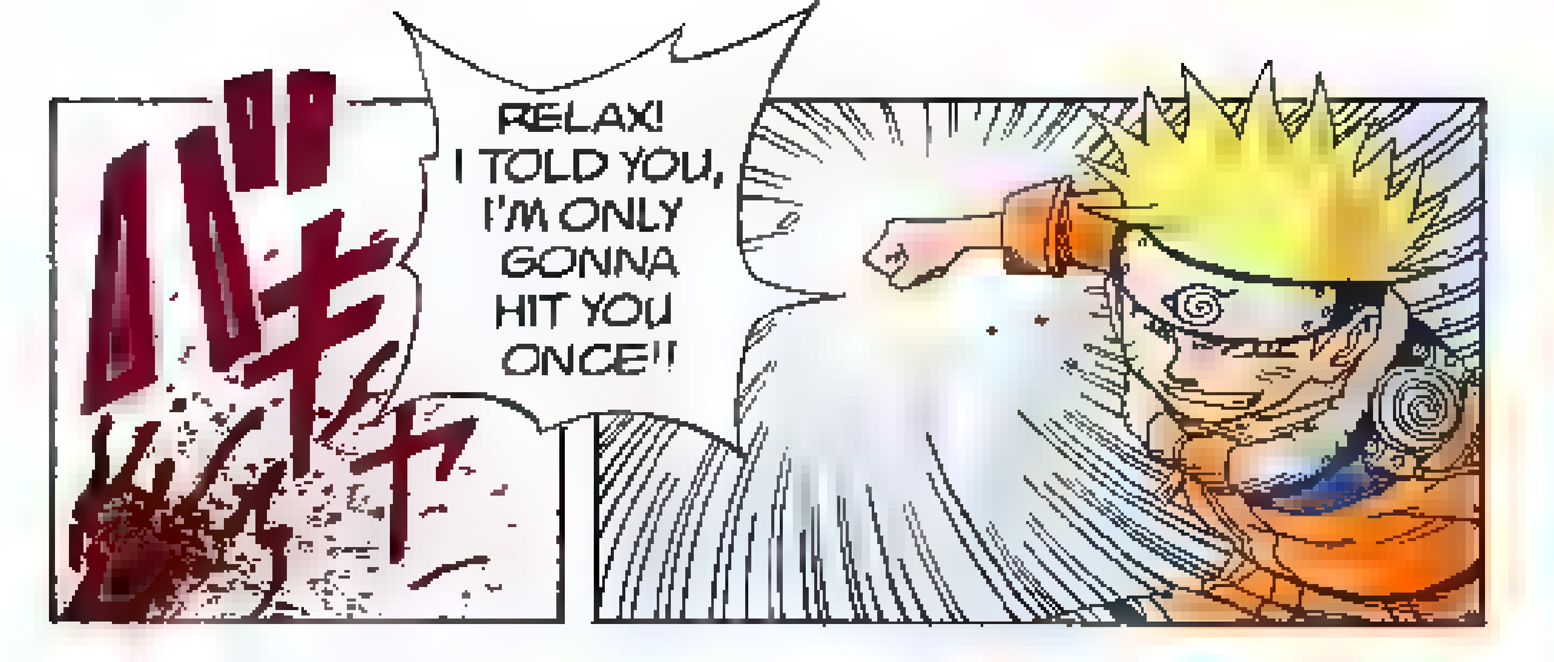


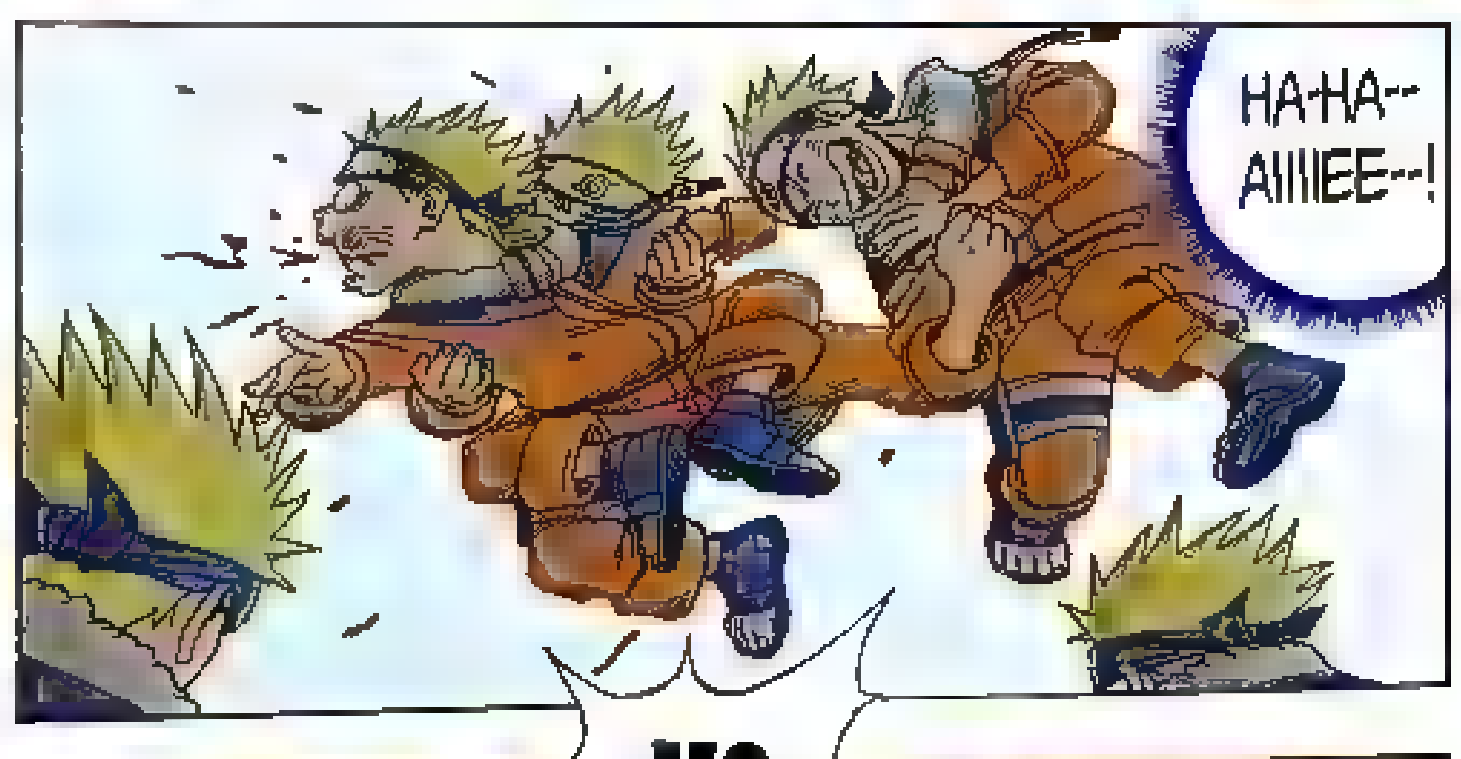









RELAX! I TOLD YOU, I'M ONLY GONNA HIT YOU ONCE!!

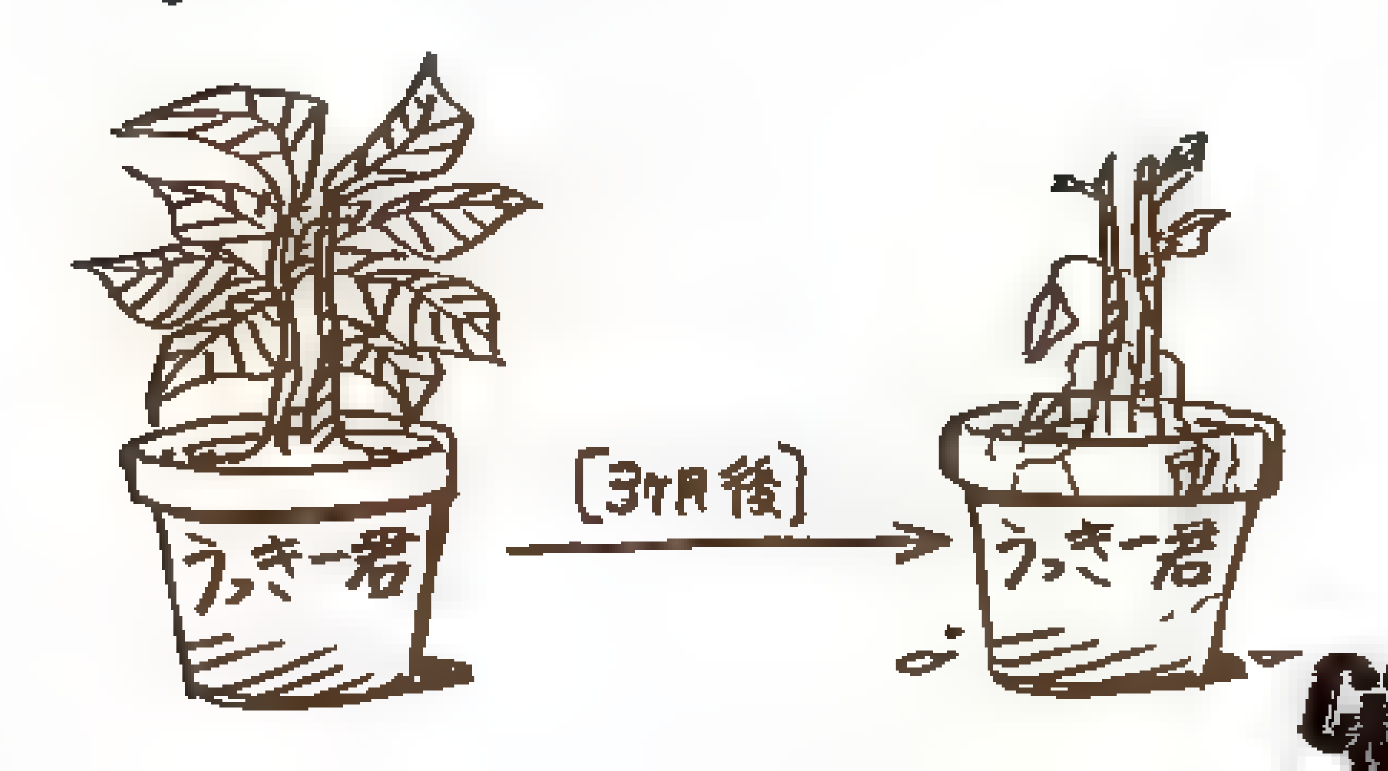

HA-HA-- AIIIIEE--!


!!?
HUNH?

AN ANECDOTE by Masashi Kishimoto

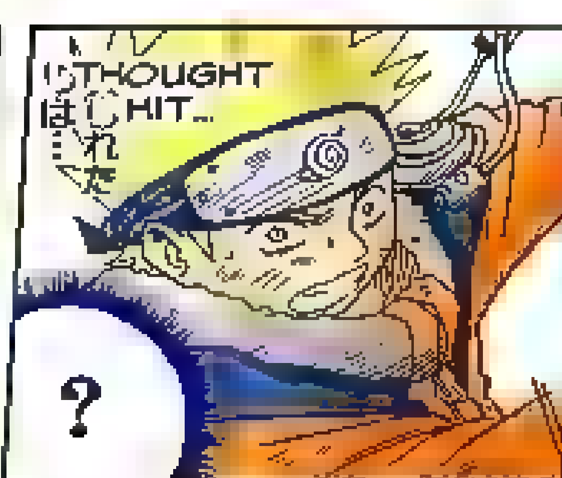
Coming from the country, I grew up surrounded by the beauties of nature, trees, plants, and open ground. So moving to Tokyo was quite a shock. There was hardly a plant or a natural setting to be found. I had to do something to create the country atmosphere and keep myself from feeling homesick. Something that would soothe me enough that I could concentrate on creating good manga. So I decided to buy a houseplant for my desk.

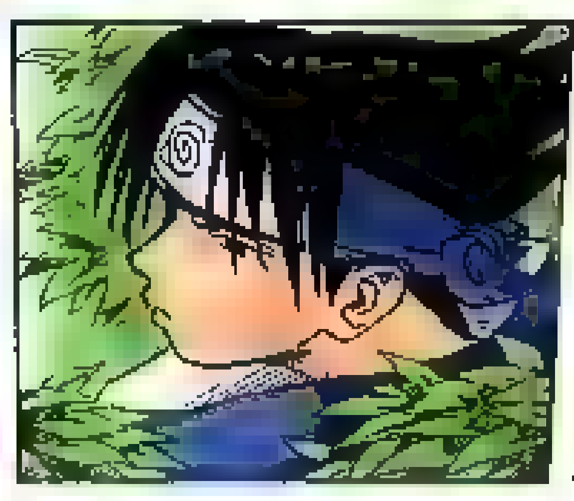
Kishimoto: "From now on, you're my partner!"
I even gave my plant a name: *Ukki-kun*, as in "Mr. Ukki."
Kishimoto: "Well Ukki, you look very shiny and green today!"
Ukki: " ...."
Kishimoto: "It was a good day for photosynthesis, huh?"
Ukki: " ...... "
Kishimoto: "Today I'm going to give you an excellent fertilizer for vigorous growth!"
We were a super-team.
Assistant A: "What is this, Mr Kishimoto? How did your plant get all dried out?"
Kishimoto: "What are you saying?! I gave Ukki the best care!"
Assistant A: "You mean this? This fertilizer is concentrated, so you need to dilute it a lot. Oh no! You mean you didn't dilute it?!"
Sigh. . .

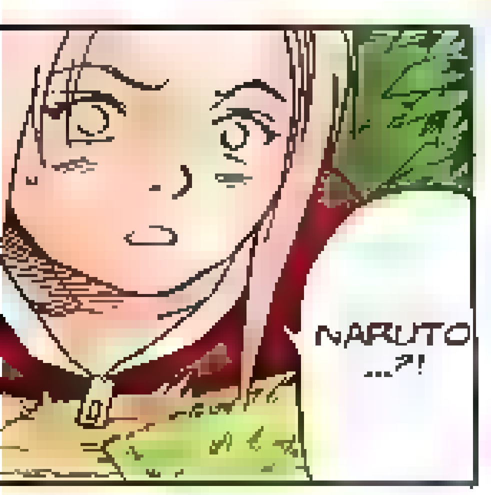


NOT SASUKE!

6：サスケ君に限って…!!







OWW!

OW!

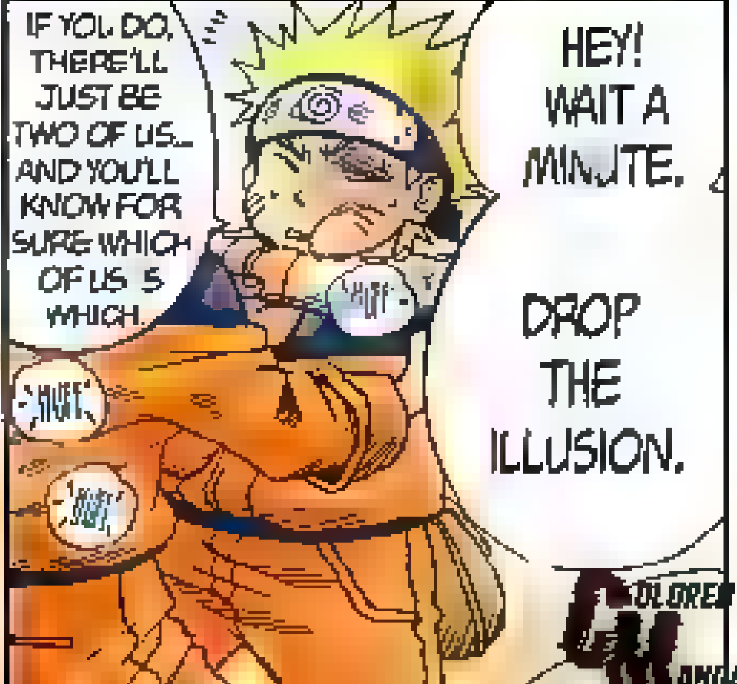
OW!

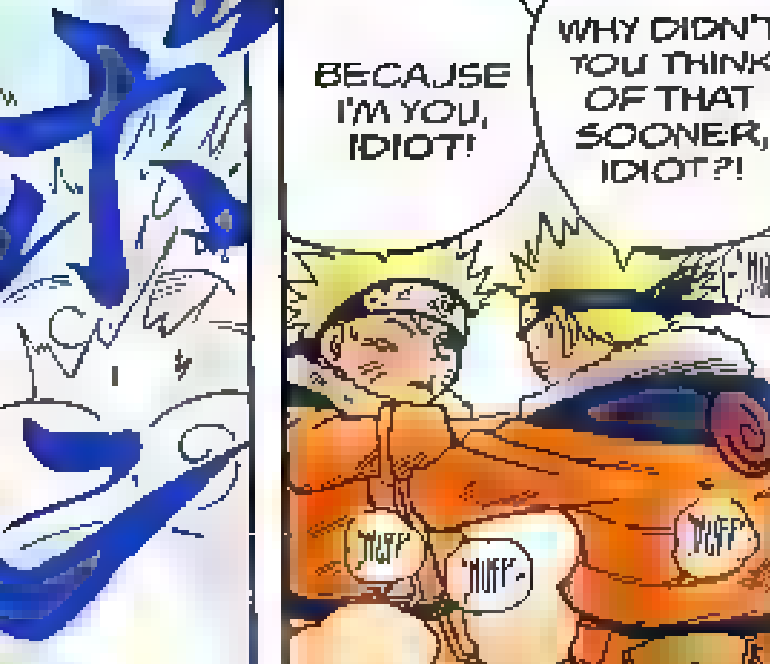
OW!!!


ナンバ
6：サスケ君に
くん
限って…!!
かぎ
忍忍忍忍

YOU'RE MASTER KAKASHI, AREN'T YOU!
YOU USED THE ART OF TRANS-FORMATION TO CHANGE!!

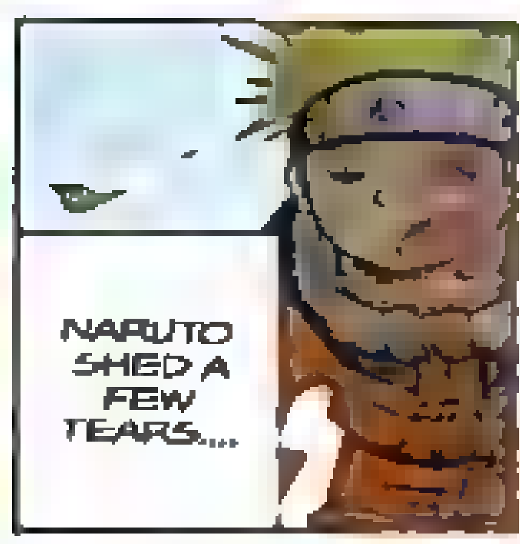
NO! YOU DID!
DID NOT!
YOU HAVE THE SAME SMELL AS MASTER KAKASHI... LIKE AN OLD GUY!
SO DID YOU!
I DO NOT!!



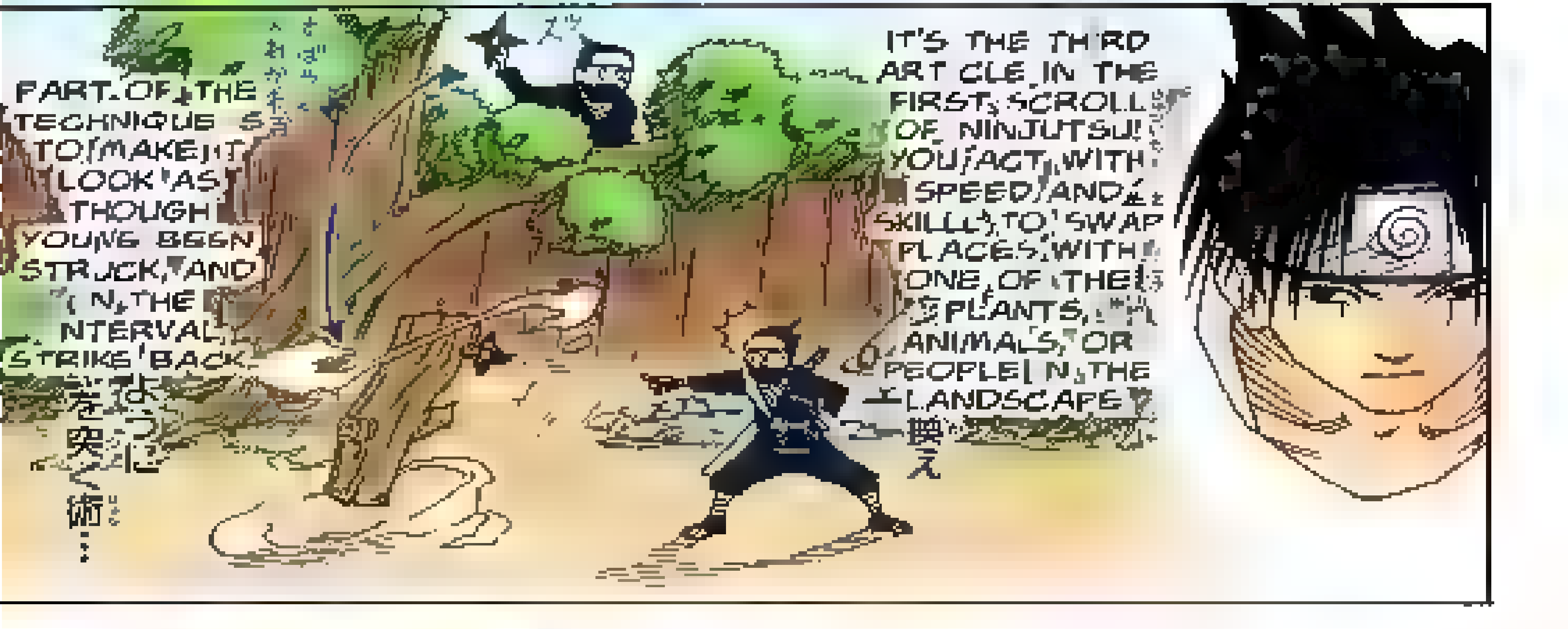


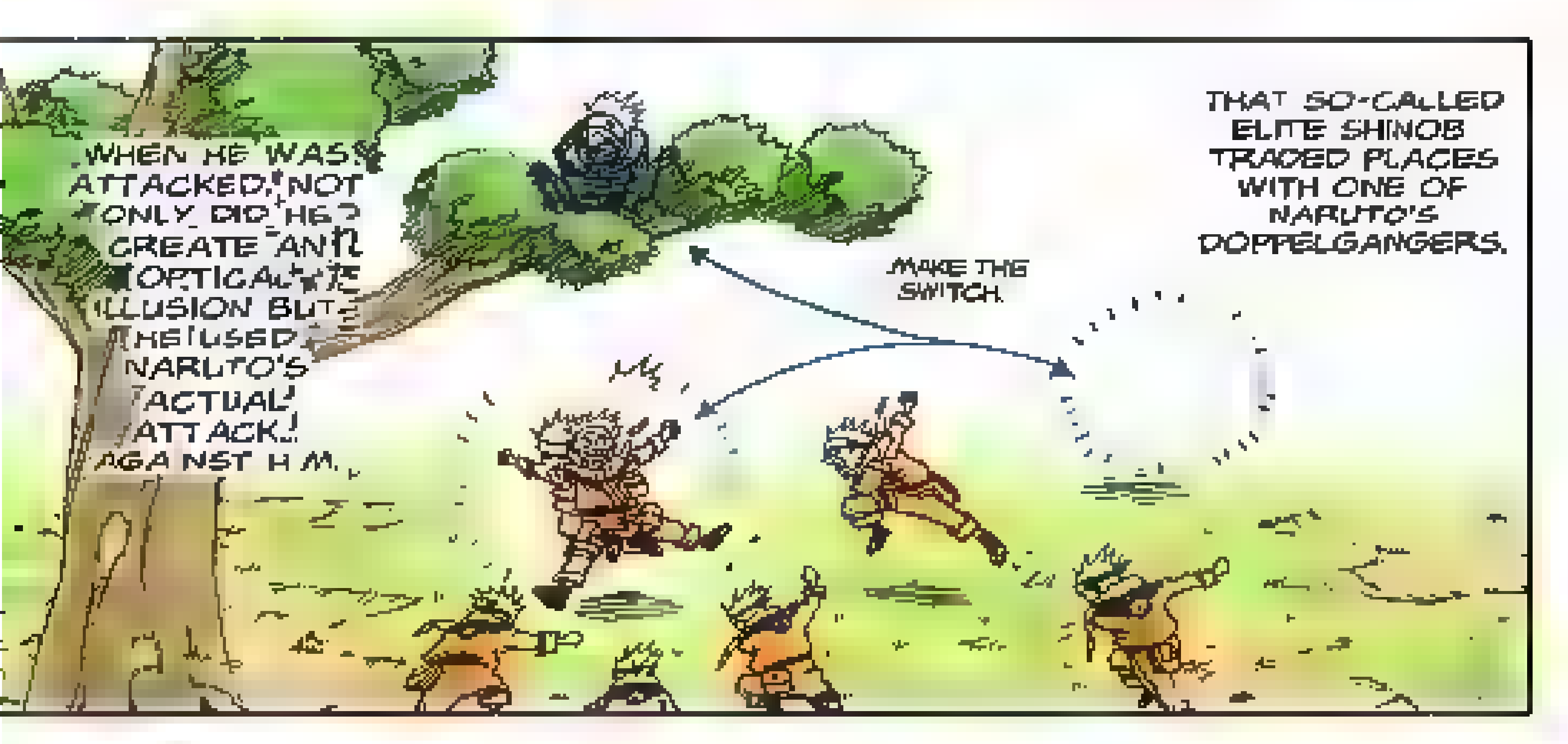

THE
ART OF


NARUTO

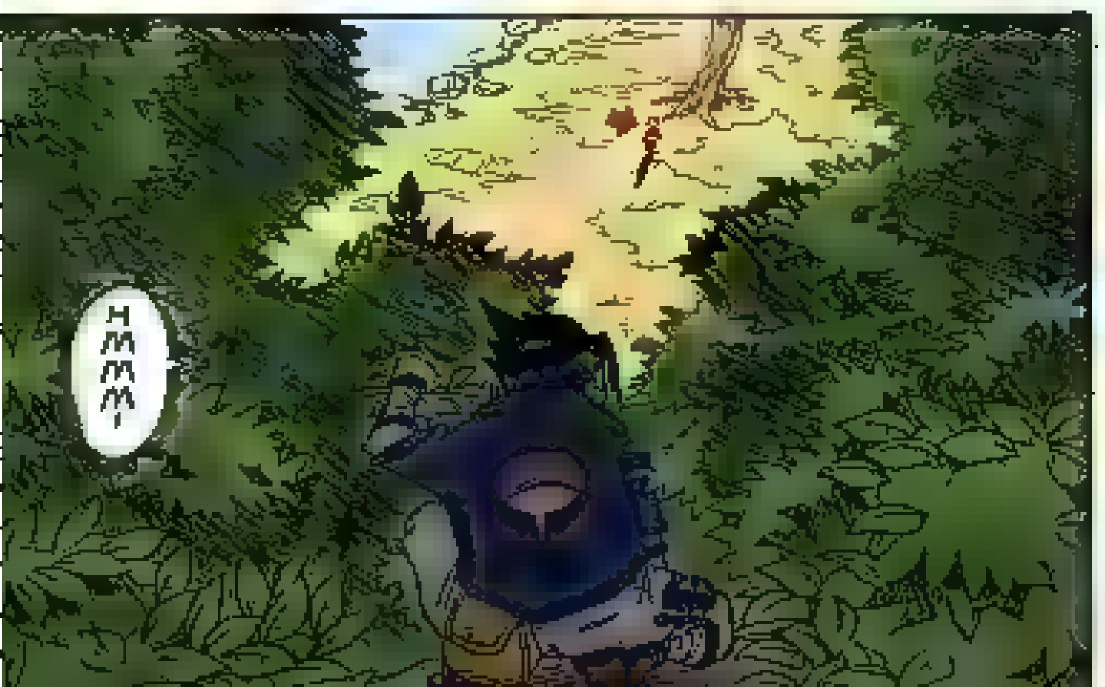

NARUTO SHED A FEW TEARS...



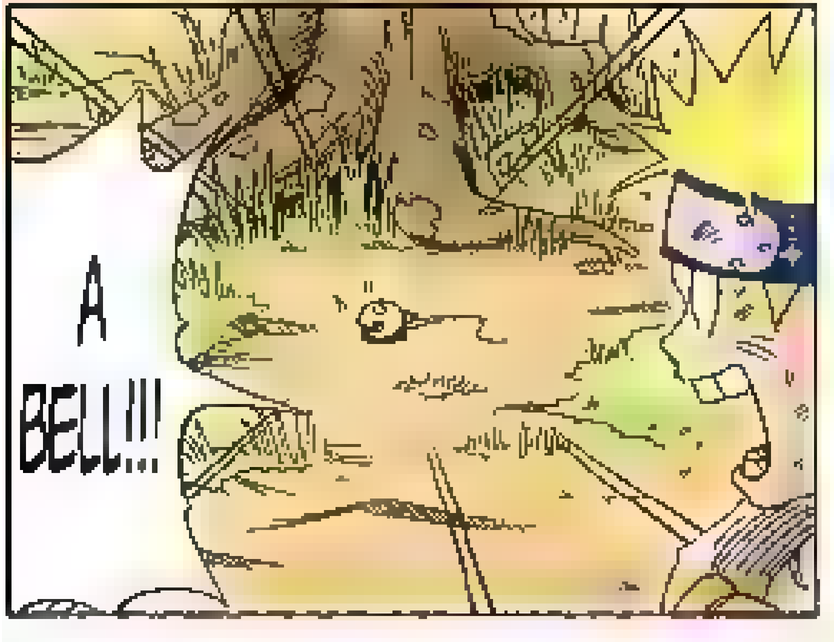

IT'S THE THIRD ARTICLE IN THE FIRST SCROLL OF NINJUTSU! YOU ACT WITH SPEED AND SKILL TO SWAP PLACES WITH ONE OF THE PLANTS, ANIMALS, OR PEOPLE IN THE LANDSCAPE
PART OF THE TECHNIQUE IS TO MAKE IT LOOK AS THOUGH YOU'VE BEEN STRUCK, AND IN THE INTERVAL, STRIKE BACK

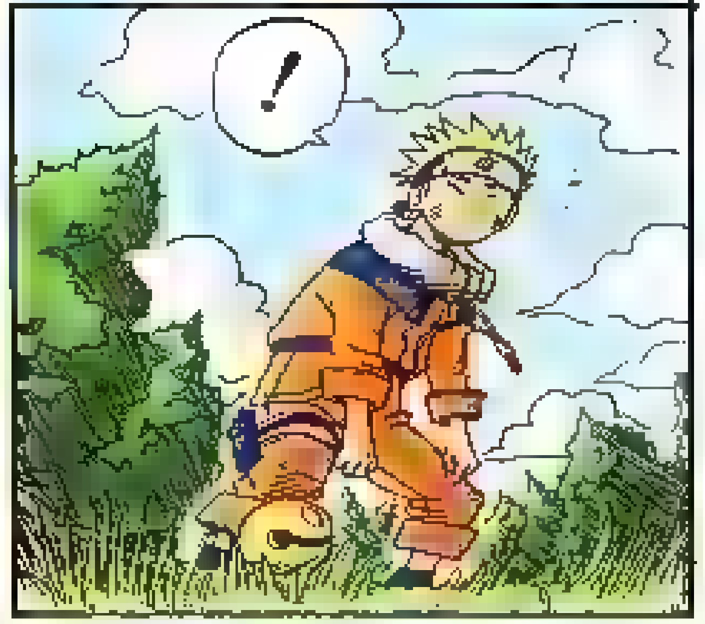

THAT SO-CALLED ELITE SHINOBI TRADED PLACES WITH ONE OF NARUTO'S DOPPELGANGERS.
MAKE THE SWITCH.
WHEN HE WAS ATTACKED, NOT ONLY DID HE CREATE AN OPTICAL ILLUSION BUT HE USED NARUTO'S ACTUAL ATTACK AGAINST HIM.

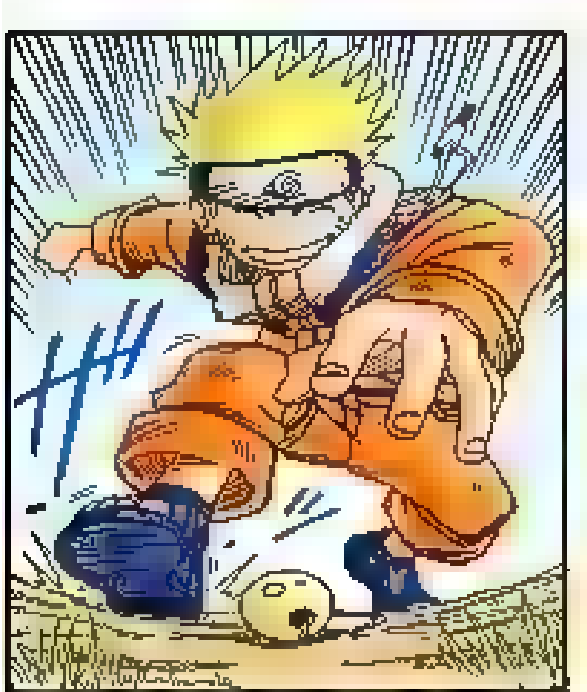


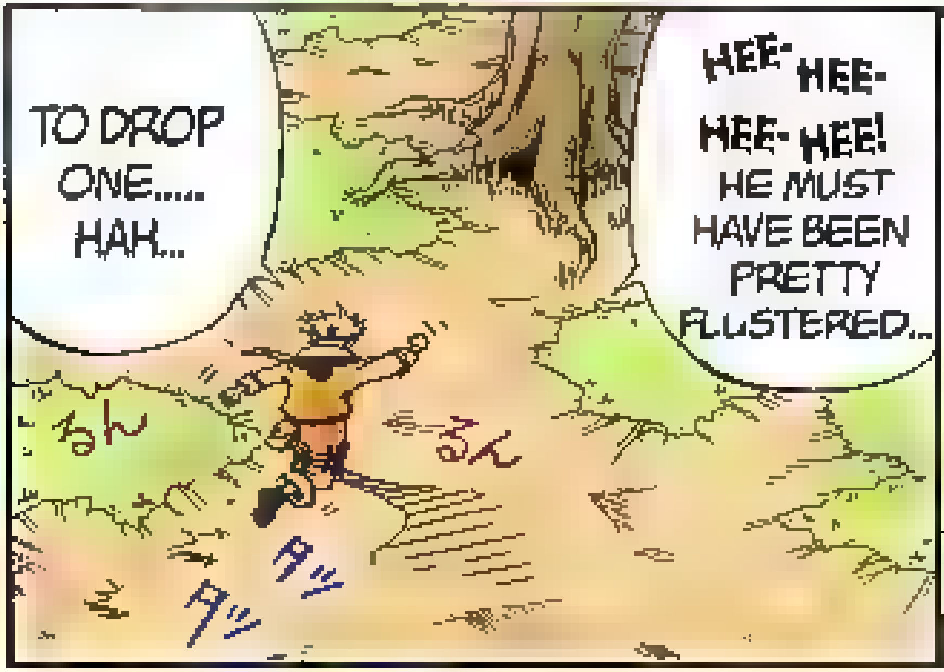

HMMM...

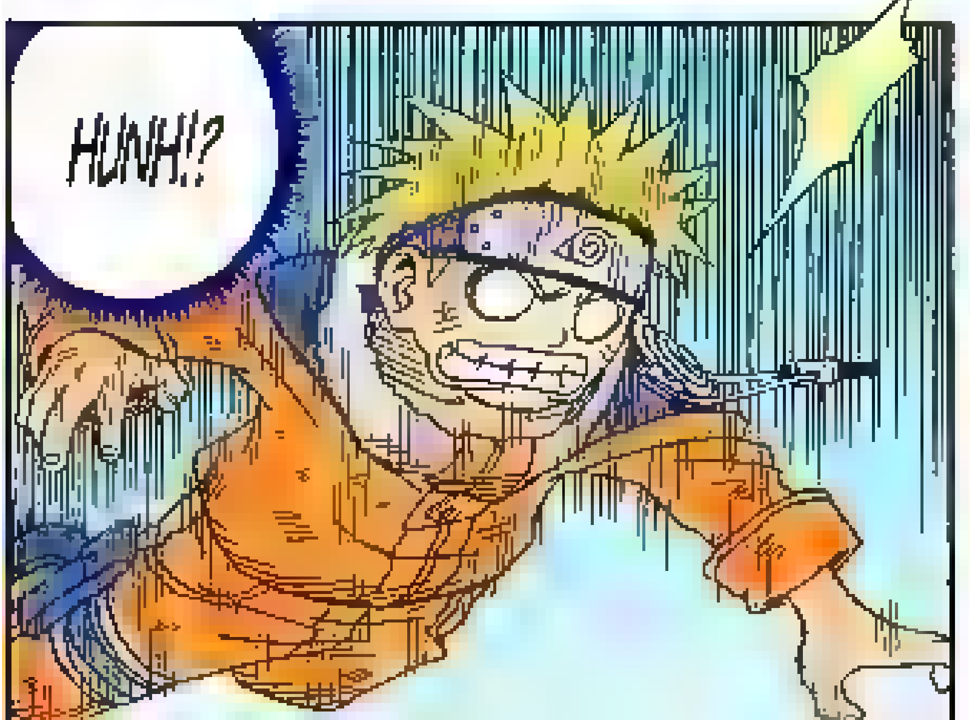

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A BELL!!!


!

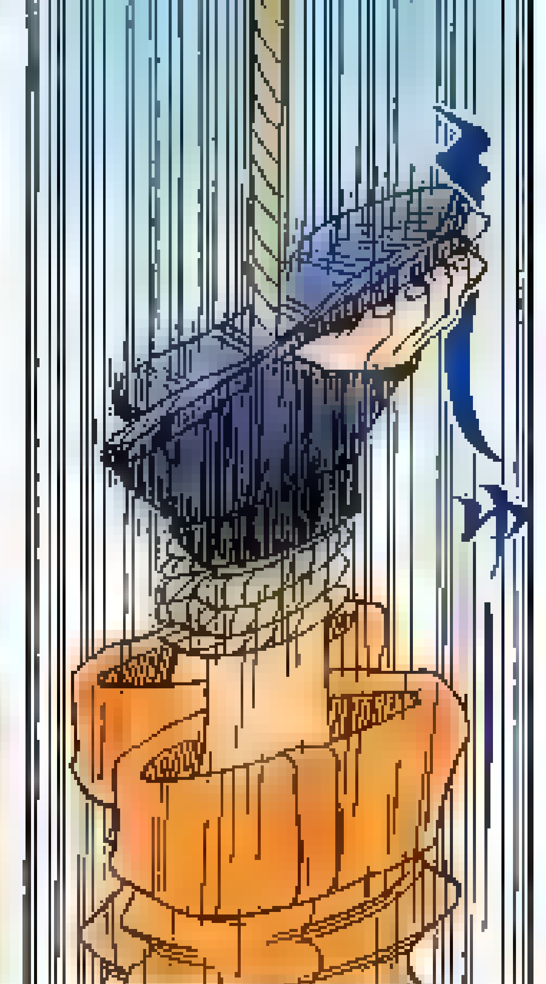


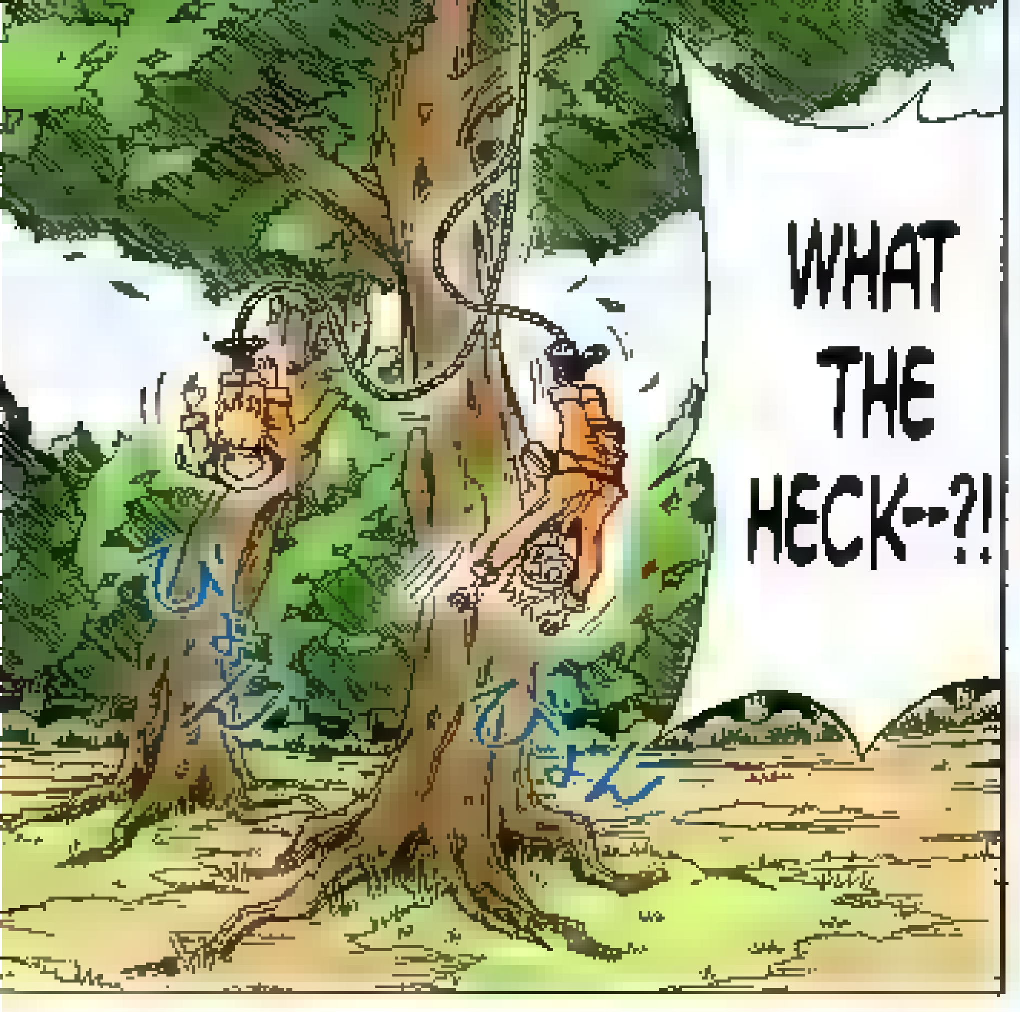

HEE- HEE- HEE- HEE! HE MUST HAVE BEEN PRETTY FLUSTERED...
TO DROP ONE..... HAH...
るん
るん
タッ
タッ

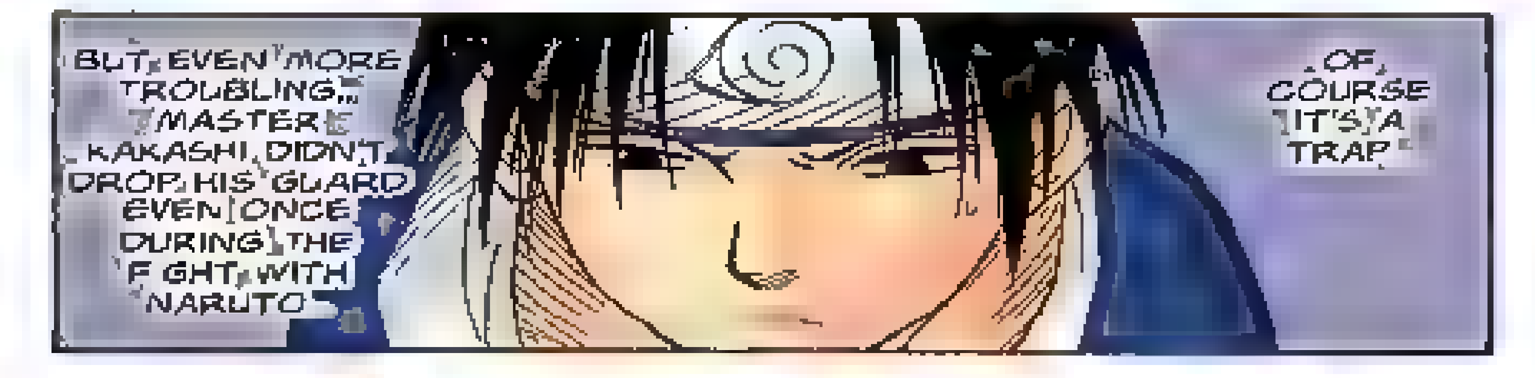

HUNH!?




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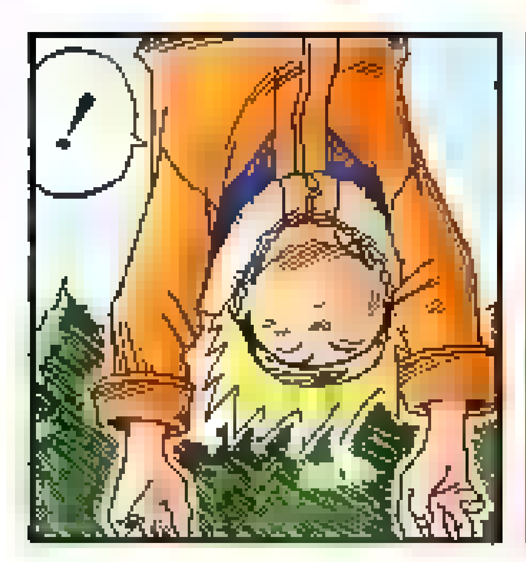



WHAT THE HECK--?!


OF COURSE IT'S A TRAP
BUT EVEN MORE TROUBLING... MASTER KAKASHI DIDN'T DROP HIS GUARD EVEN ONCE DURING THE FIGHT WITH NARUTO






!





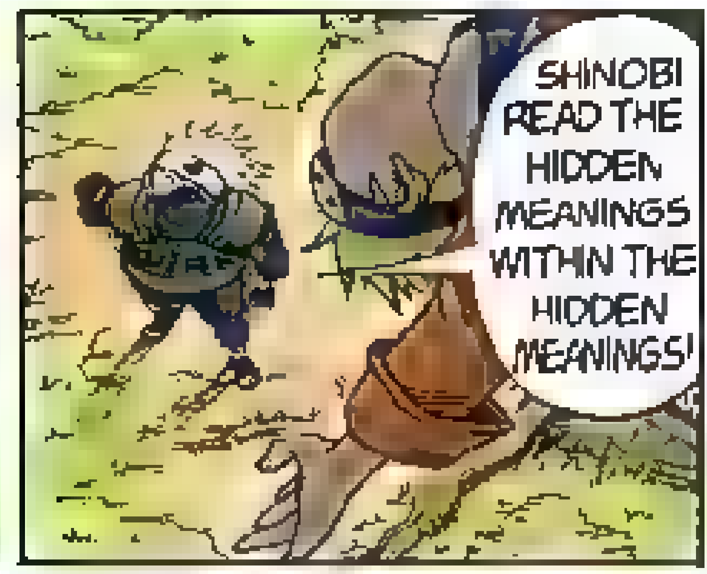
YOU USED YOUR TECHNIQUE WELL, BUT SO DID I...

AND YOU WERE THE ONE WHO GOT USED.

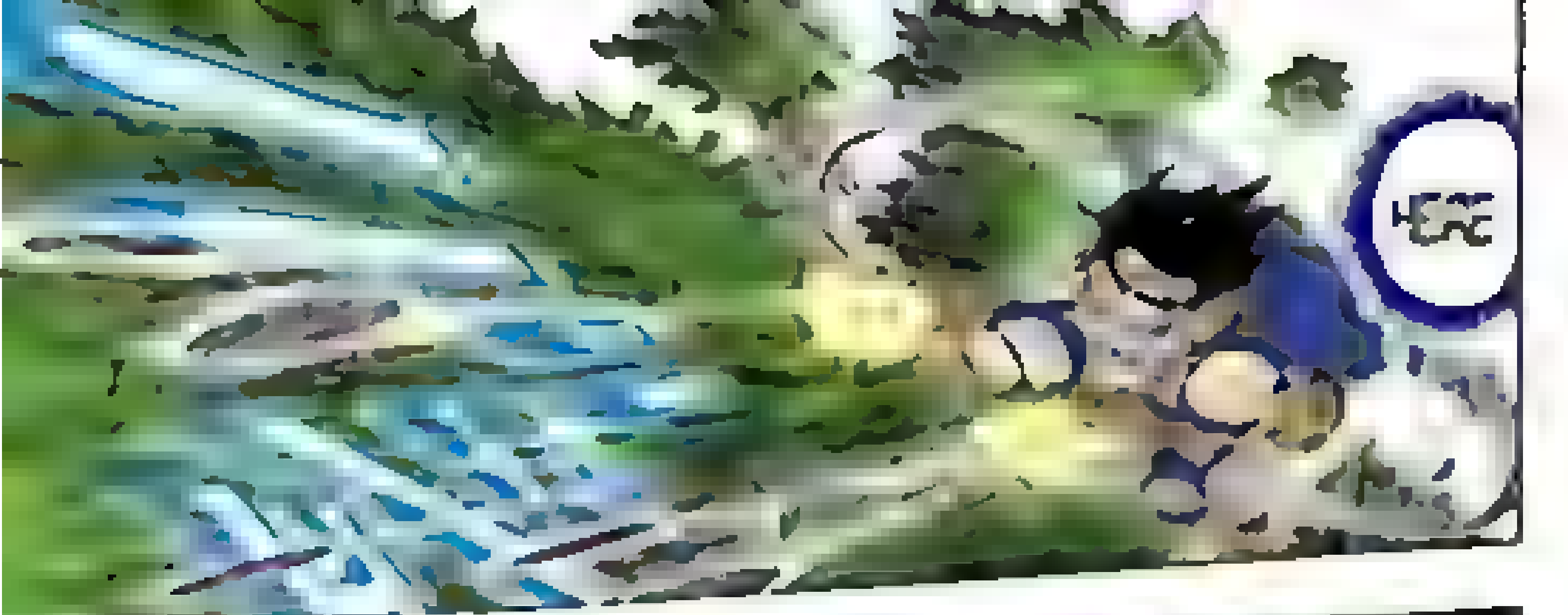
OH!

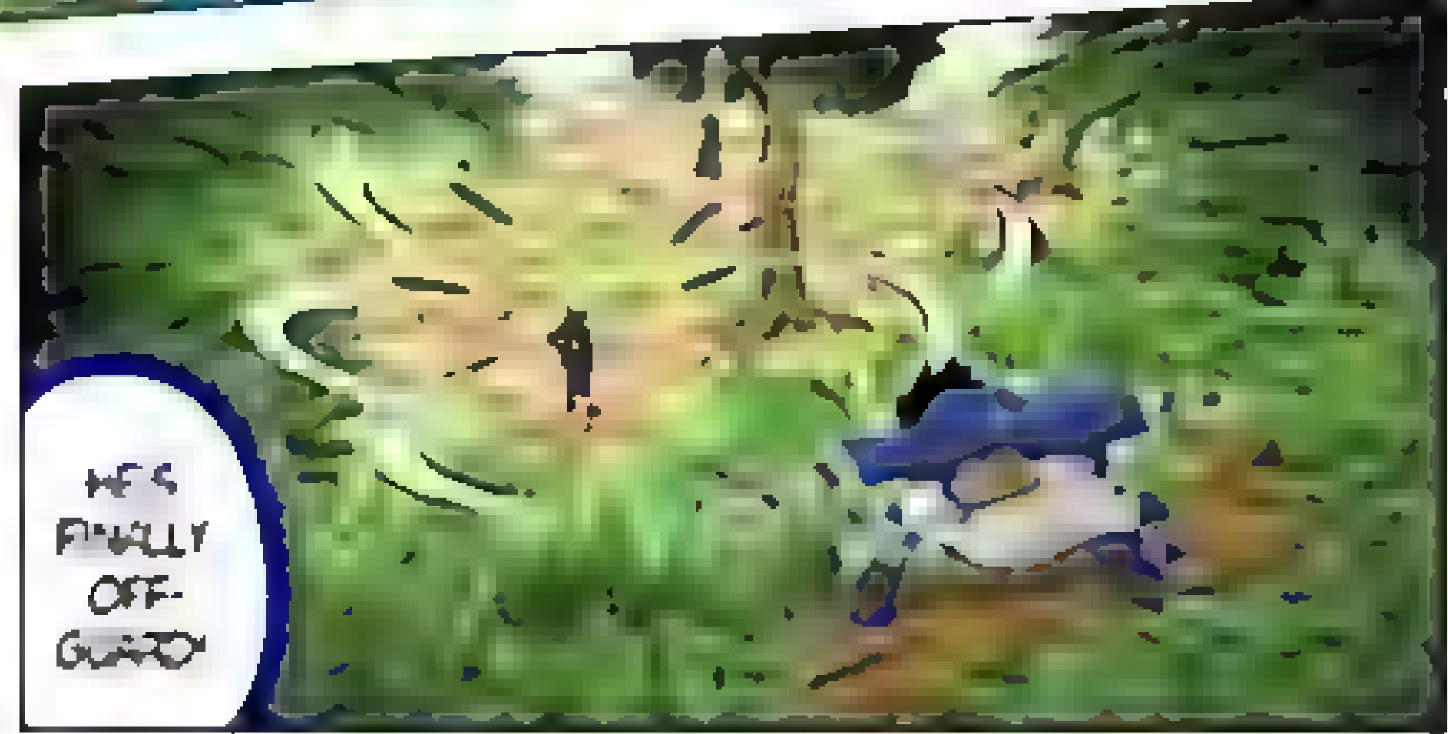
ARGH--!!!








HERE

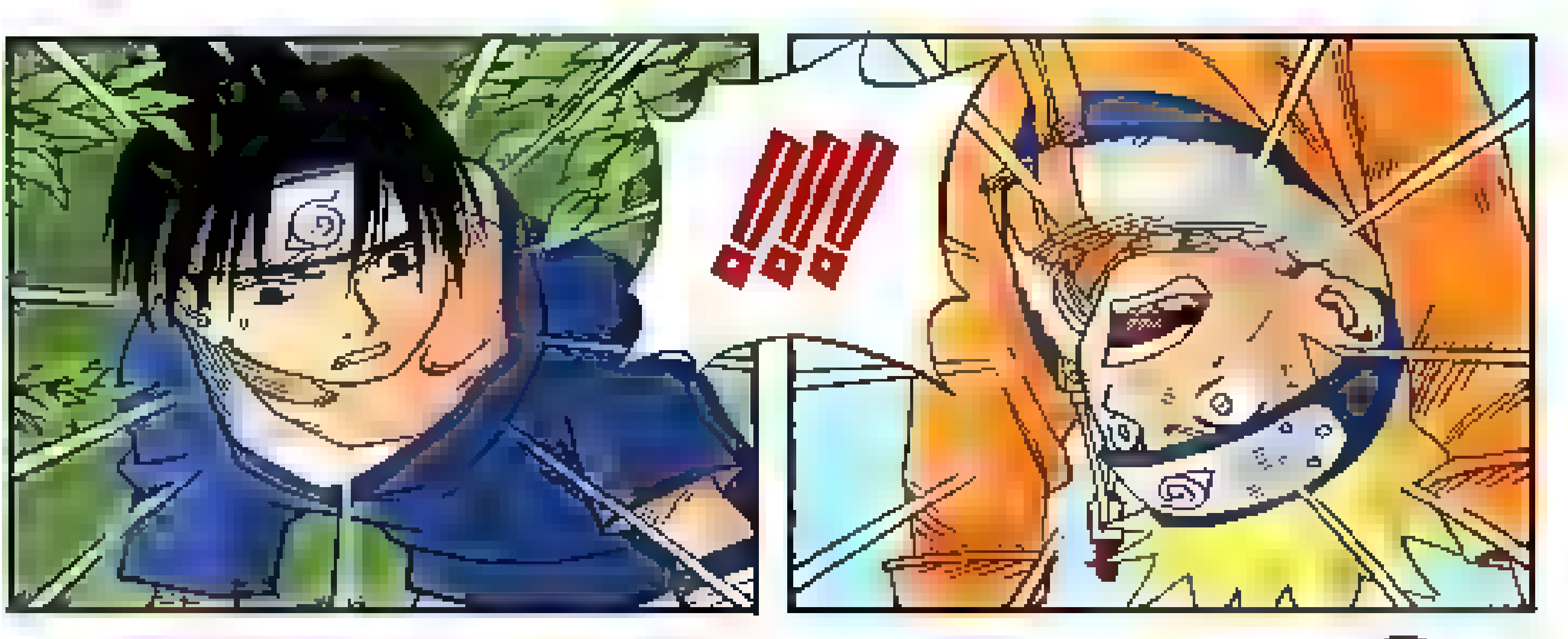

HE'S FINALLY OFF-GUARD!


WHOA! WHOA! NO WAY!!
THAT WAS OVERKILL, SASUKE!!



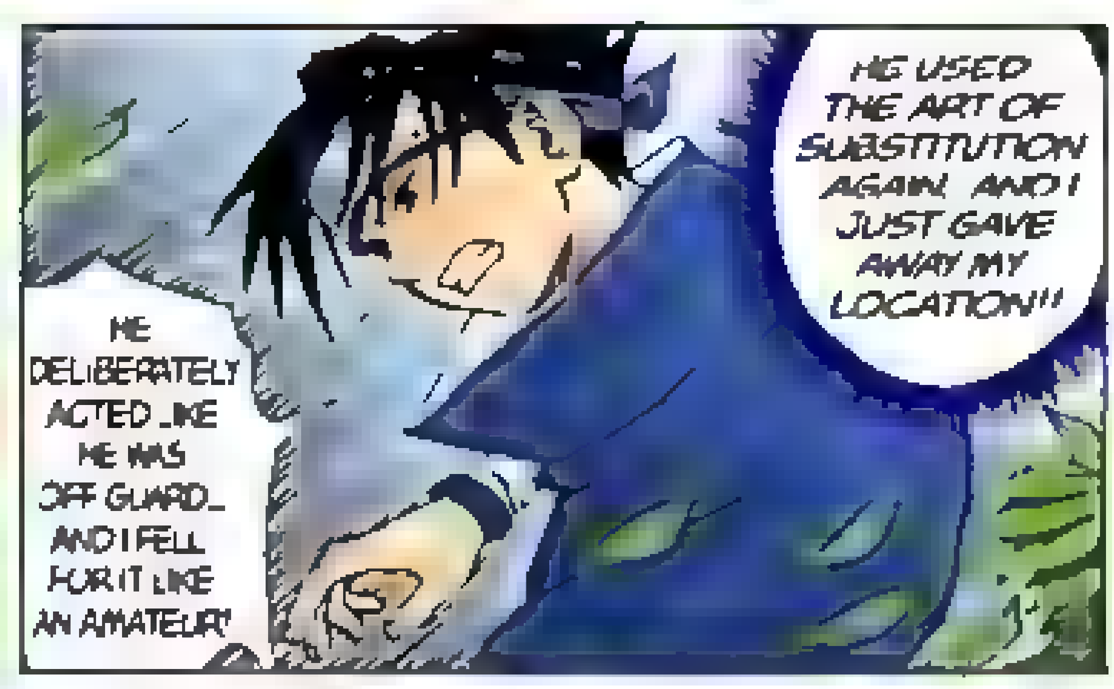


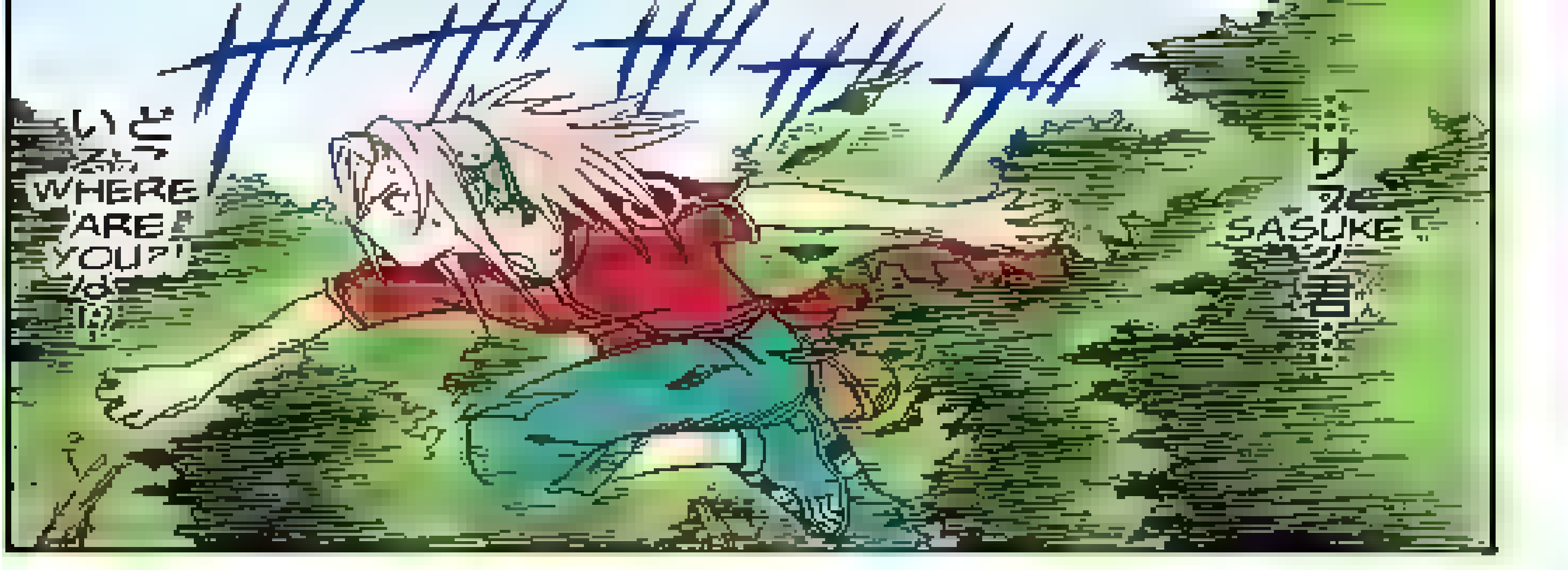

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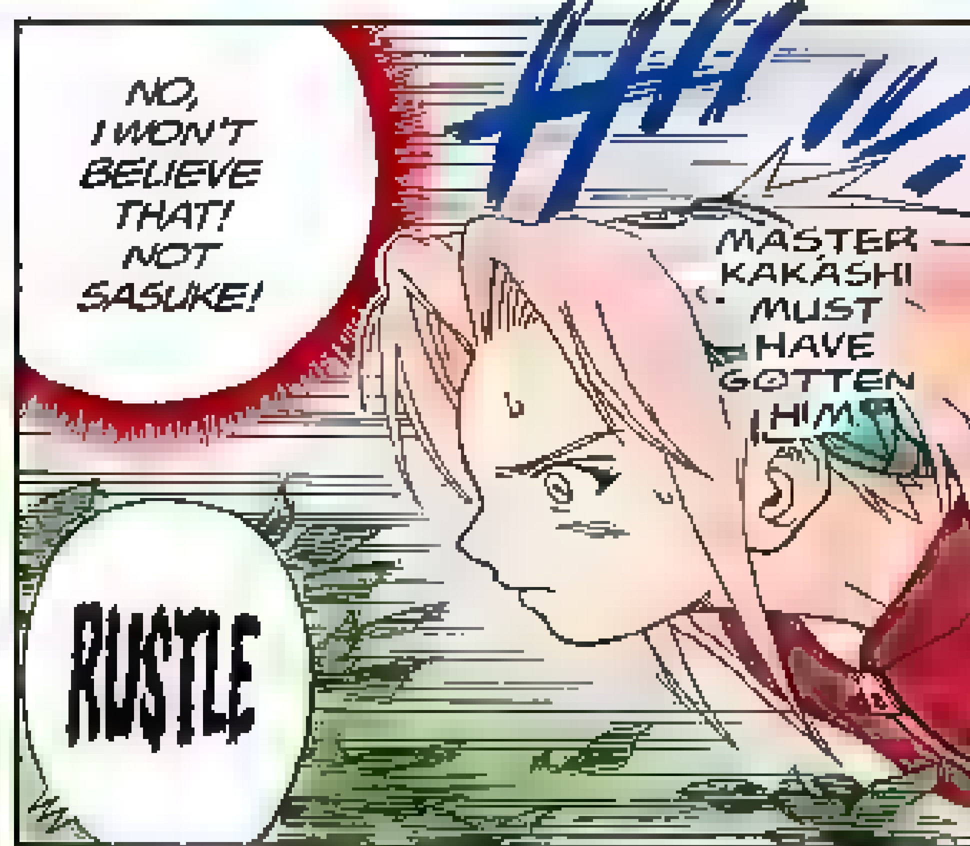
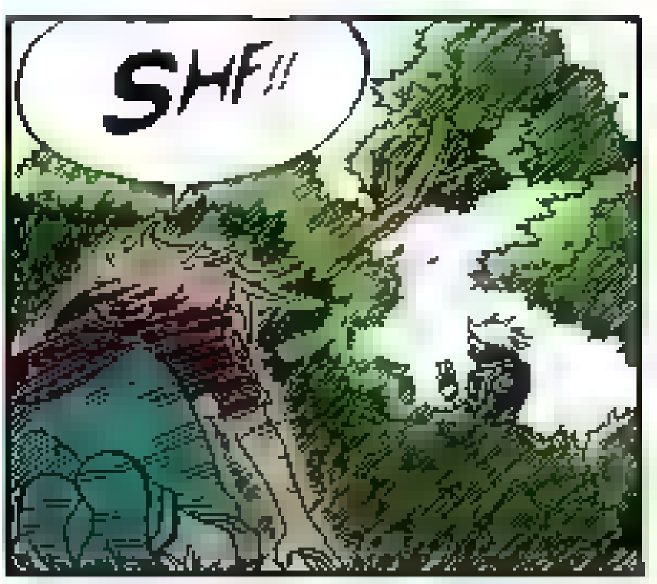

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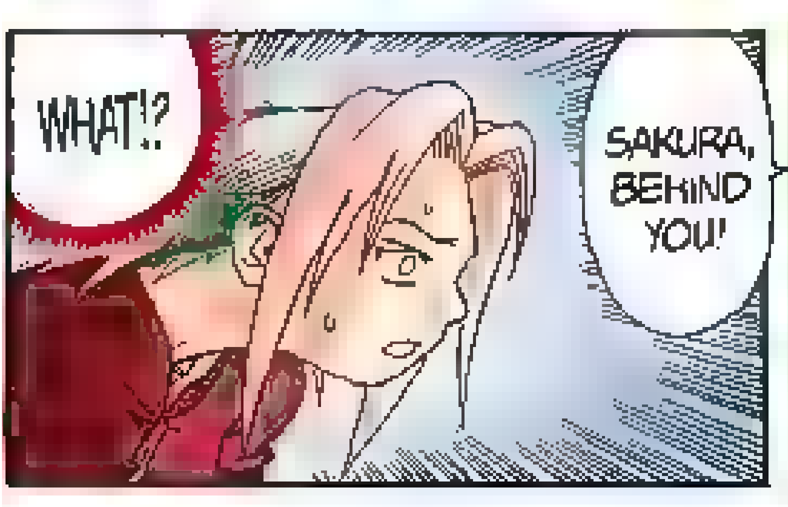


OVER THERE, EH?


HE USED THE ART OF SUBSTITUTION AGAIN, AND I JUST GAVE AWAY MY LOCATION!!
HE DELIBERATELY ACTED LIKE HE WAS OFF GUARD... AND I FELL FOR IT LIKE AN AMATEUR!

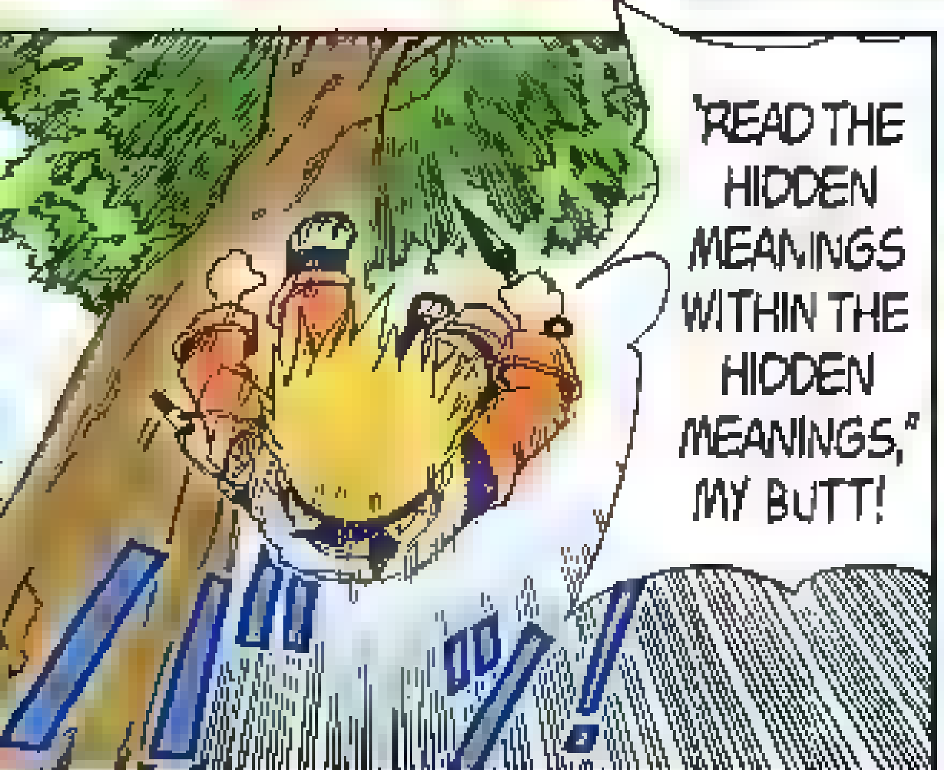


SASUKE
WHERE ARE YOU?!

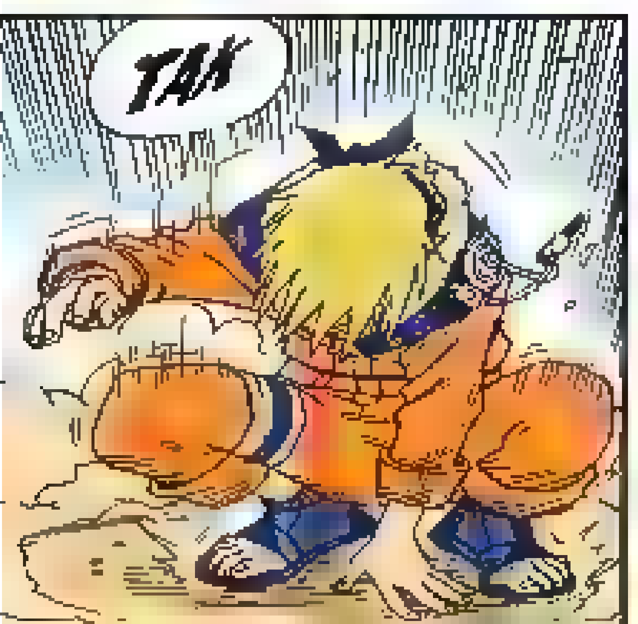
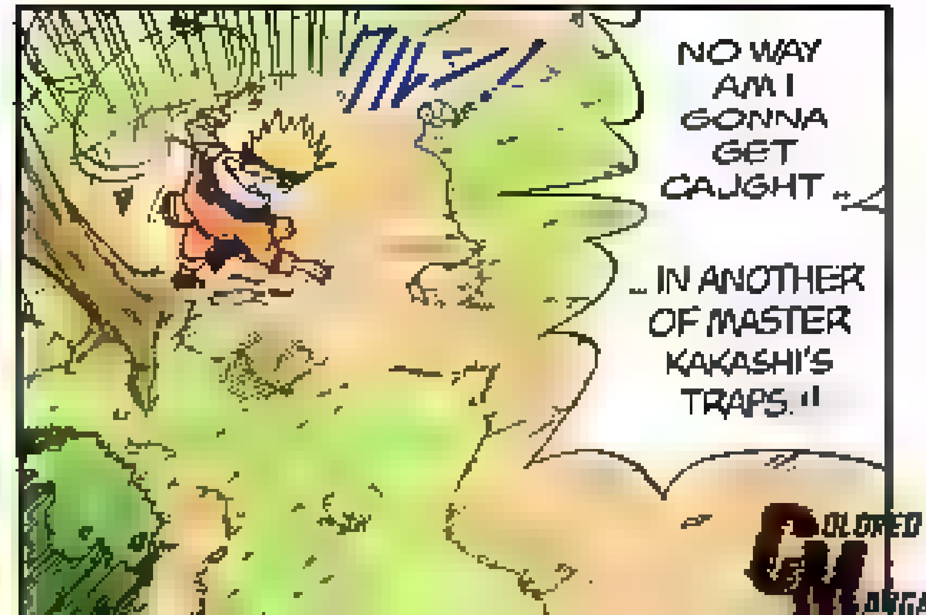
!!

MASTER KAKASHI MUST HAVE GOTTEN HIM?
NO, I WON'T BELIEVE THAT! NOT SASUKE!
RUSTLE

SHF!!

SAFE! HE HASN'T SEEN ME...
CHING

SAKURA, BEHIND YOU!
WHAT!?

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ドキ——

ザキッ!!

"READ THE HIDDEN MEANINGS WITHIN THE HIDDEN MEANINGS," MY BUTT!


TAK

NO WAY AM I GONNA GET CAUGHT...
...IN ANOTHER OF MASTER KAKASHI'S TRAPS!!



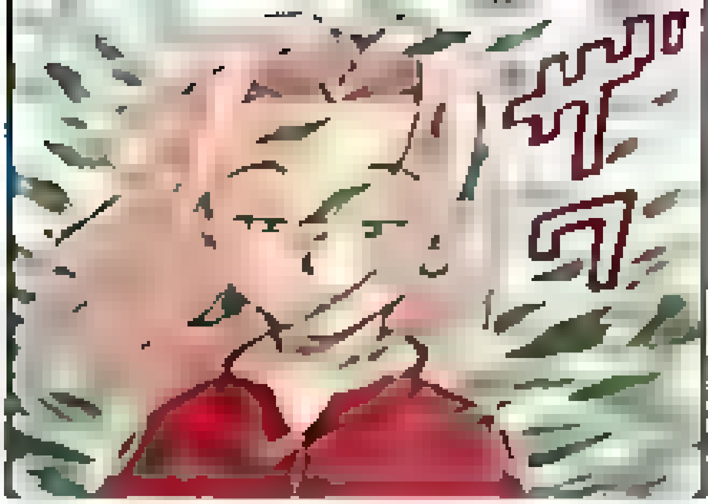


NOT AGAIN!!!







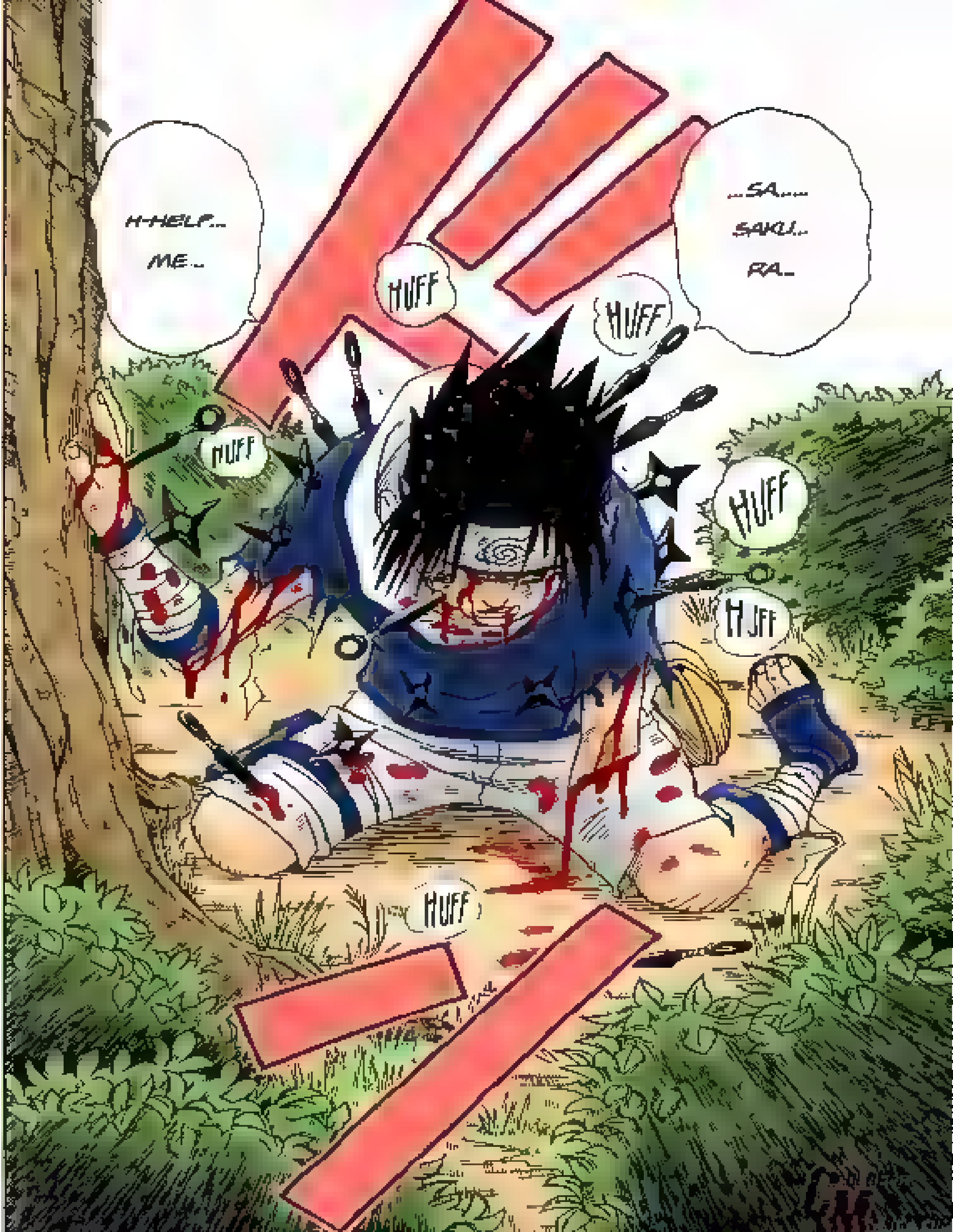



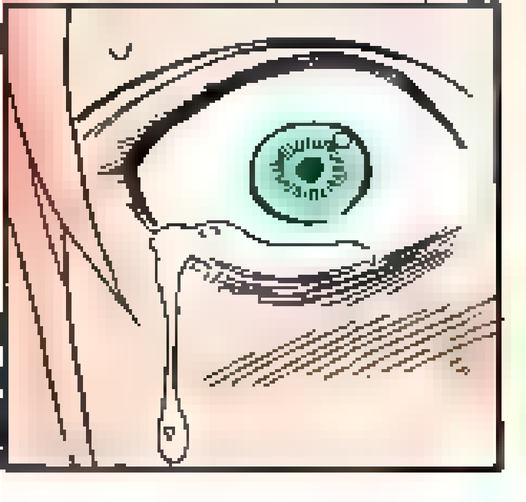
WHAT WAS THAT?!
WHERE'D OUR TEACHER GO?

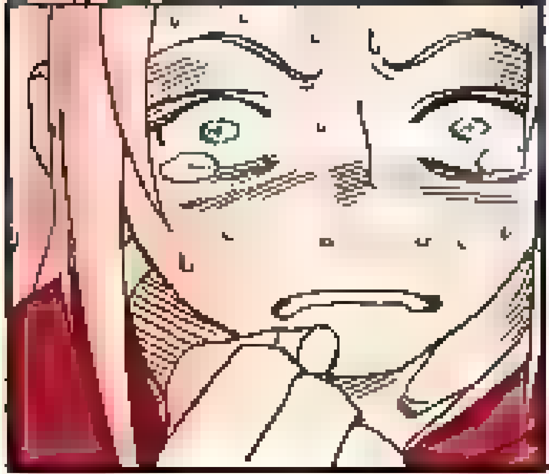

SSUE...

!



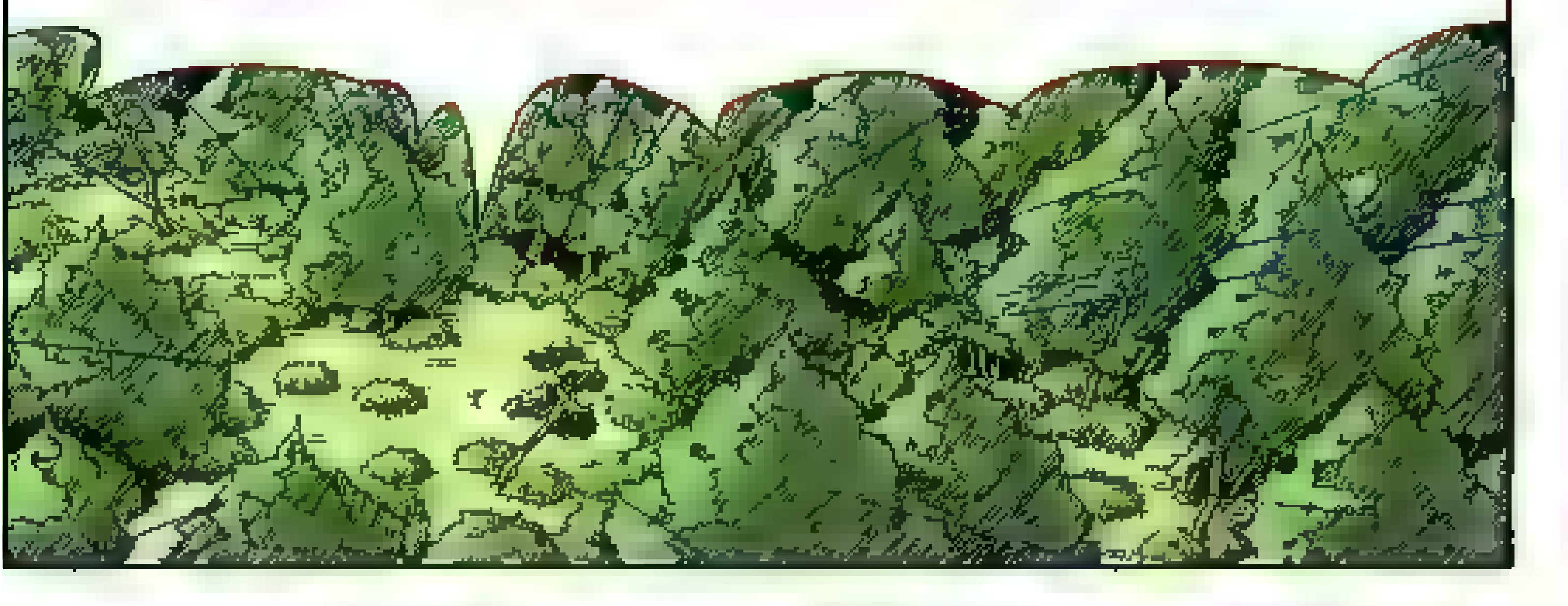

...SA... SAKU... RA...
HUFF
HUFF
H-HELP... ME...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

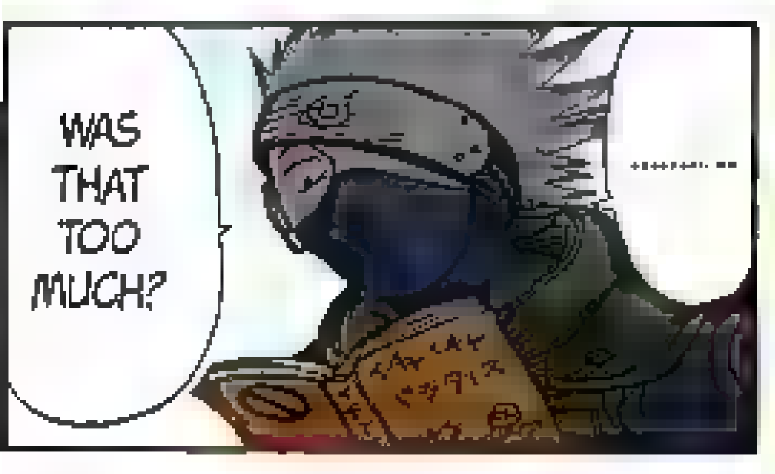






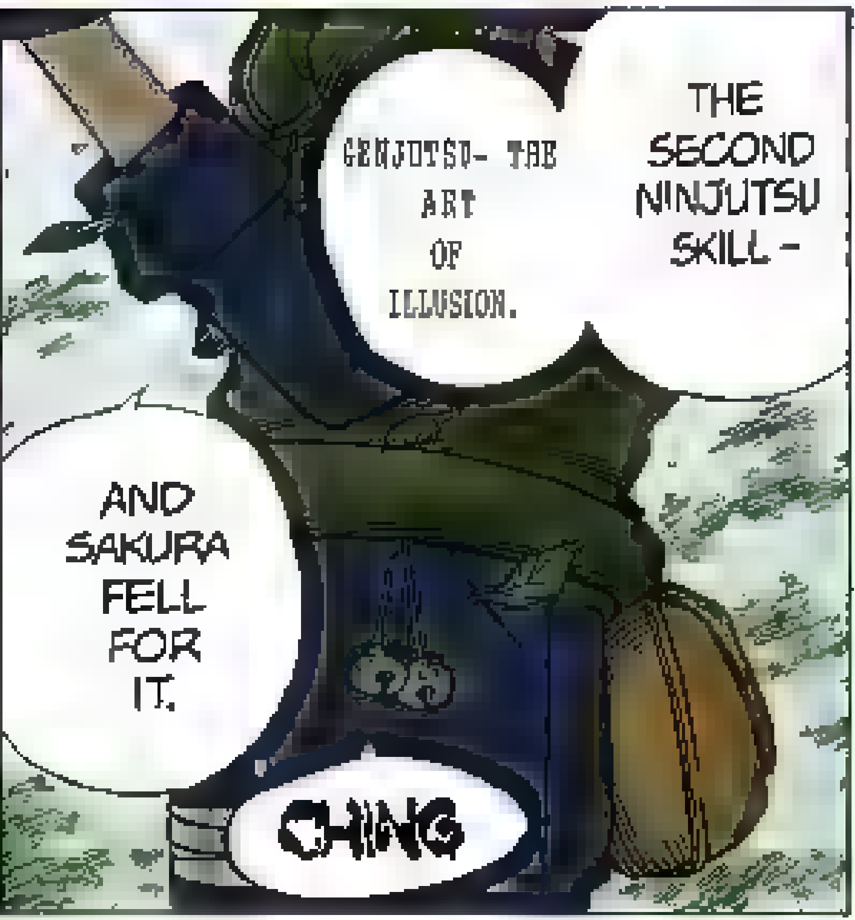
YEEAAAAAAAAH!!!!



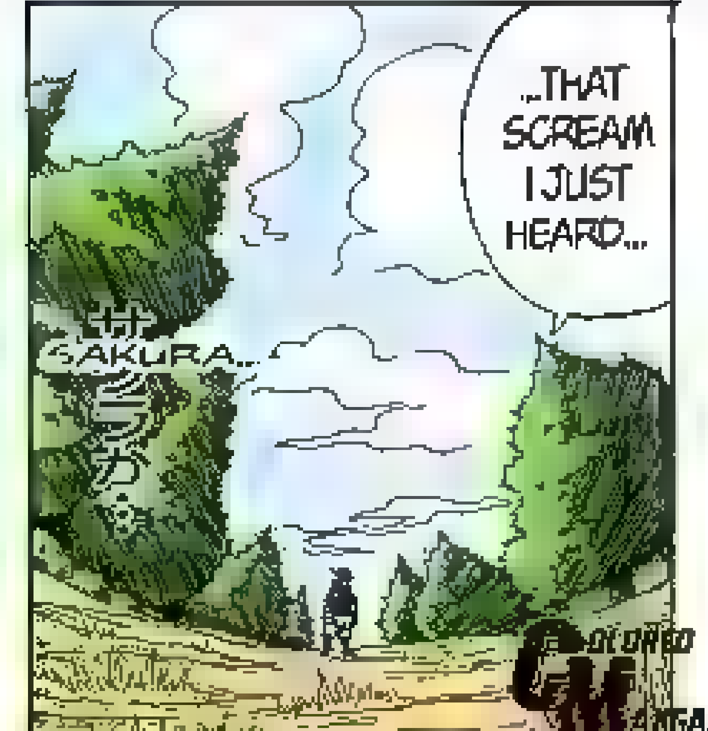


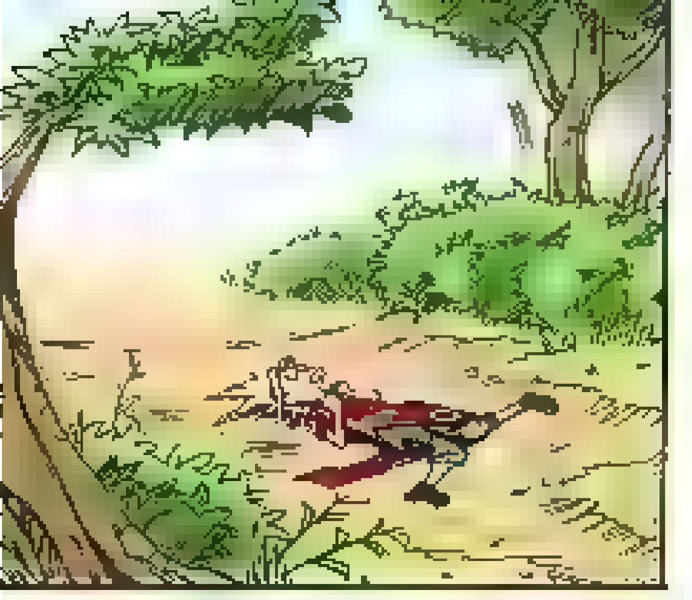


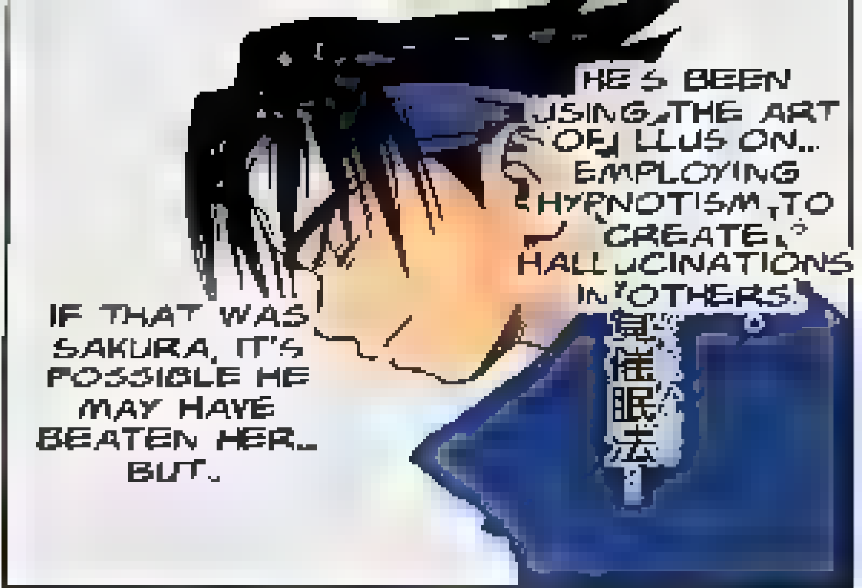
!!

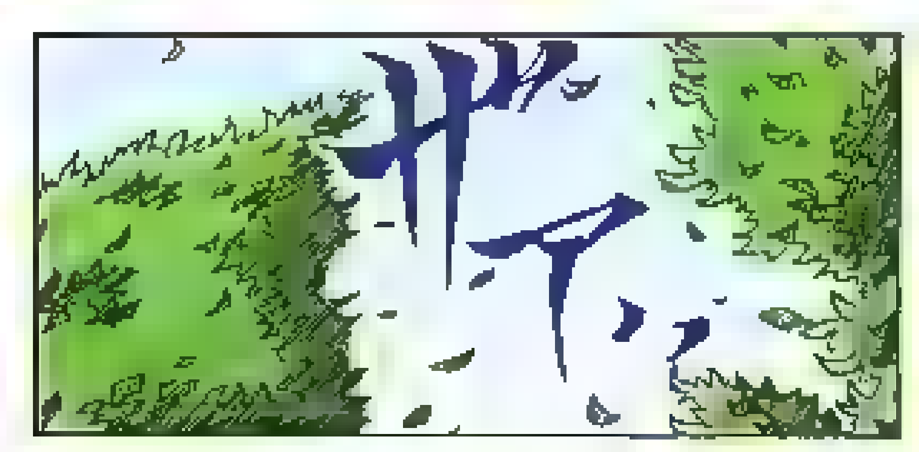

THE SECOND NINJUTSU SKILL -
GENJUTSU- THE ART OF ILLUSION.
AND SAKURA FELL FOR IT.
CHING

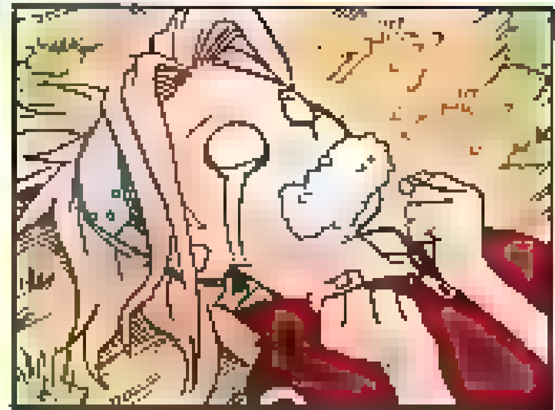



...THAT SCREAM I JUST HEARD...
SAKURA...









I'M NOT LIKE THEM.

SAVE YOUR BOASTS UNTIL YOU'VE GOT A BELL...

...SASUKE.



NARUTO STAFF

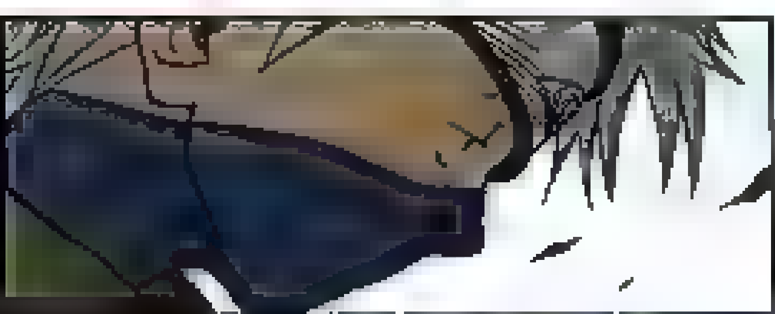


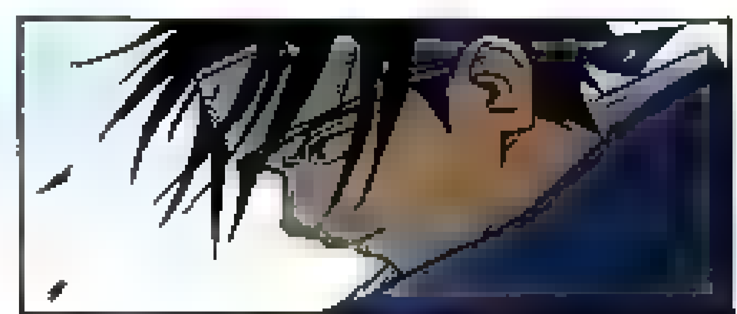
7: KAKASHi'S DECiSiON

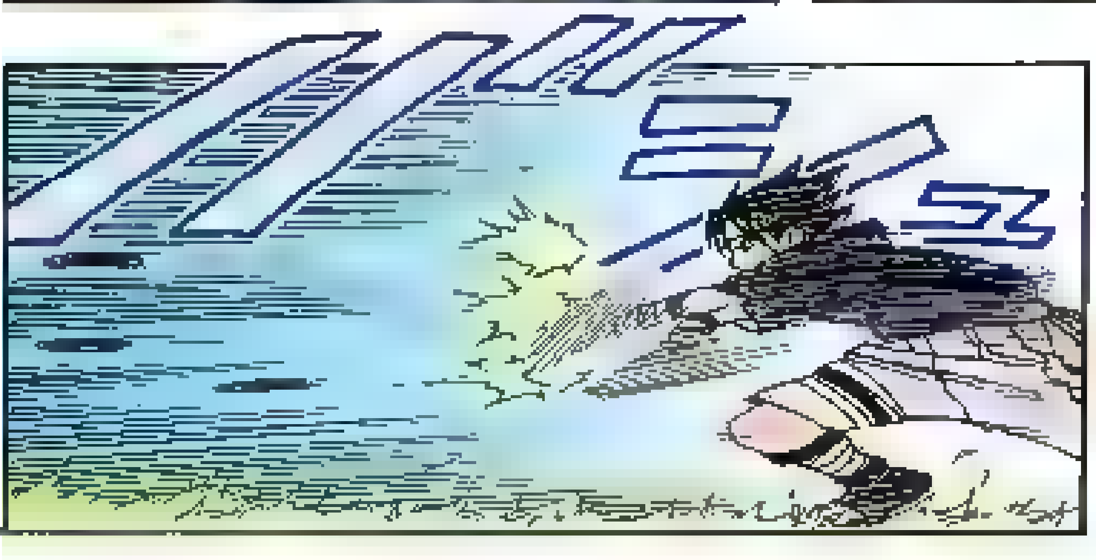
カカシの結論

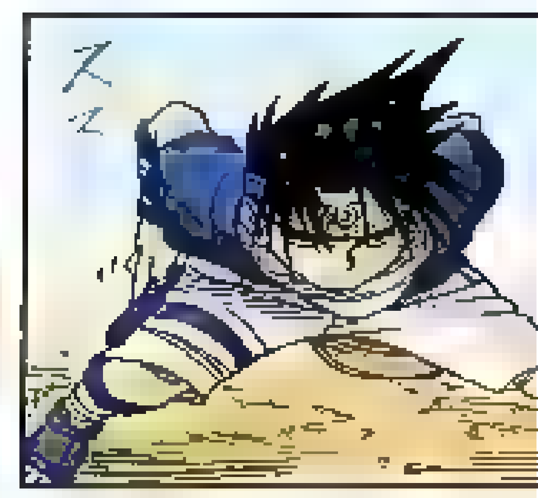
THE STRENGTH OF THE UCHIHA CLAN... THE MOST ELITE FAMILY IN KONOHAGAKURE VILLAGE...

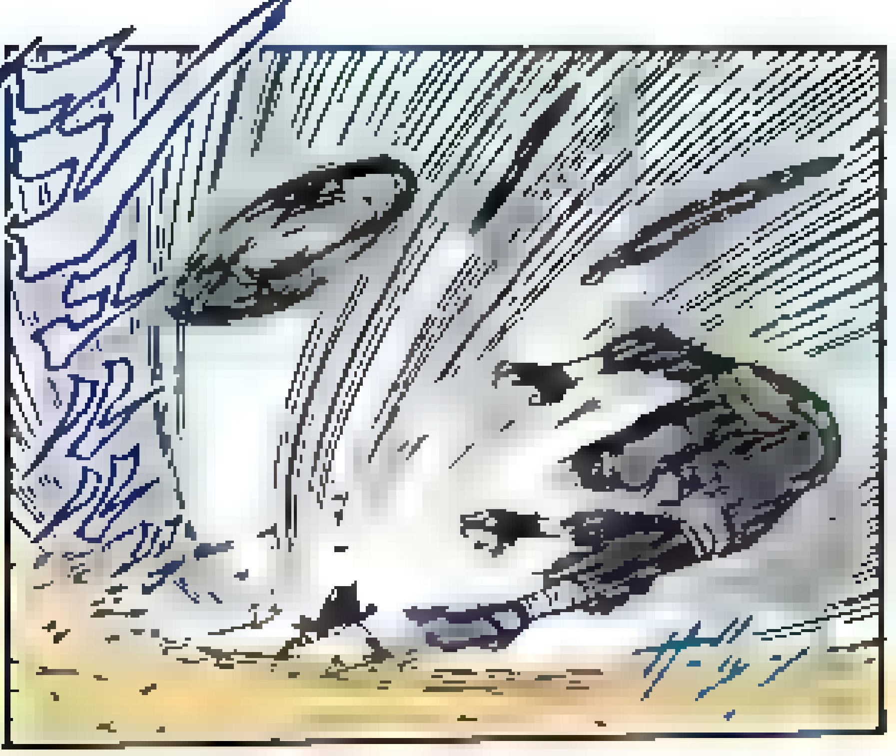
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT...

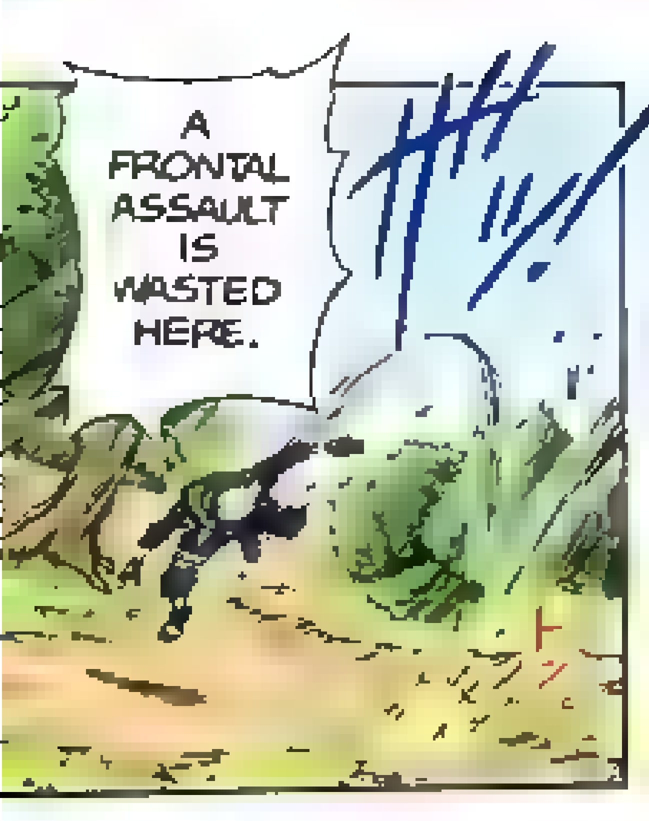


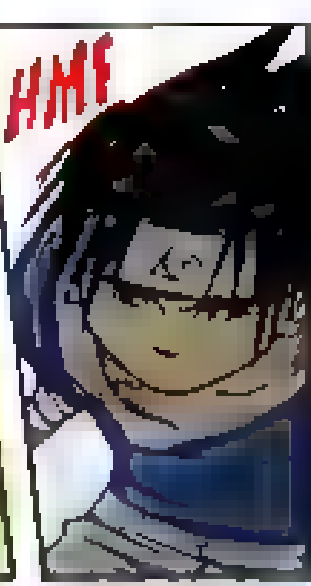


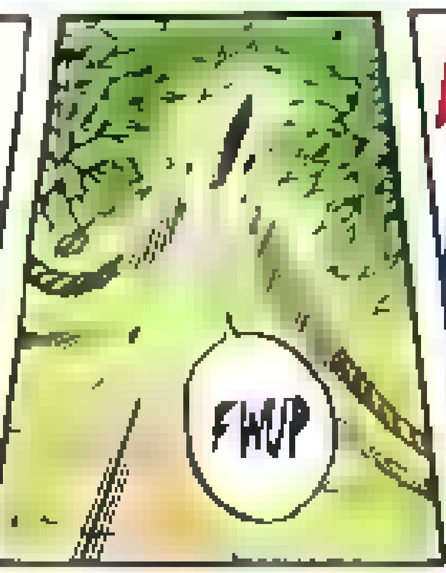


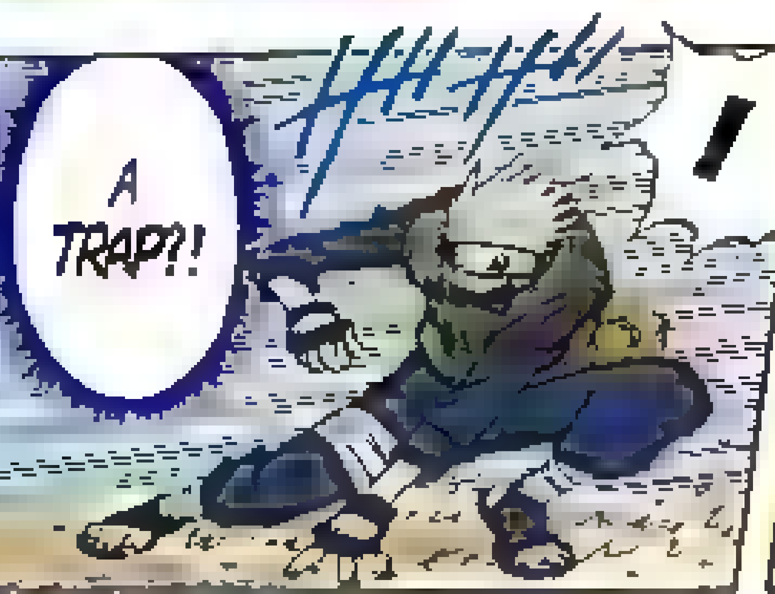





A FRONTAL ASSAULT IS WASTED HERE.


HMF


FWIP


!
A TRAP?!



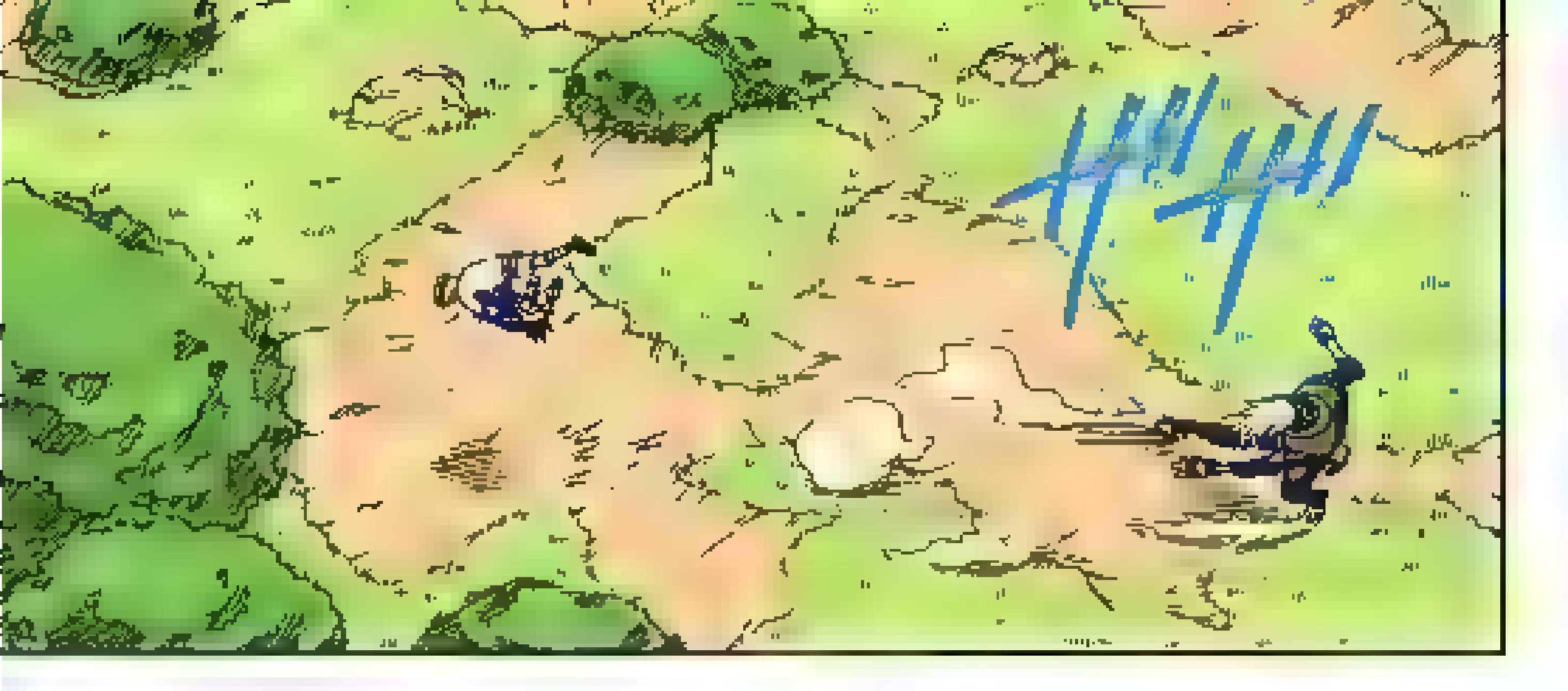
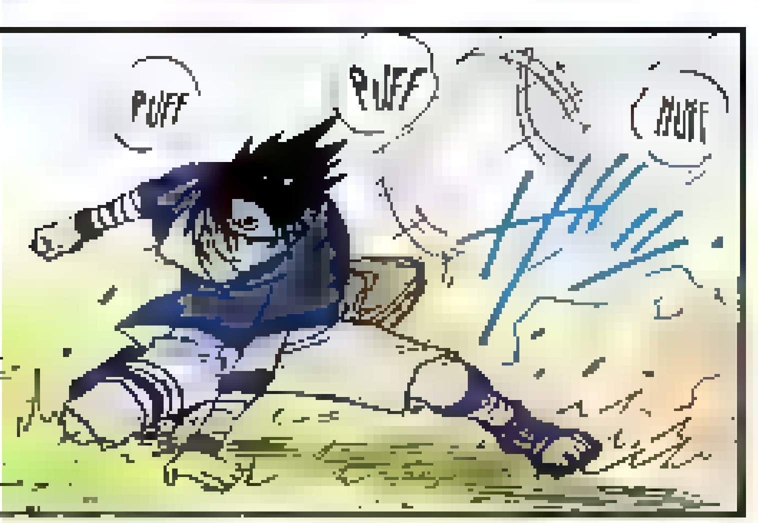
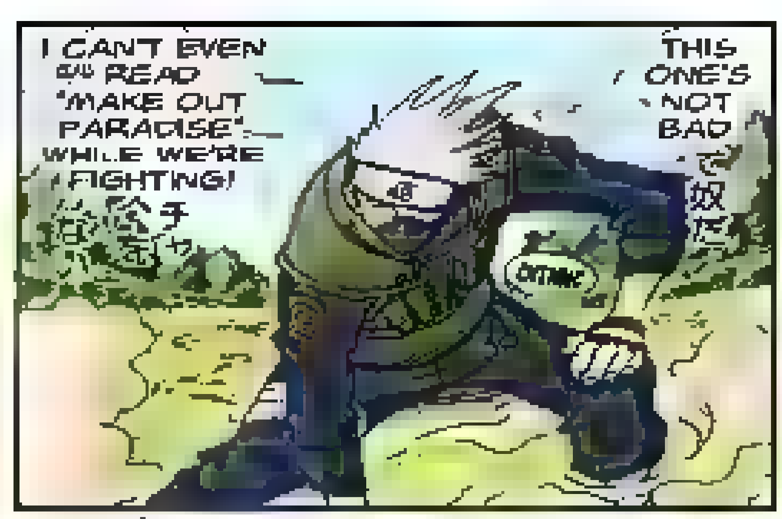
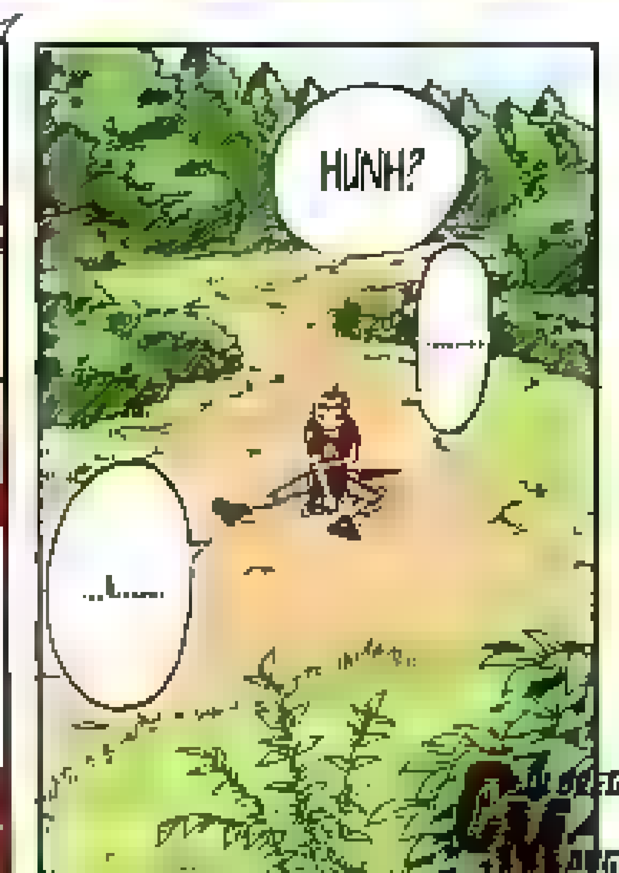




WHAT--?!
FWOOM
!!

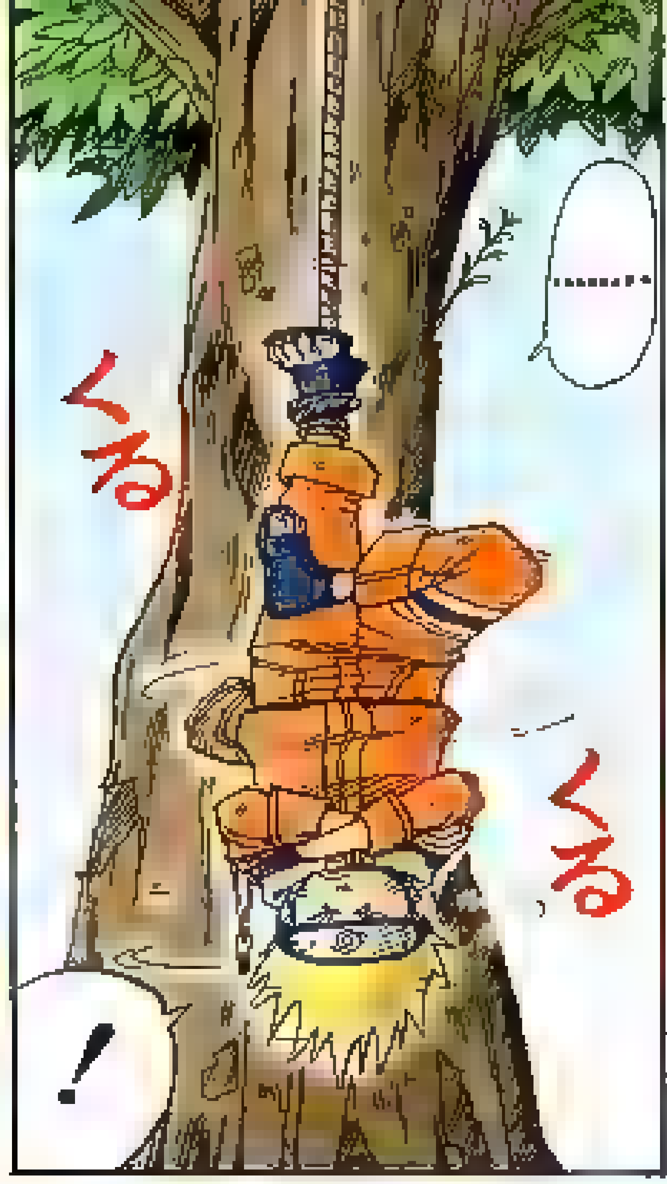

PAFF!

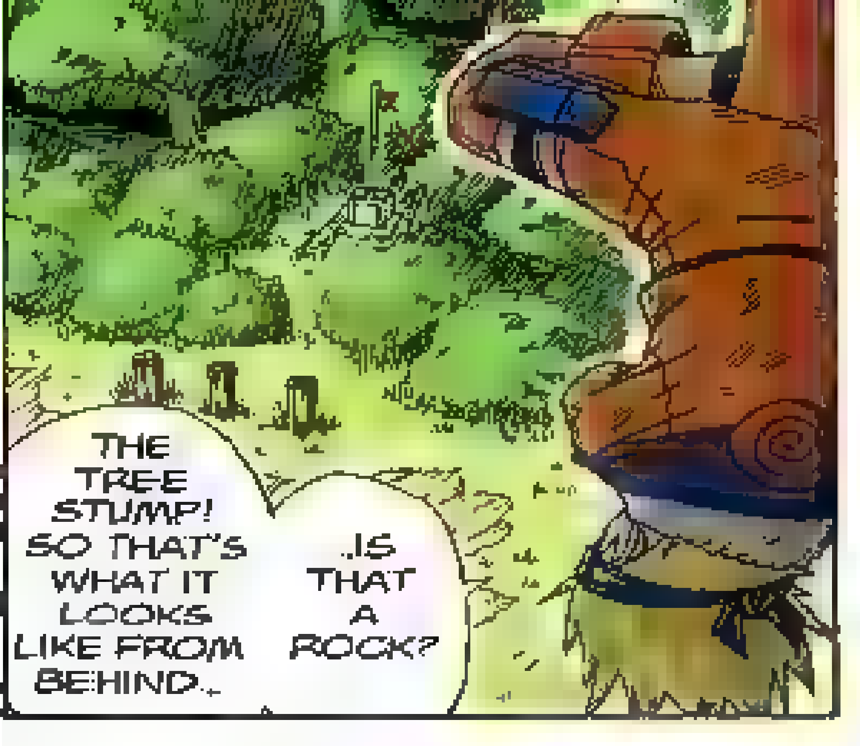

!
EH
HE'S--!

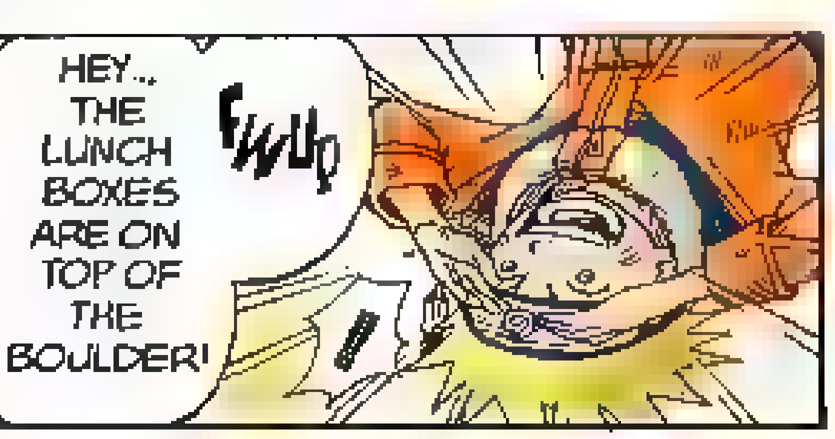


PUFF
PUFF
HUFF

THIS ONE'S NOT BAD
I CAN'T EVEN READ "MAKE OUT PARADISE" WHILE WE'RE FIGHTING!

HUNH?
.......!
...I.....

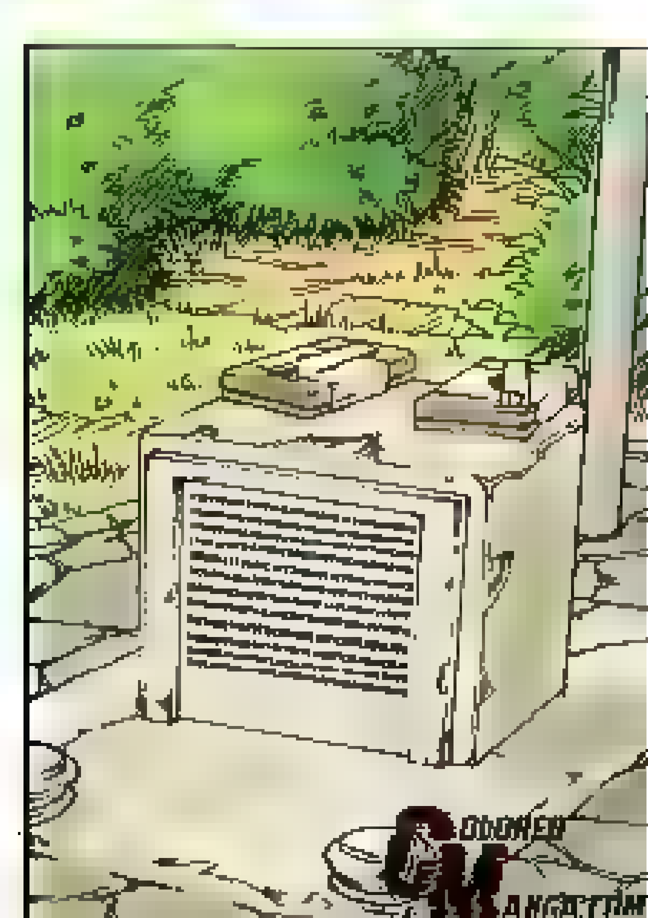
!
I REMEMBER! SASUKE WAS DYING...
...AND WHEN I SAW THAT I...

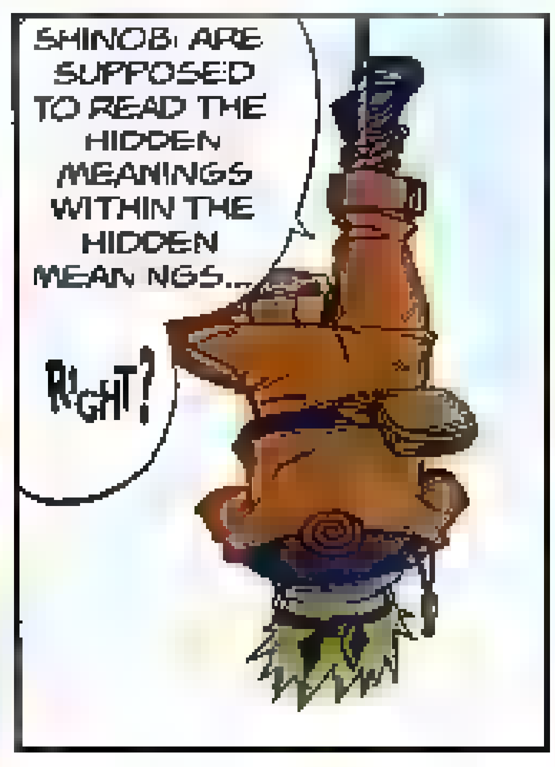
SA-SUKE--!!
DON'T DIE... DON'T LEAVE ME!
WHERE ARE YOU?!


......?
くる
くる
!

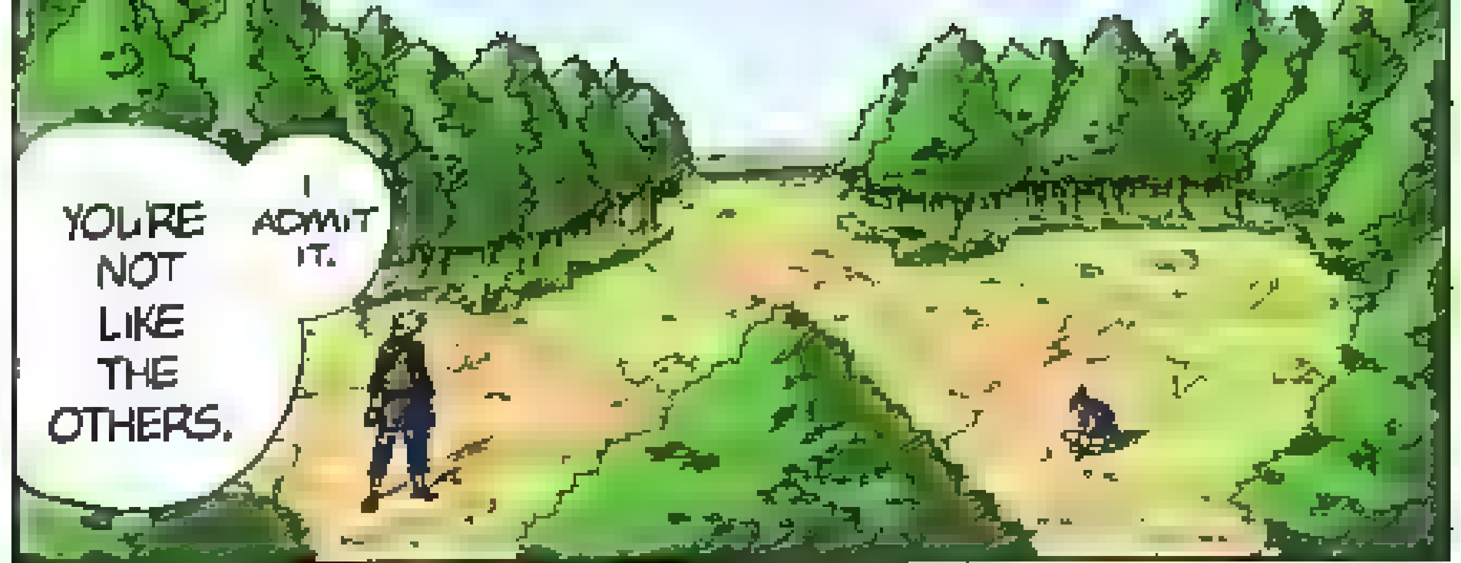

..IS THAT A ROCK?
THE TREE STUMP! SO THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE FROM BEHIND..


!!
FWUP
HEY.. THE LUNCH BOXES ARE ON TOP OF THE BOULDER!

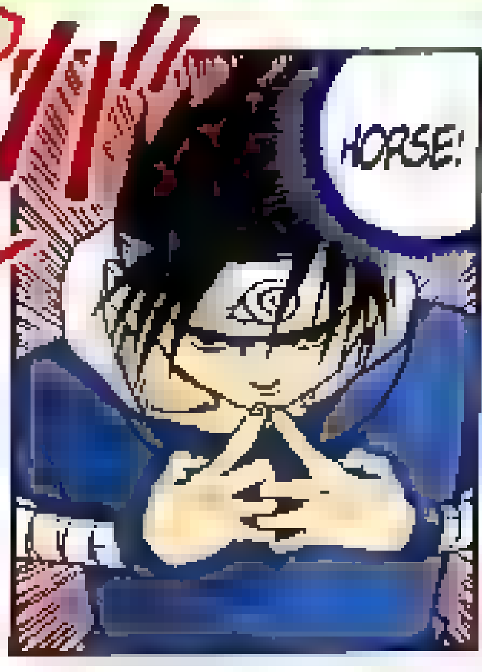



SHINOBI ARE SUPPOSED TO READ THE HIDDEN MEANINGS WITHIN THE HIDDEN MEANINGS...
RIGHT?


HEE- HEE- HEE- HEE!

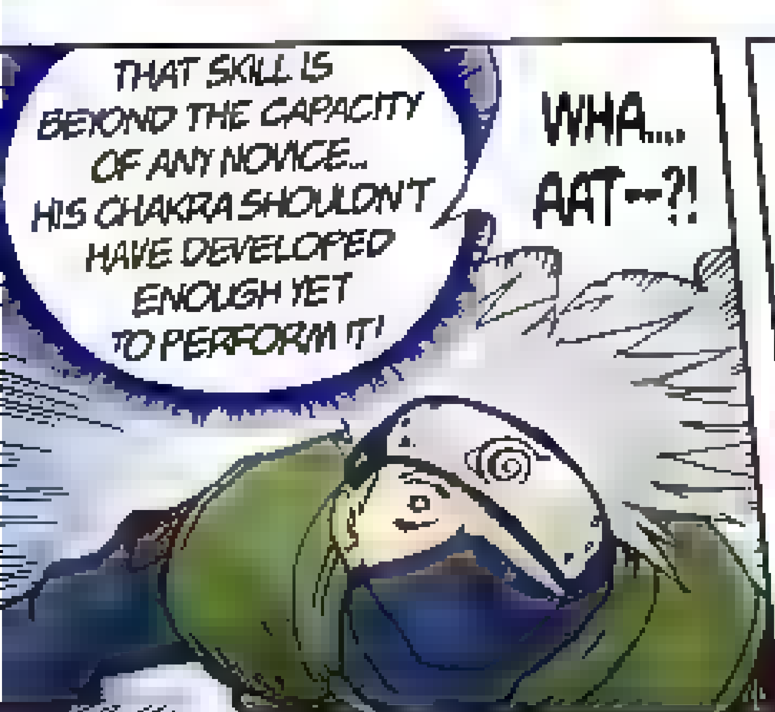

I ADMIT IT.
YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE OTHERS.

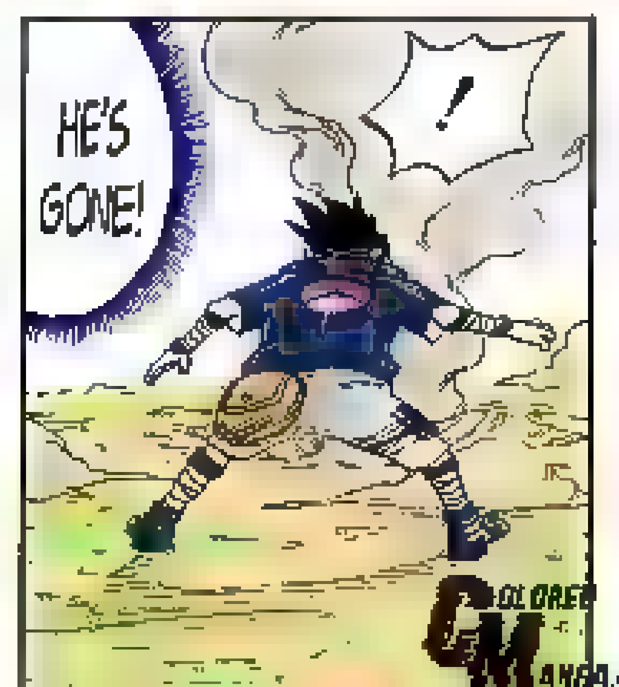

HMF

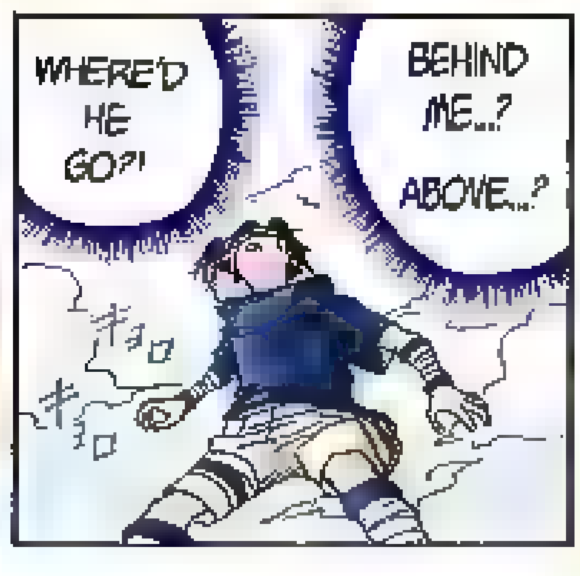

HORSE!


TIGER!

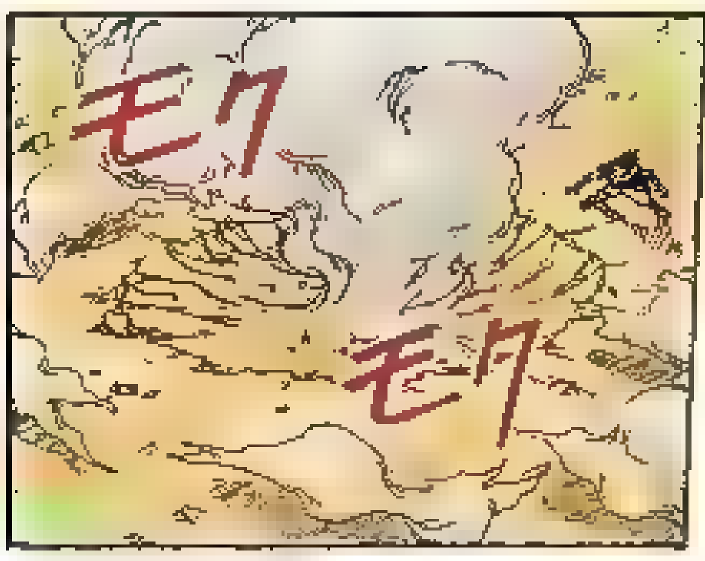

FIRE STYLE! FIREBALL TECHNIQUE!

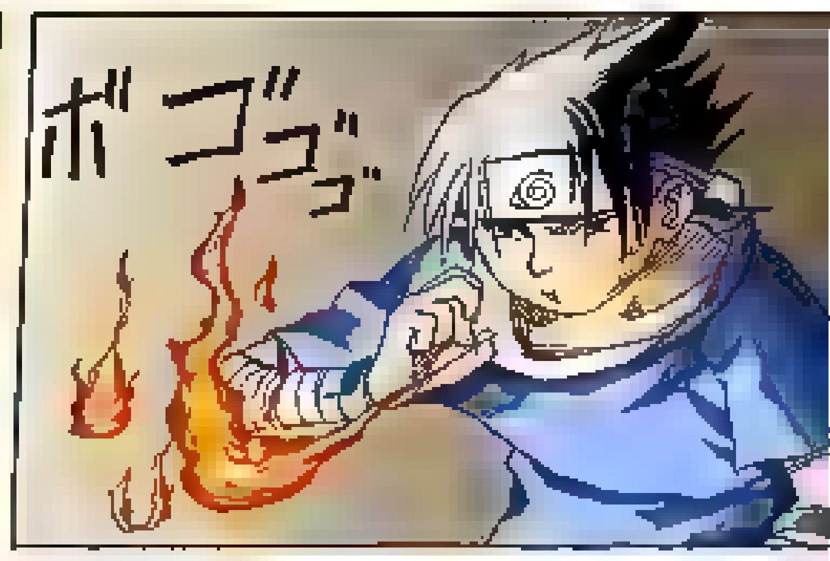

WHA... AAT--?!
THAT SKILL IS BEYOND THE CAPACITY OF ANY NOVICE... HIS CHAKRA SHOULDN'T HAVE DEVELOPED ENOUGH YET TO PERFORM IT!


!
HE'S GONE!

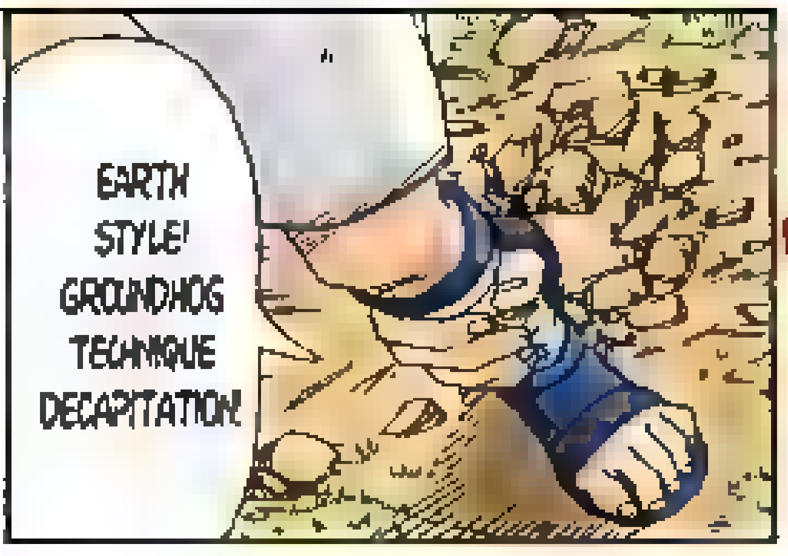

BEHIND ME..? ABOVE..?
WHERE'D HE GO?!

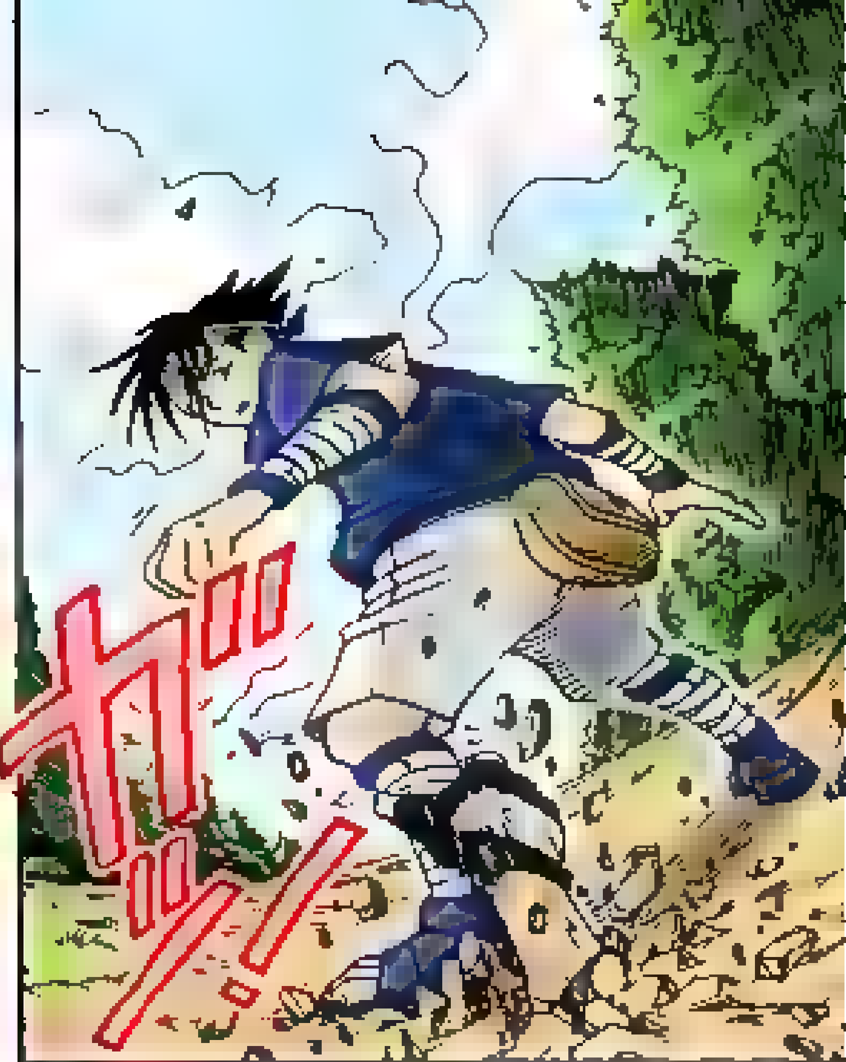

BELOW!
!!

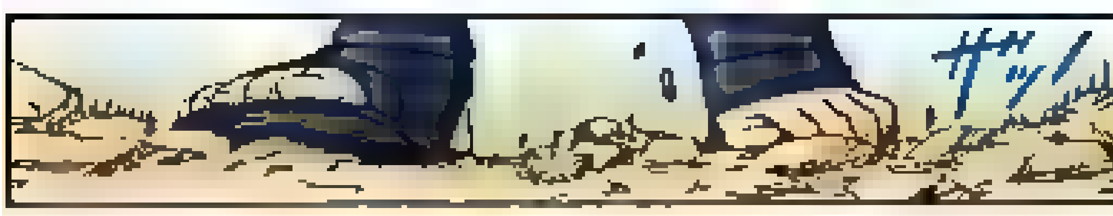

モク
モク


ボゴゴ

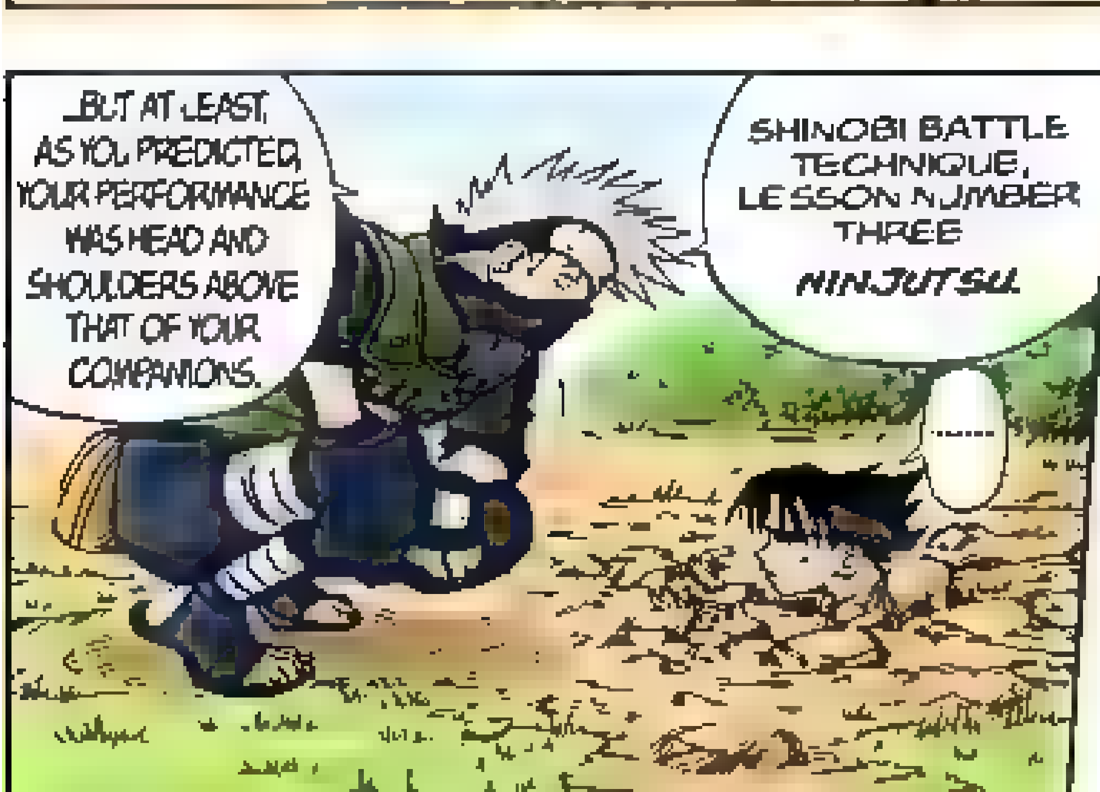

WHA..!


EARTH STYLE! GROUNDHOG TECHNIQUE DECAPITATION!

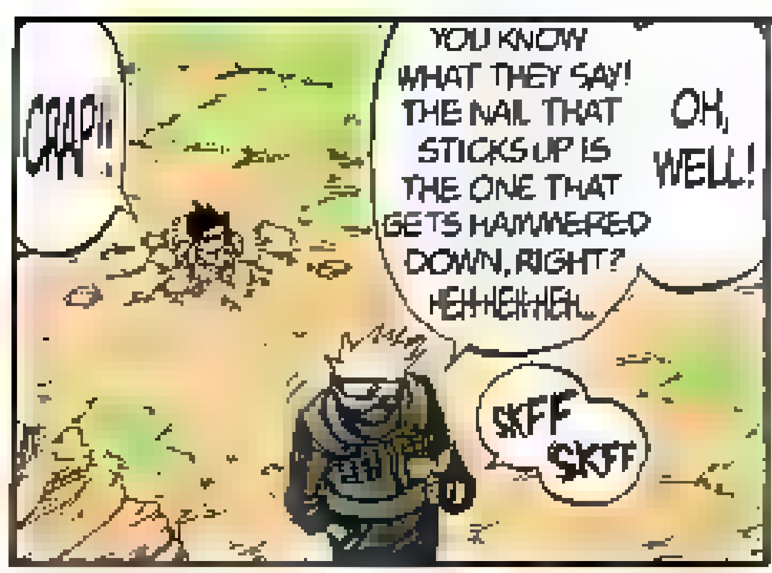


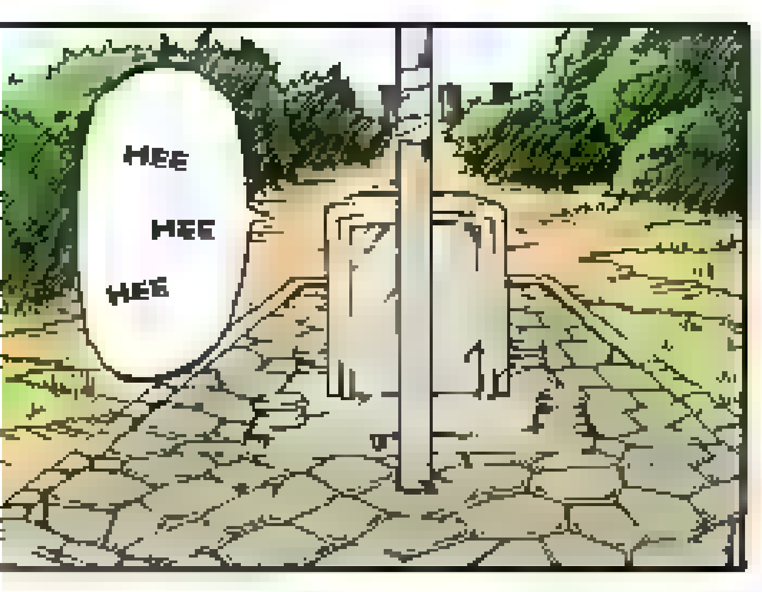


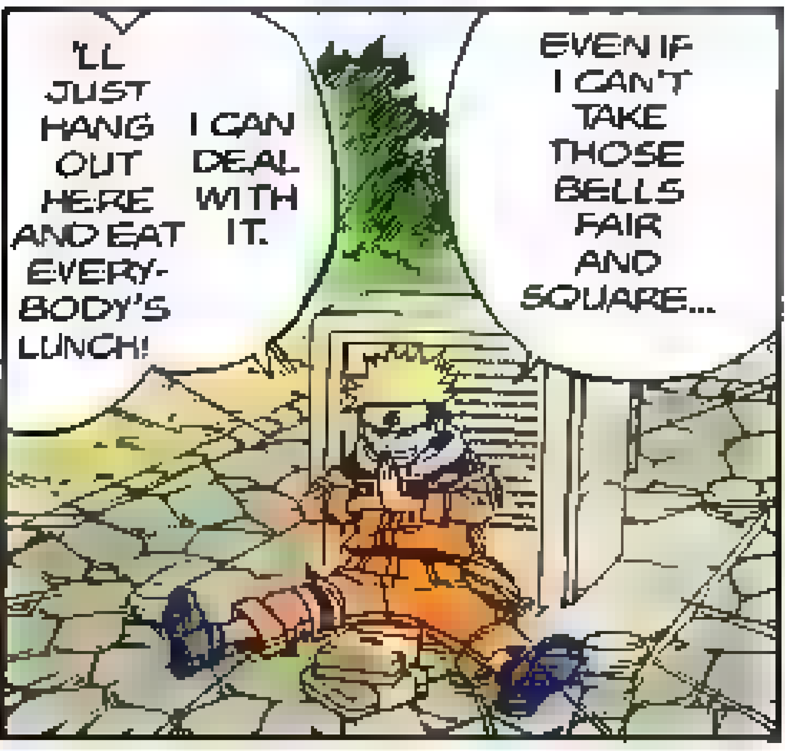

NOOOO--!

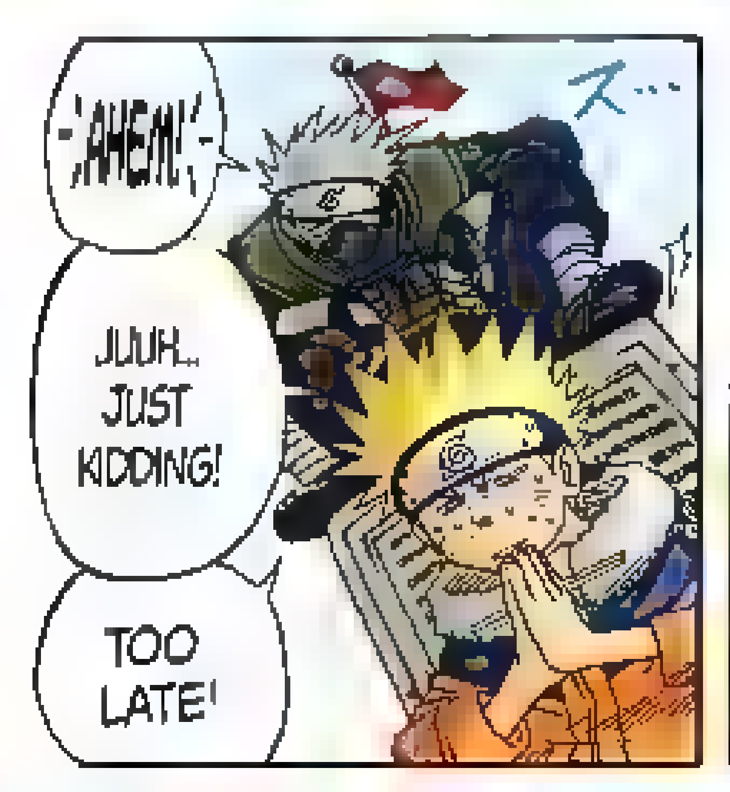

SHINOBI BATTLE TECHNIQUE, LESSON NUMBER THREE
NINJUTSU
...BUT AT LEAST, AS YOU PREDICTED, YOUR PERFORMANCE WAS HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE THAT OF YOUR COMPANIONS.
....

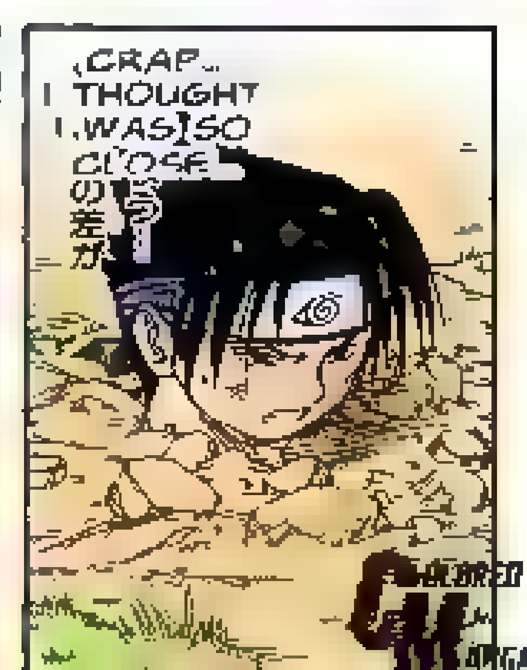


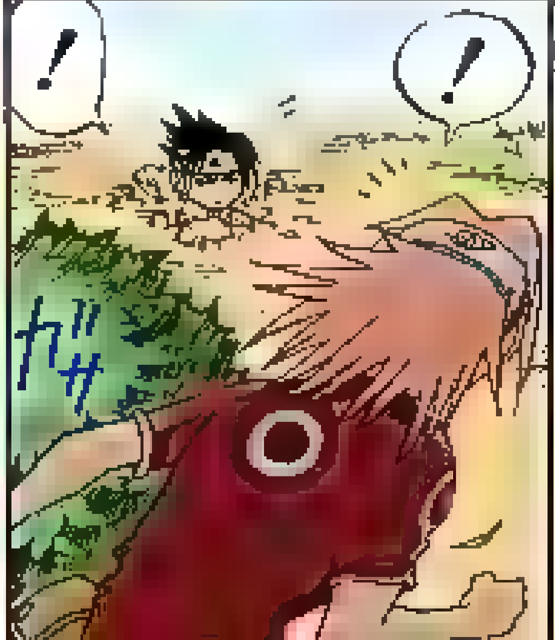

OH, WELL!
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY! THE NAIL THAT STICKS UP IS THE ONE THAT GETS HAMMERED DOWN, RIGHT? HEH HEH HEH...
CRAP!!
SKFF SKFF

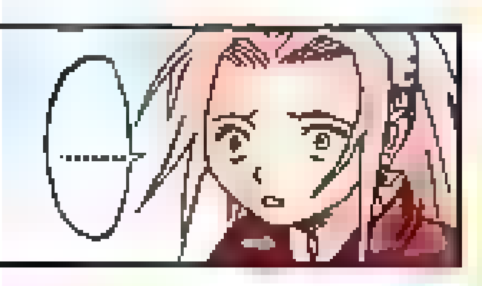

HEE HEE HEE

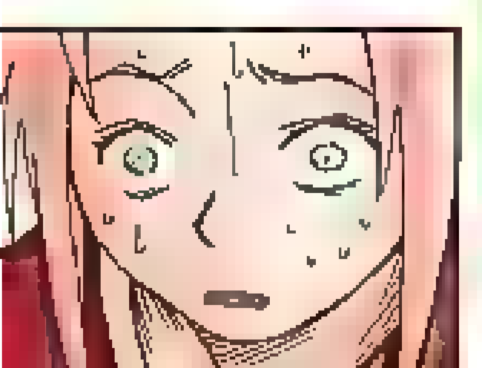

EVEN IF I CAN'T TAKE THOSE BELLS FAIR AND SQUARE...
I CAN DEAL WITH IT.
'LL JUST HANG OUT HERE AND EAT EVERY-BODY'S LUNCH!

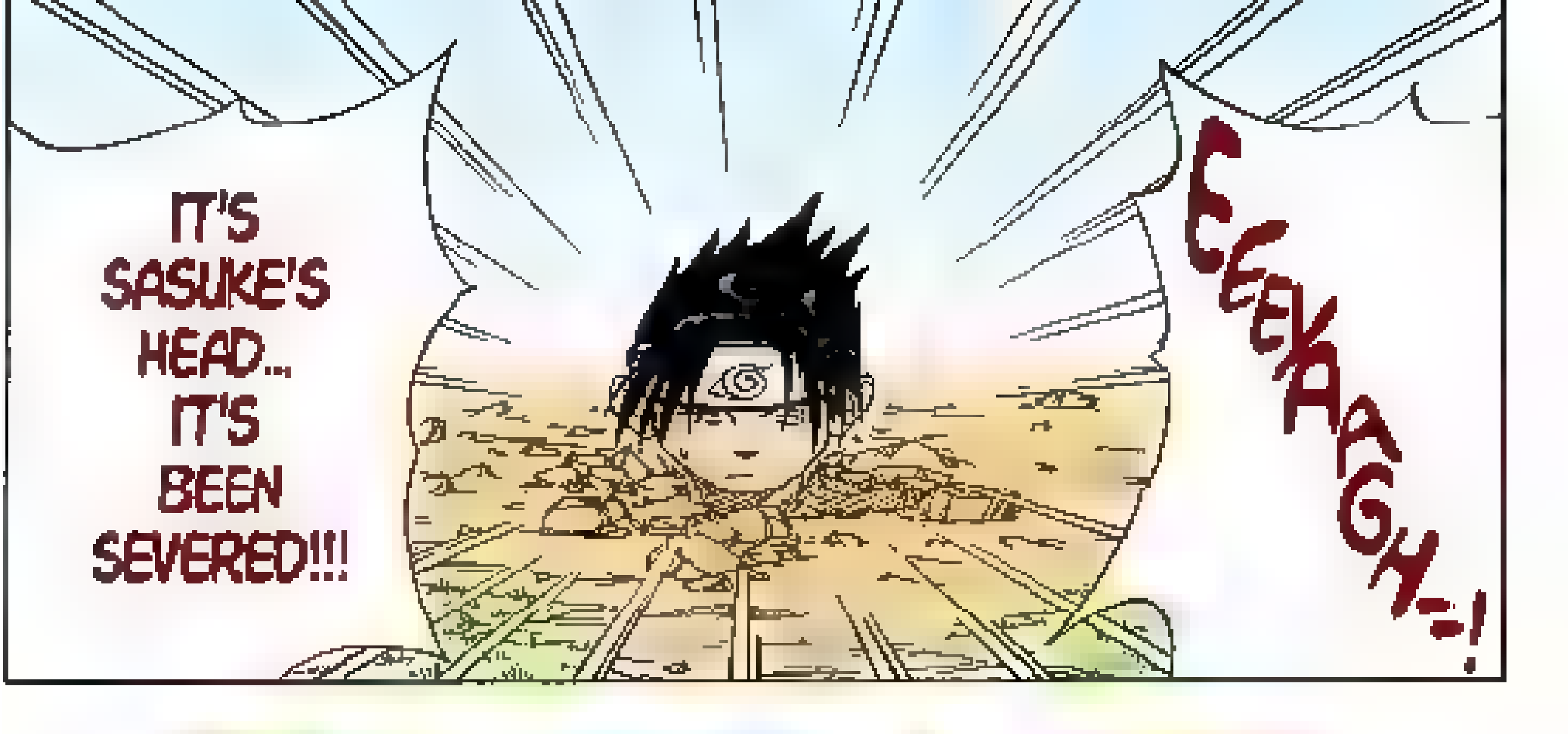

-AHEM!-
JUUH.. JUST KIDDING!
TOO LATE!

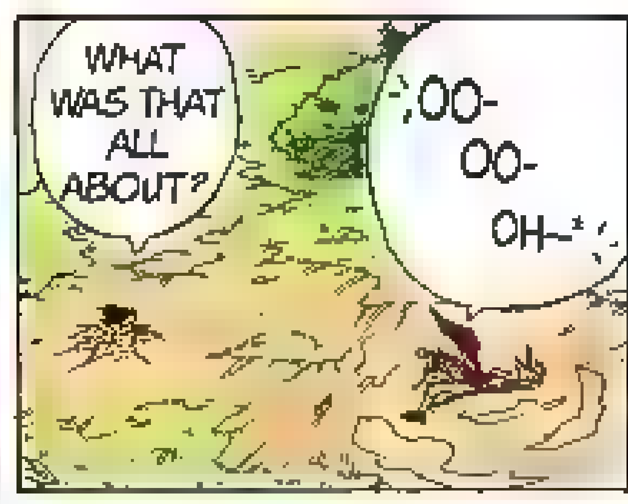

CRAP.. I THOUGHT I WAS SO CLOSE

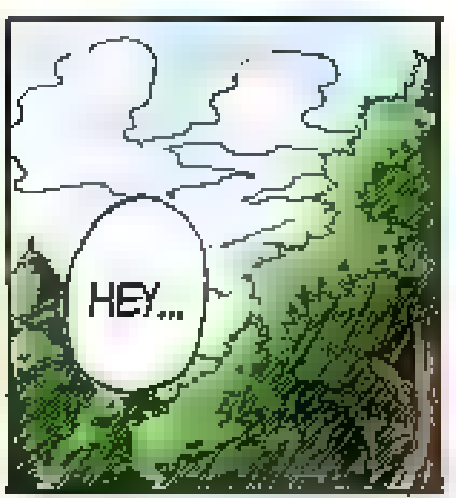

!
!

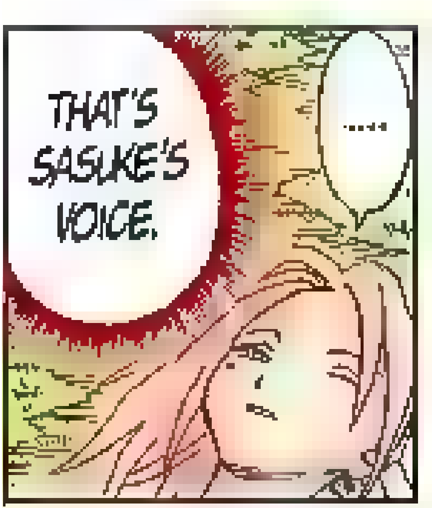

......

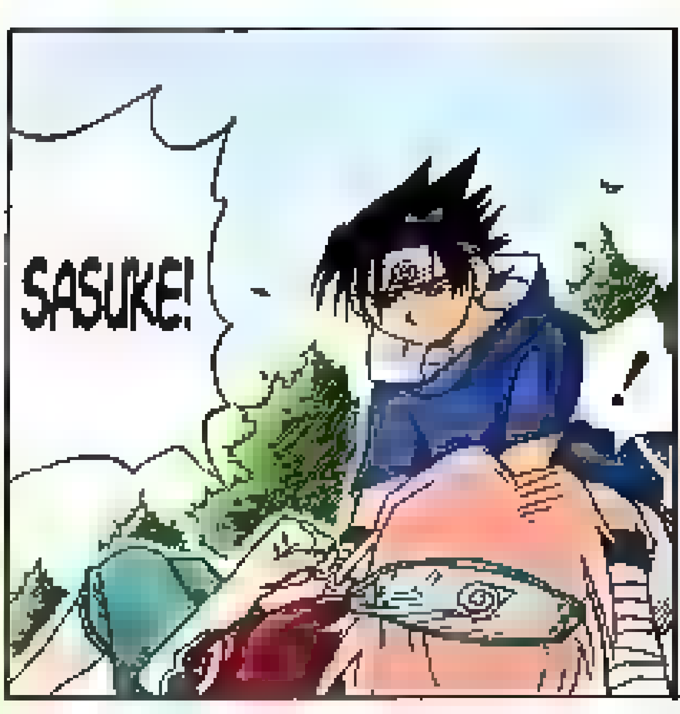


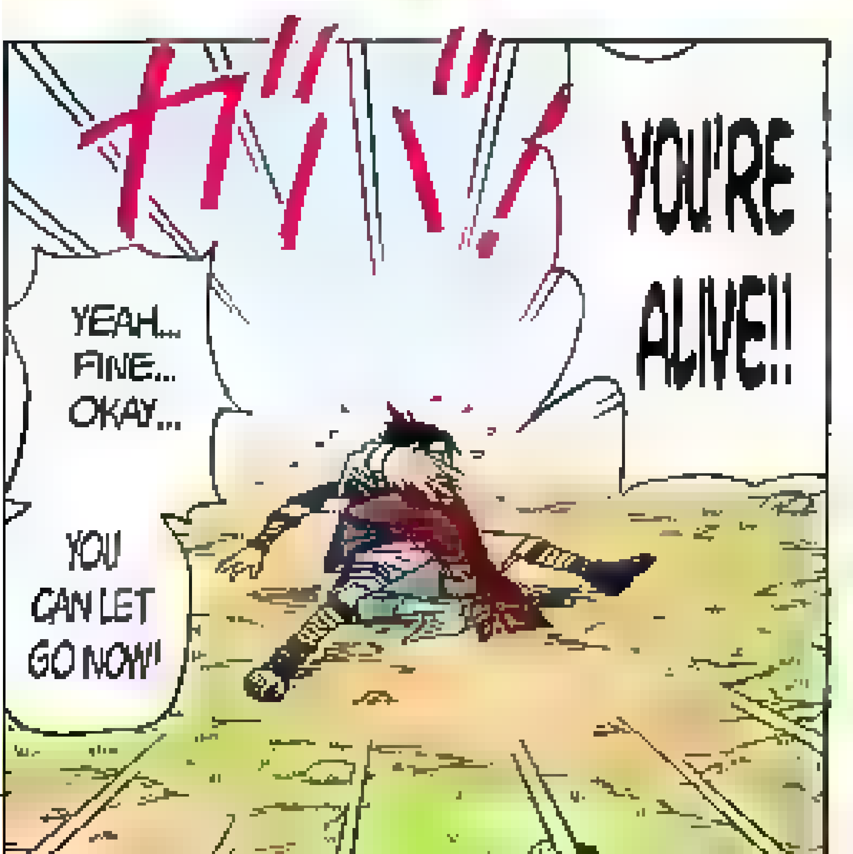

EEEYAAGH--!
IT'S SASUKE'S HEAD... IT'S BEEN SEVERED!!!


OO-OO-OH--
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

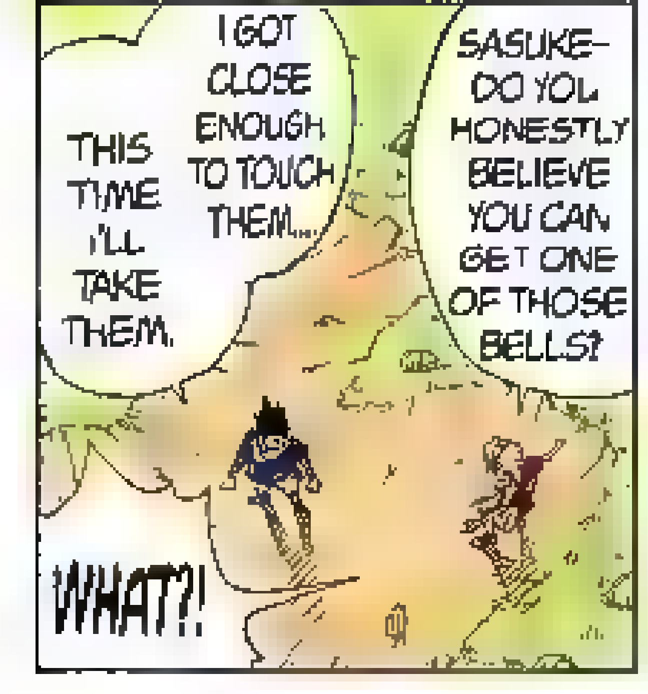

HEY...

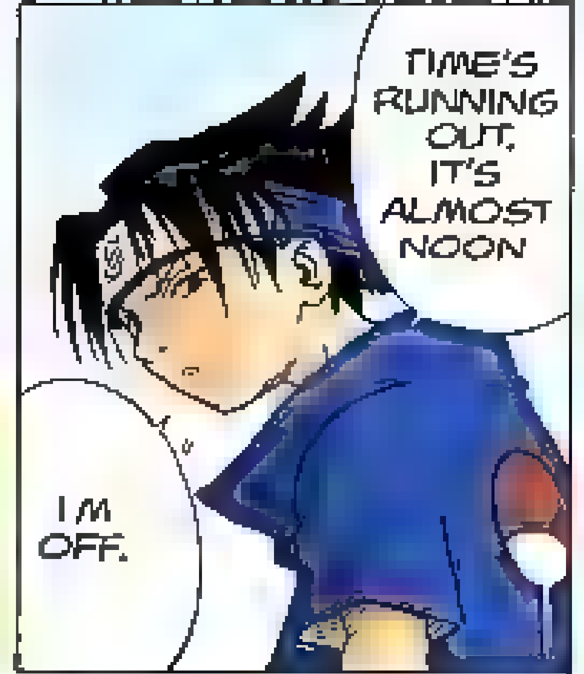

.....
THAT'S SASUKE'S VOICE.

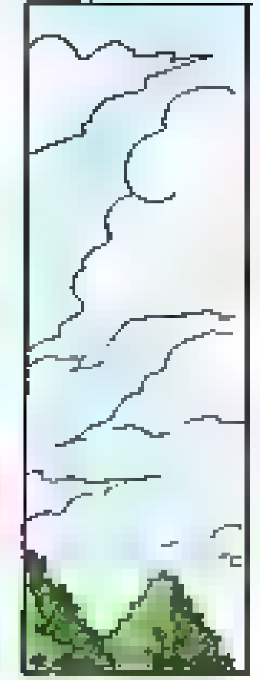

!
SASUKE!

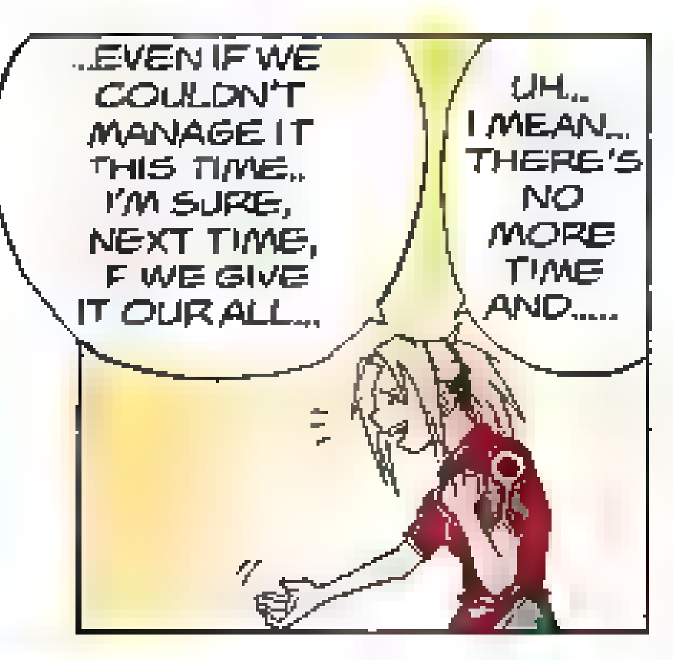

YOU'RE ALIVE!!
YEAH... FINE... OKAY...
YOU CAN LET GO NOW!

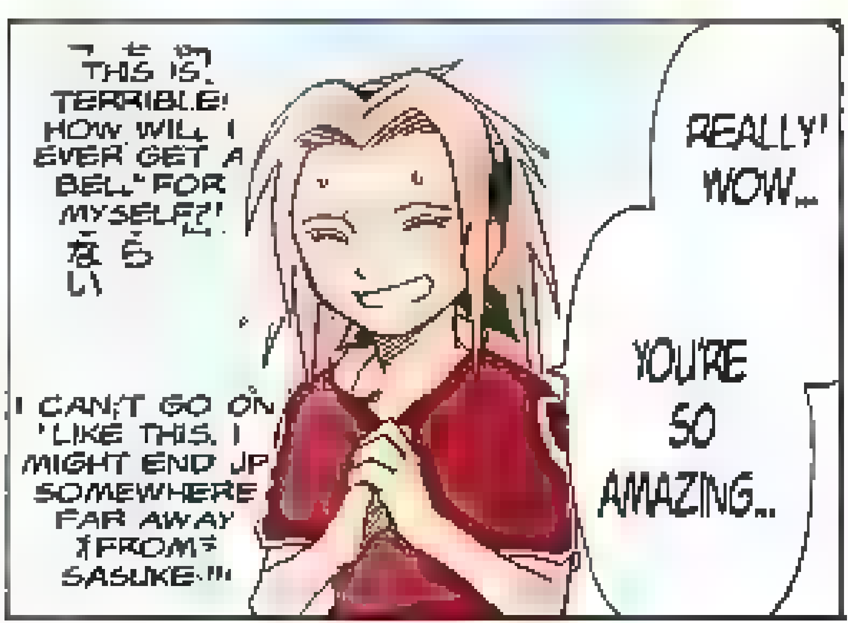

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SASUKE-DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE YOU CAN GET ONE OF THOSE BELLS?
I GOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO TOUCH THEM...
THIS TIME I'LL TAKE THEM.
WHAT?!


TIME'S RUNNING OUT. IT'S ALMOST NOON
I'M OFF.

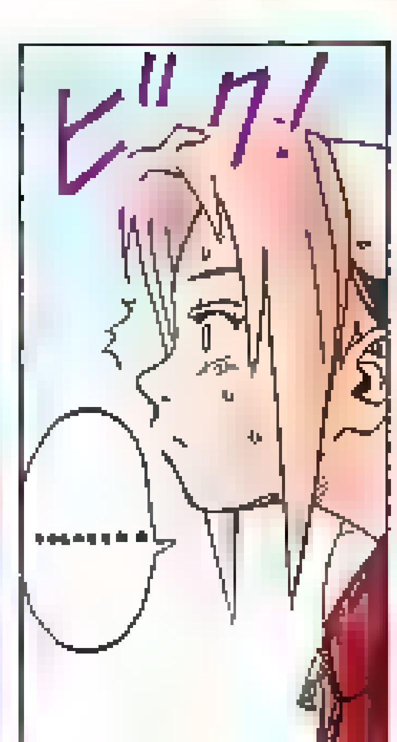


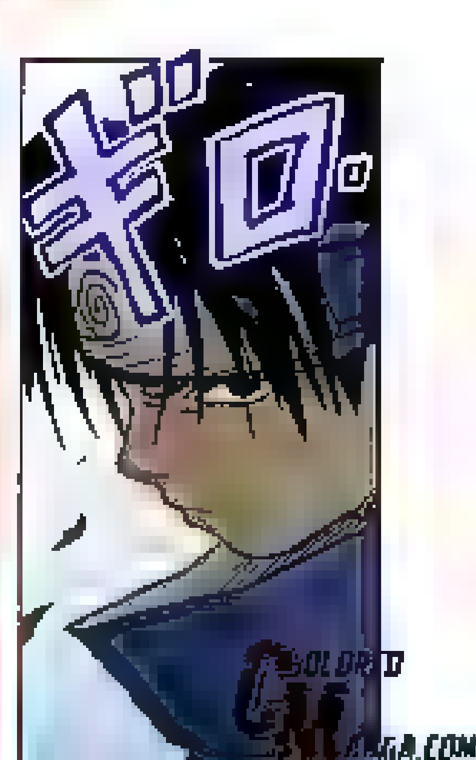

UH.. I MEAN.. THERE'S NO MORE TIME AND.....
..EVEN IF WE COULDN'T MANAGE IT THIS TIME.. I'M SURE, NEXT TIME, IF WE GIVE IT OUR ALL...

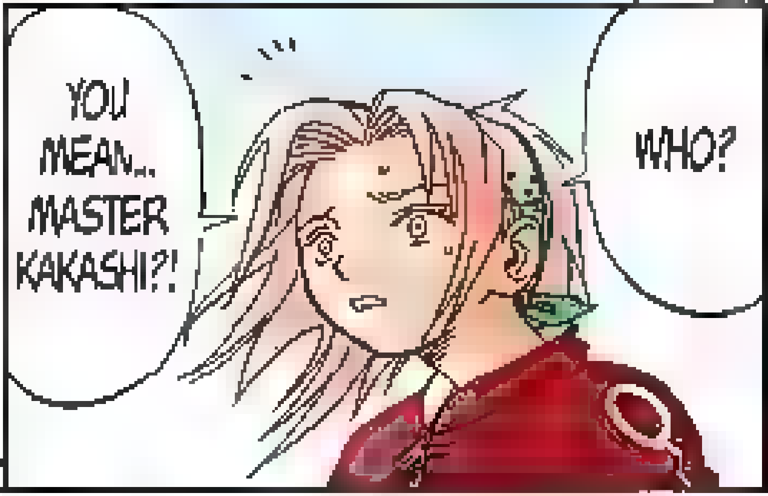

REALLY! WOW...
YOU'RE SO AMAZING...
THIS IS TERRIBLE! HOW WILL I EVER GET A BELL FOR MYSELF?!
I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS. I MIGHT END UP SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY FROM SASUKE!!!



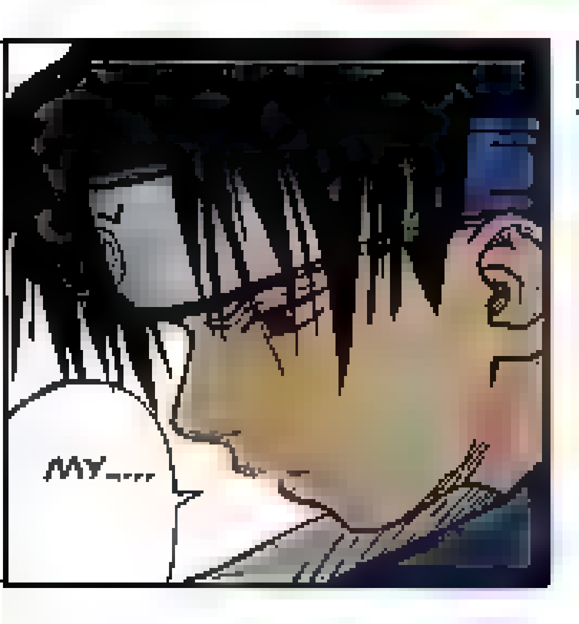

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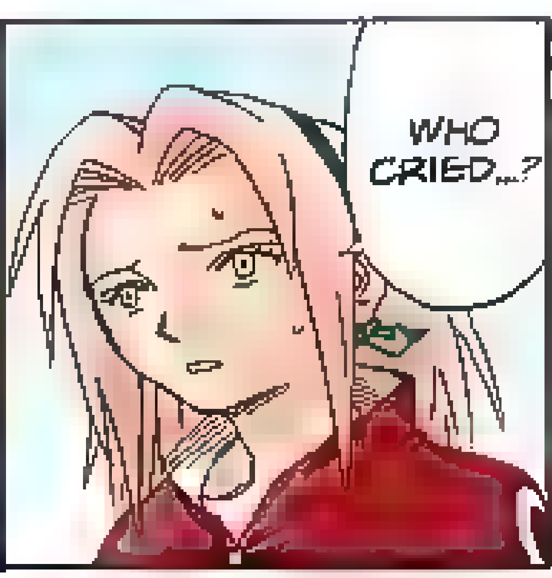

ビクッ!
....


ギロ

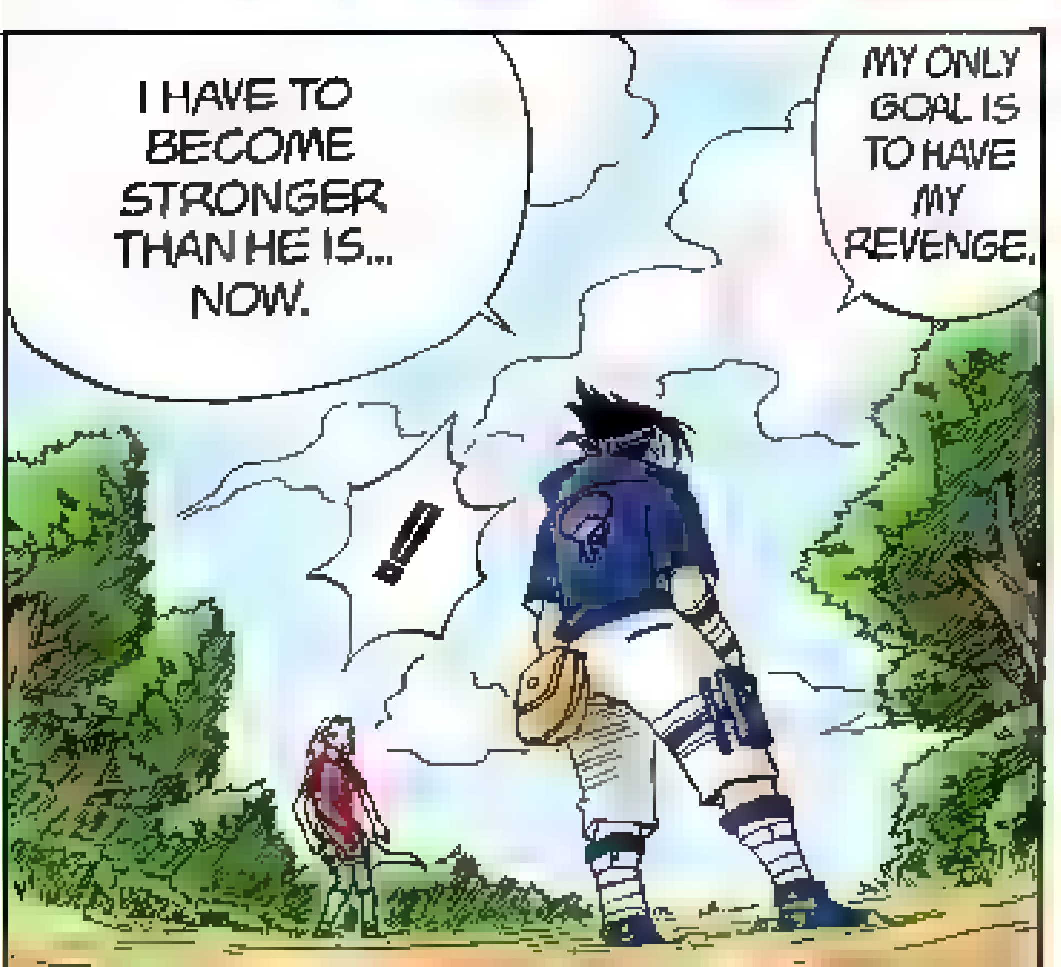

YOU MEAN... MASTER KAKASHI?!
WHO?

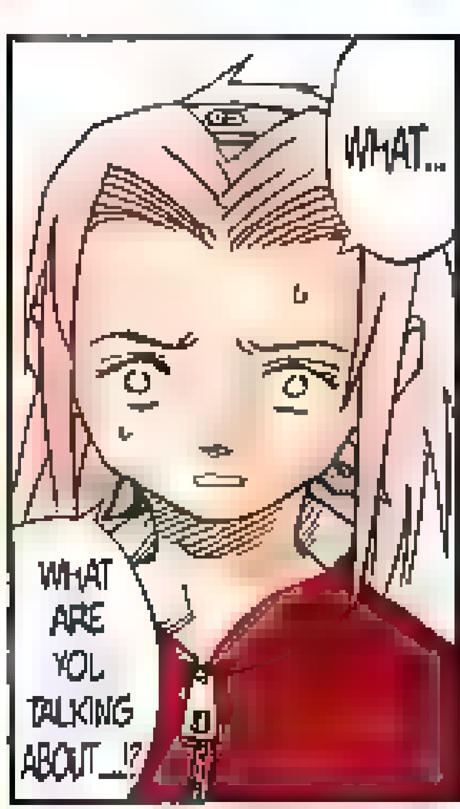

ONLY I CAN KILL HIM.


MY....

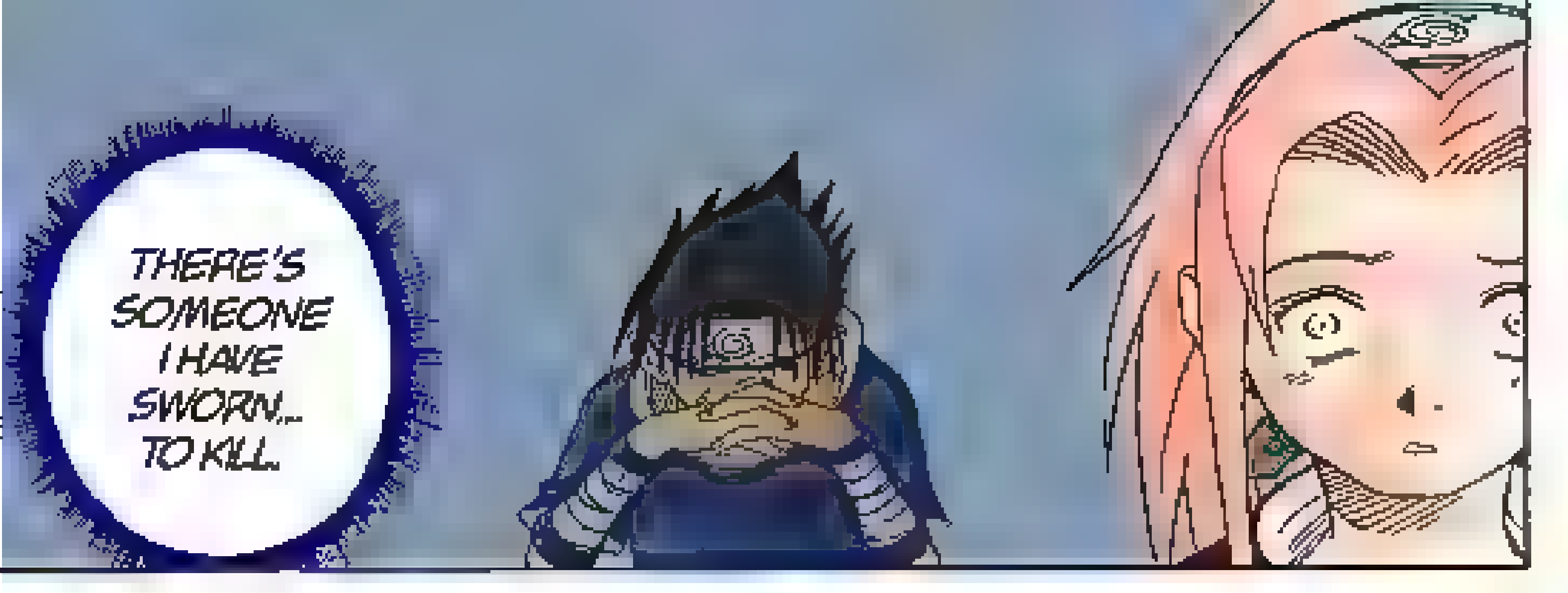

WHO CRIED...?

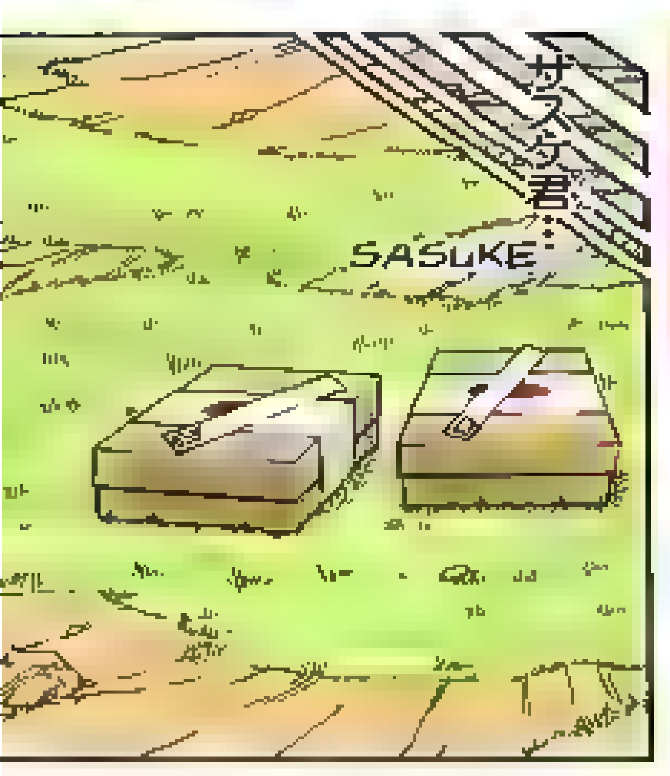

THAT TIME... CRYING...


I HAVE TO BECOME STRONGER THAN HE IS... NOW.
MY ONLY GOAL IS TO HAVE MY REVENGE.
!!

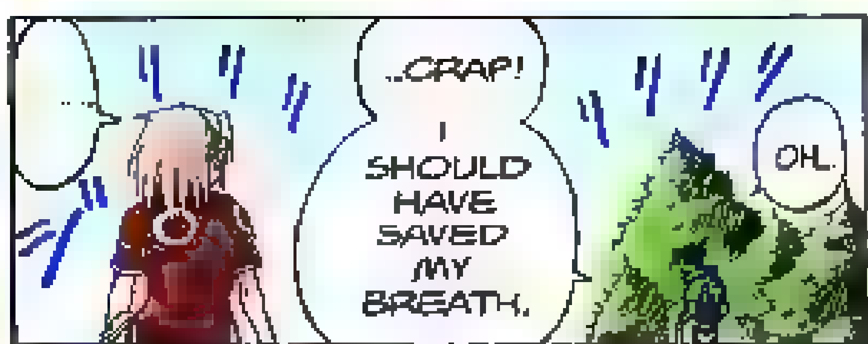

WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...!?

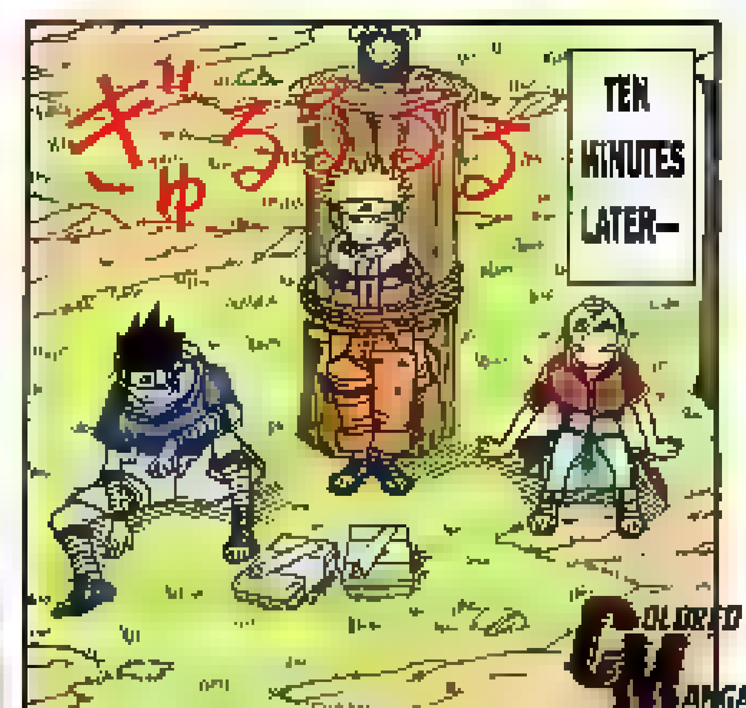

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THERE'S SOMEONE I HAVE SWORN... TO KILL.


サスケ君…
SASUKE...



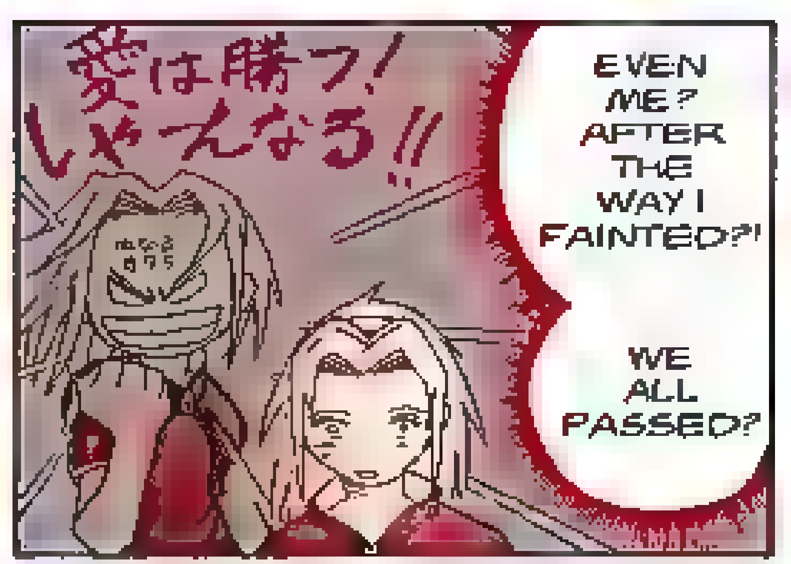

OH.
...CRAP! I SHOULD HAVE SAVED MY BREATH.
...

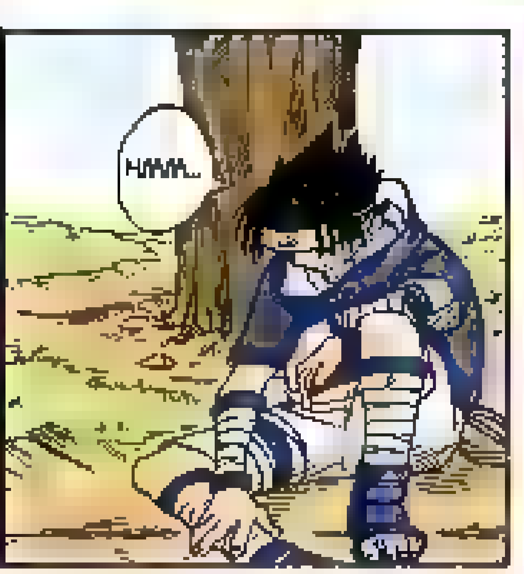

TEN MINUTES LATER--
ぎゅるるるる


OH, MY. LISTEN TO ALL THE LITTLE STOMACHS GROWL!
I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT...
...ABOUT THIS EXERCISE.
BY THE WAY, YOU THREE....


NONE OF YOU...
...NEED WORRY ANY MORE ABOUT BEING SENT BACK TO THE NINJA ACADEMY.
!!


YEEAH!!!


WE ALL PASSED?
EVEN ME? AFTER THE WAY I FAINTED?!
愛は勝つ!
しゃんなろ!!


HMM..


THIS ROCKS!
IT MEANS ALL THREE OF US...




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......ARE HOPELESS. MORE SCHOOLING WOULD BE POINTLESS.
NONE OF YOU WILL EVER BE SHINOBI!!!!
!!!?
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デジタルカラー版

NARUTO—ナルト—

1巻

岸本斉史

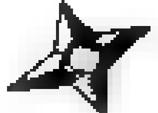
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デジタル版発行　2012年

発行所　集英社
http://www.shueisha.co.jp

この作品は、著者カラー原画に加え、著者の原画をもとに集英社でデジタル彩色を行った特別編集版です。




JUMP COMICS
巻ノ二
NARUTO
-ナルト-
岸本斉史





岸本斉史

One day I got a phone call from a relative of mine and got seriously chewed out. Why? The reason was the art I drew of myself in volume one. My aunt saw the picture of me eating ramen, and said "Is he only eating ramen *again?!* Every time you came over to my house, you demanded instant noodles instead of the home-cooked meal I had ready for you! You'd better be getting your vegetables!" Don't worry, auntie—I *am* eating my vegetables. (P.S. They just came out with instant noodles in "Cheese Curry Flavor." It's really tasty.)

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2000

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** ("mechanism"). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.





JUMP COMICS
NARUTO
-ナルト-
巻ノ二
最悪の依頼人
岸本斉史
COLORED MANGA.COM



主な登場人物
うずまきナルト
うちはサスケ
春野サクラ

カカシ

イルカ

三代目火影



THE STORY SO FAR...

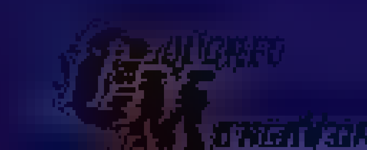
Twelve years ago, a giant fox demon attacked the ninja village of Konohagakure, until the Hokage, the village champion, managed to defeat it by sealing its soul into the body of a baby boy. Now that boy, Uzumaki Naruto, has grown up and become a ninja-in-training, like his classmates Sasuke and Sakura. Forced to work as a team, the three ninjas received a strange assignment: steal a bell from the belt of their teacher Kakashi. But they failed...and now Kakashi has told them *to give up their hopes of ever being ninja!*

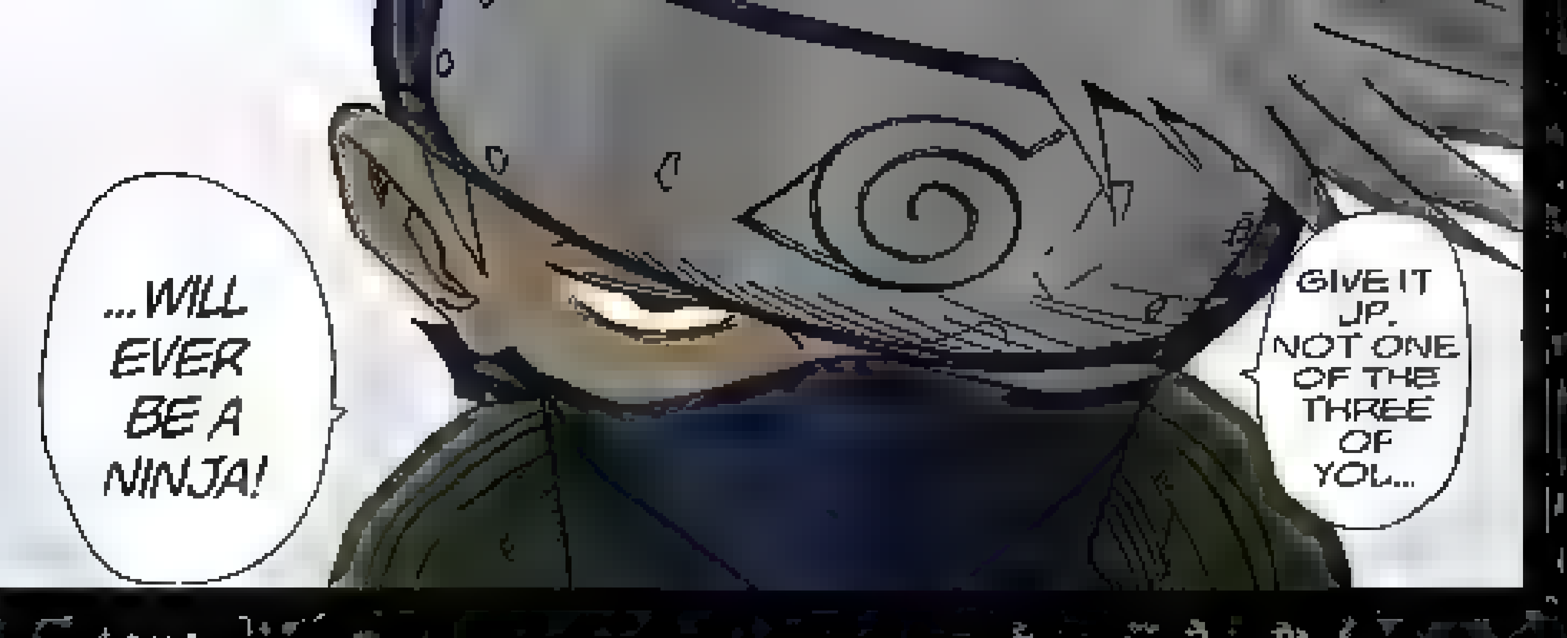




もくじ

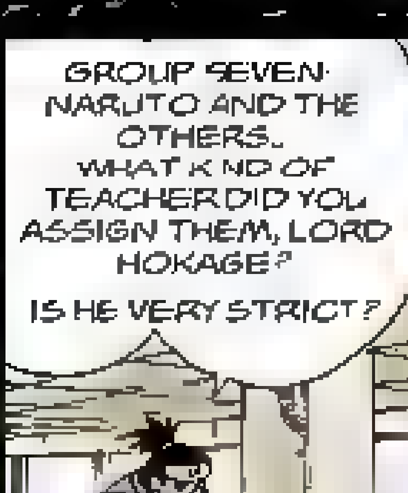
CONTENTS

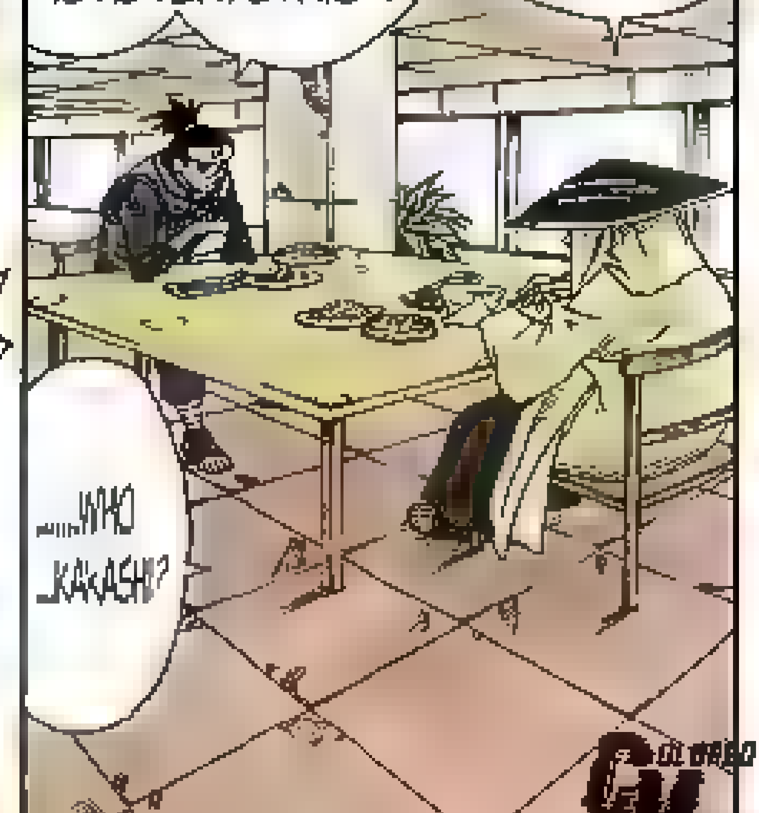


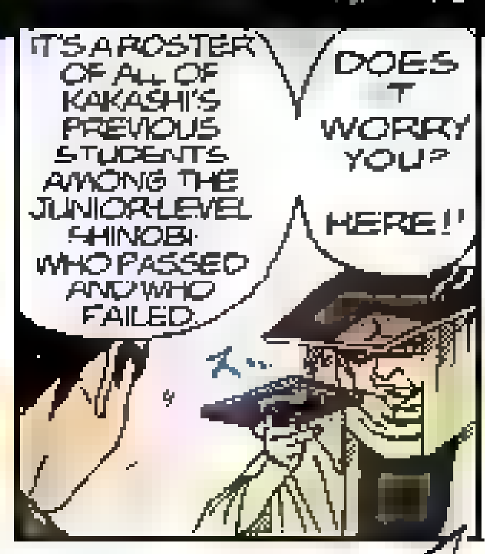


#8: だから不合格だってんだ!!

YOU FAILED!!





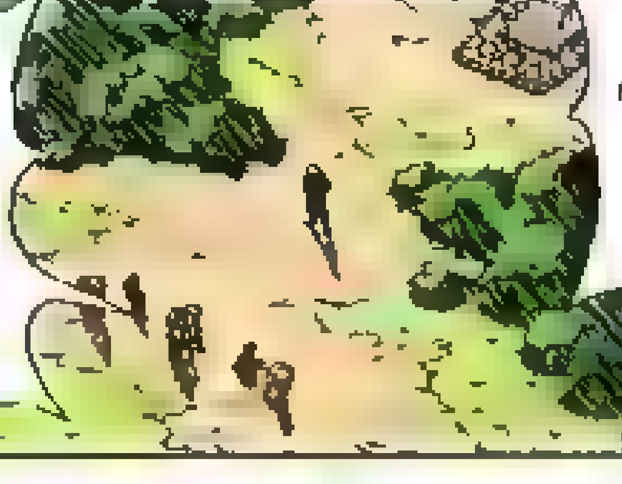


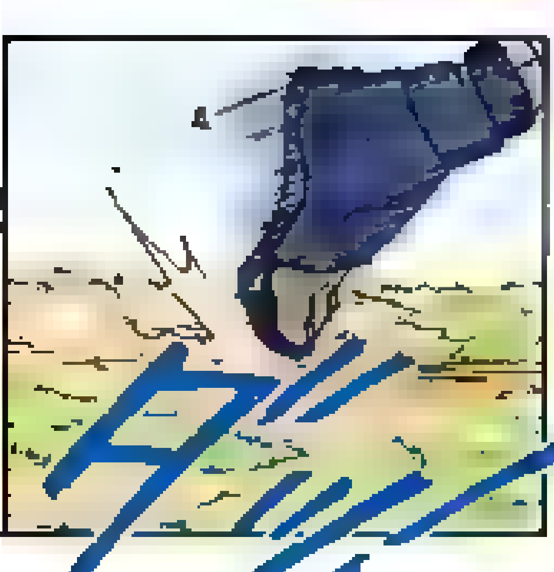


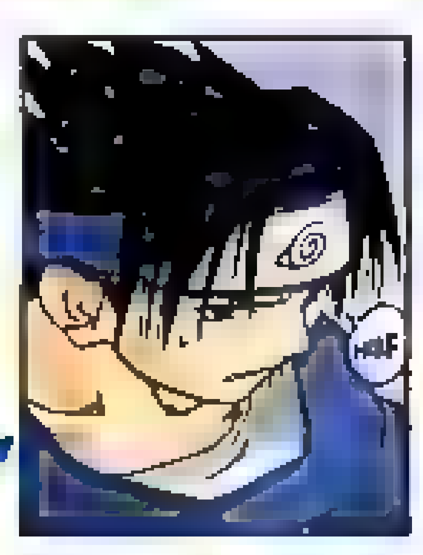


WHAT DO YOU MEAN—

—GIVE UP?!









SASUKE!!

HUNH?!

WHAT YOU ARE IS A TRIO OF SPOILED BRATS...

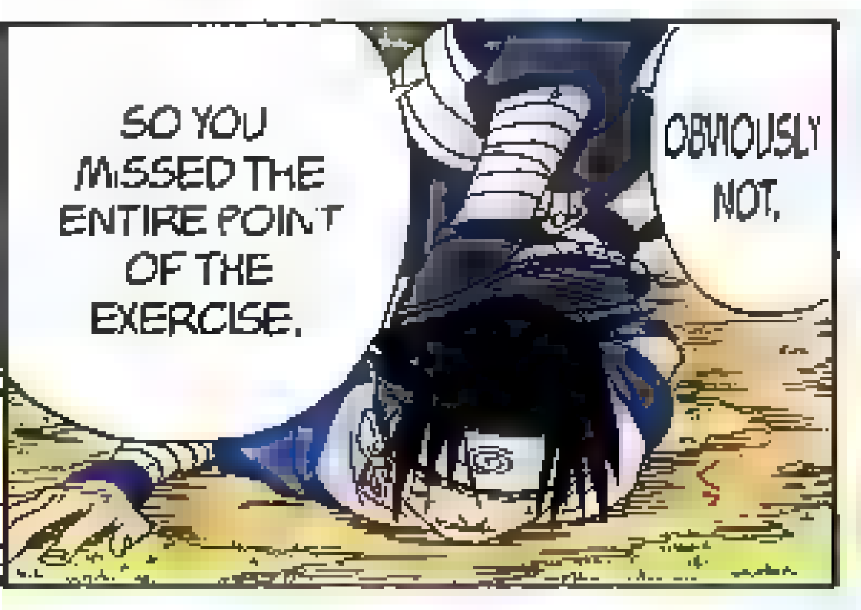
GET OFF OF HIM!

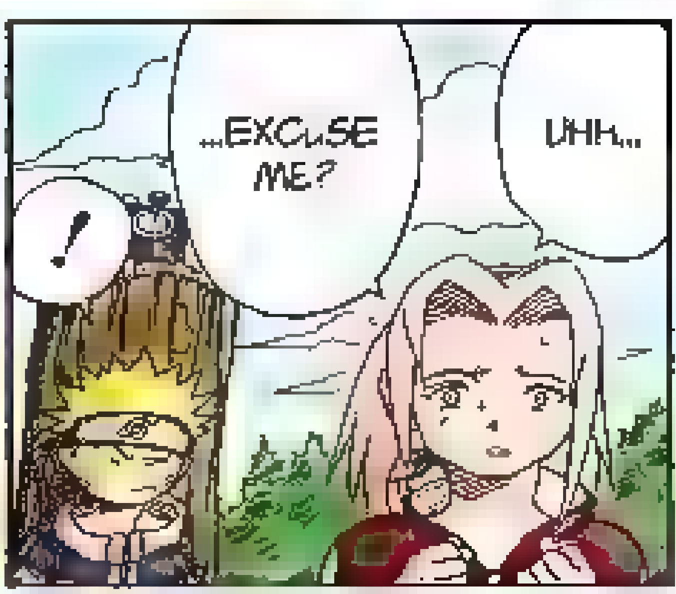
DON'T STEP ON SASUKE!

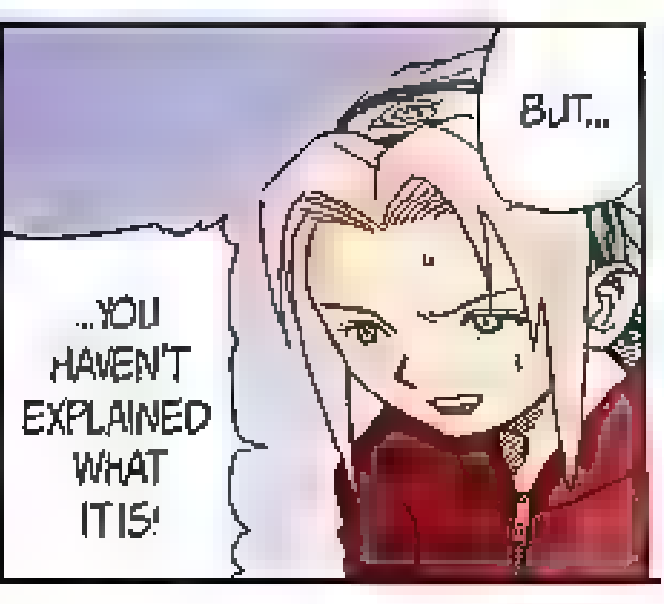
!!!

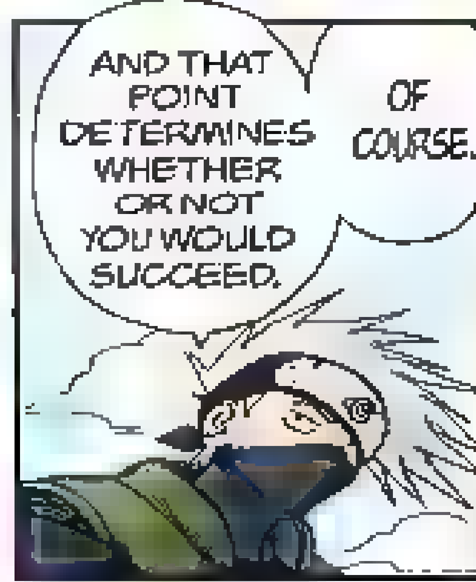


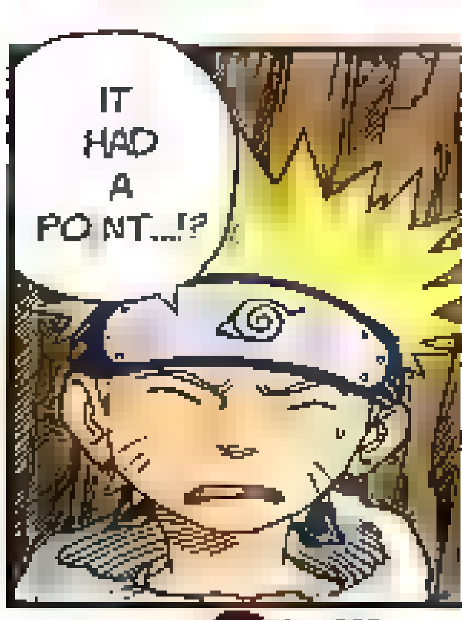
DID YOU EVEN STOP TO WONDER FOR ONE MINUTE...
...WHY YOU WERE DIVIDED INTO TEAMS?
ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE FUN OF THE SHINOBI WITH YOUR BEHAVIOR?
WELL, ARE YOU?

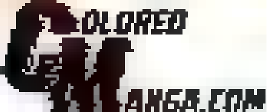


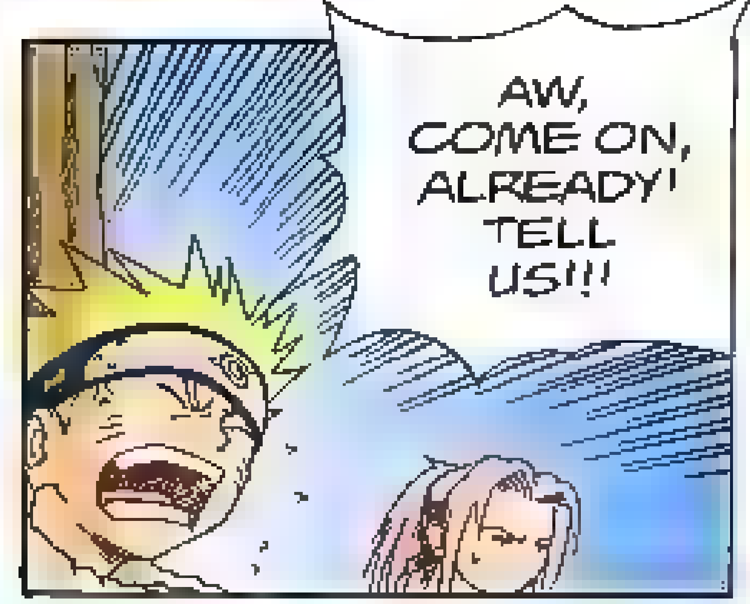


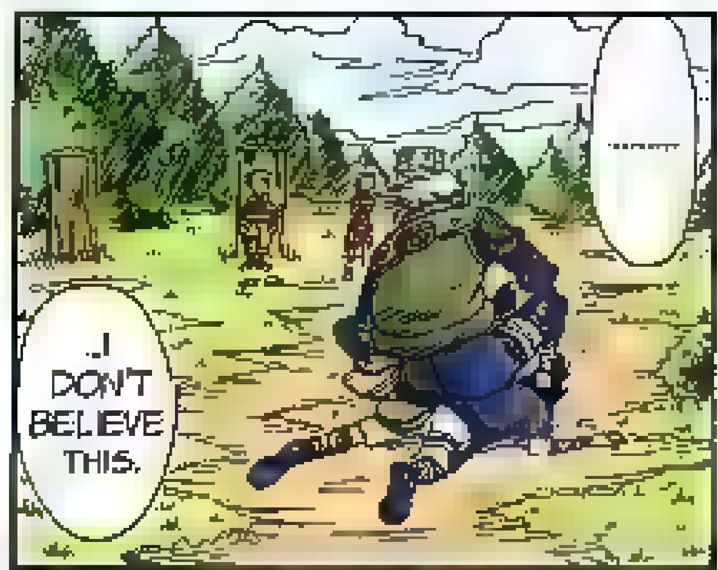


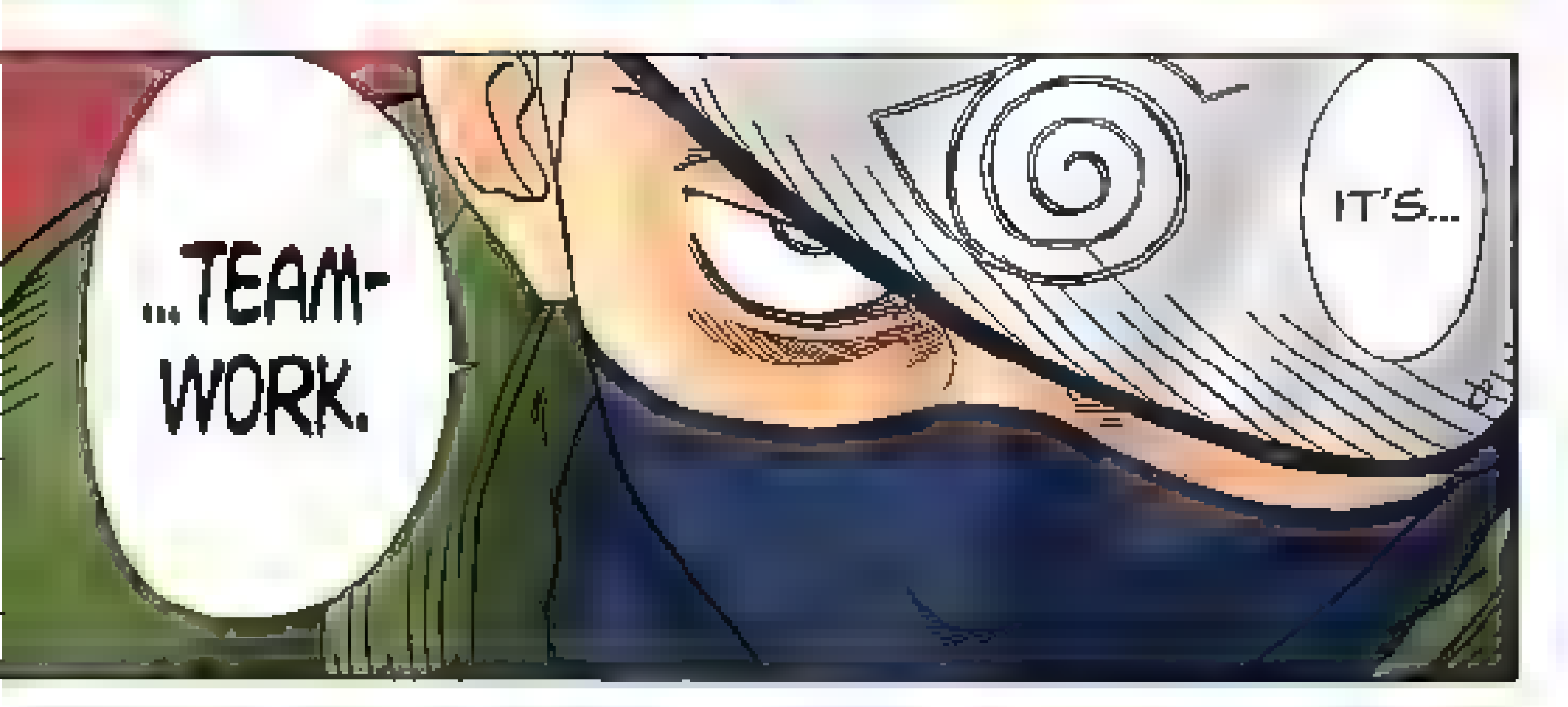






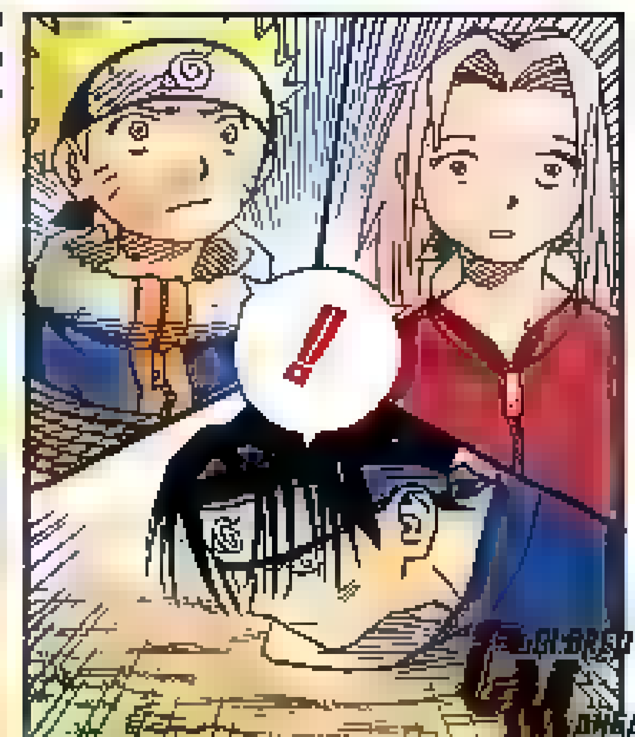

AW, COME ON, ALREADY! TELL US!!!

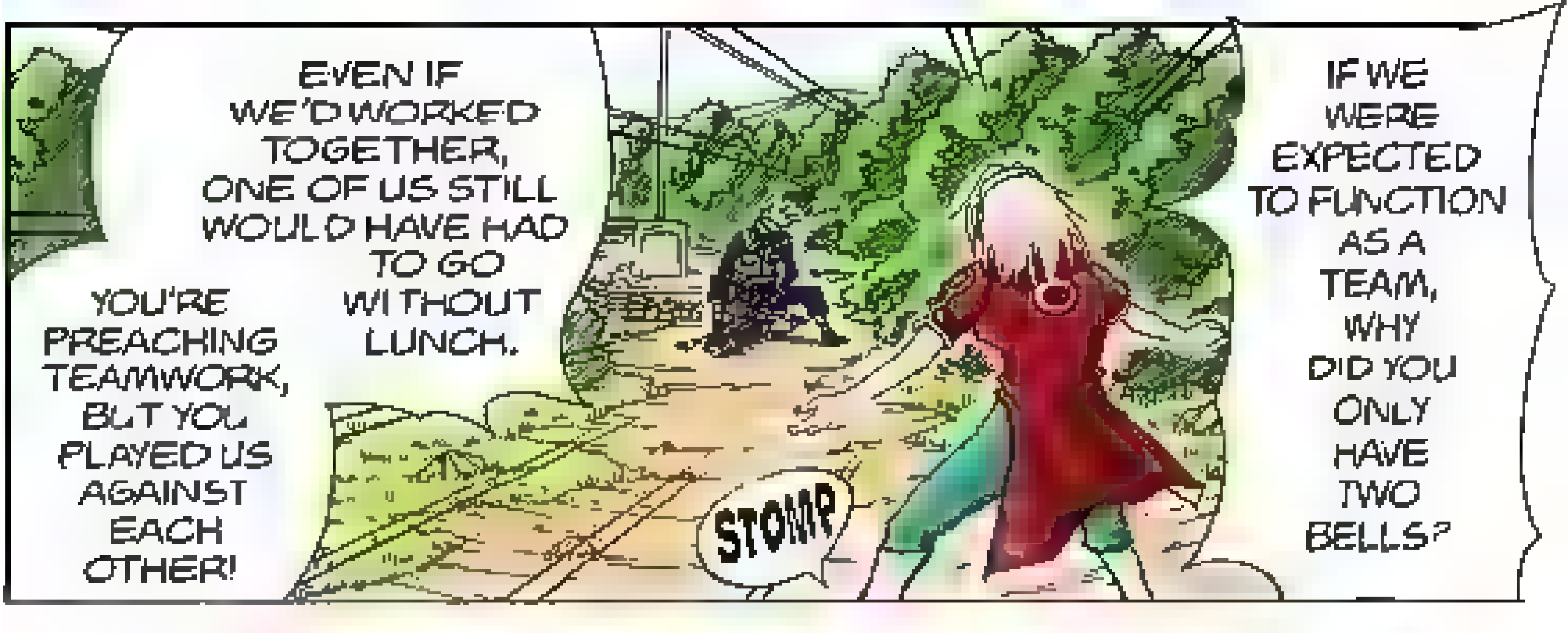

......
...I DON'T BELIEVE THIS.


IT'S...
...TEAM-WORK.

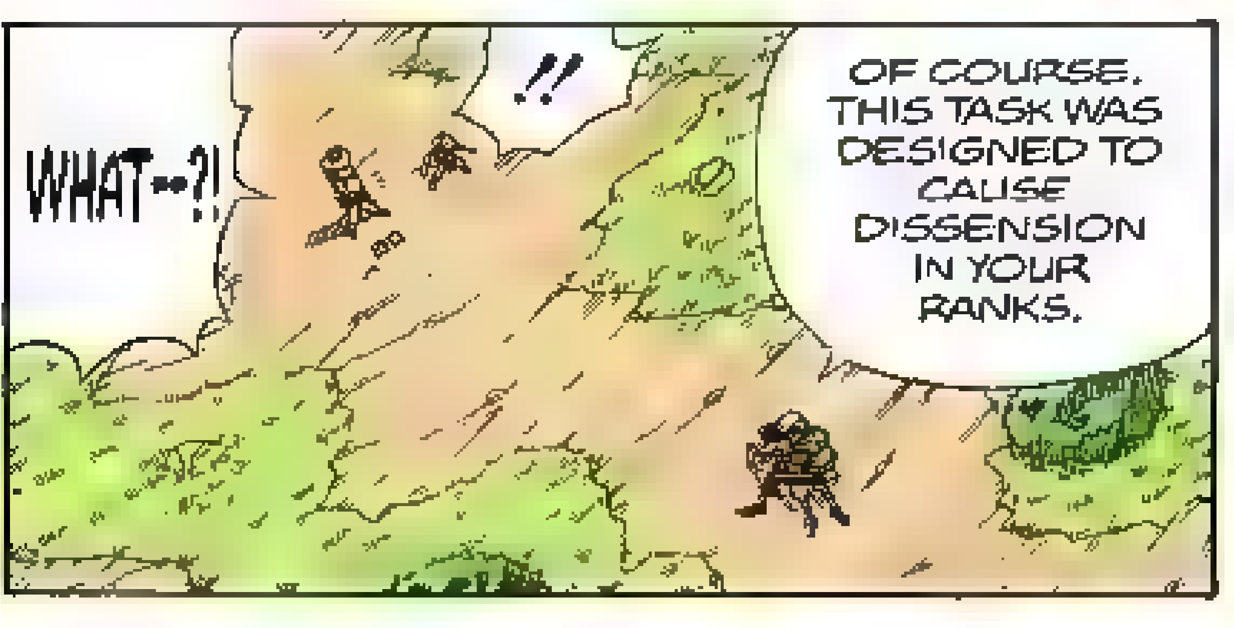

!
...BUT... WAIT A MINUTE!


IF THE THREE OF YOU HAD COME AT ME... TOGETHER... YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE THE BELLS.


!!





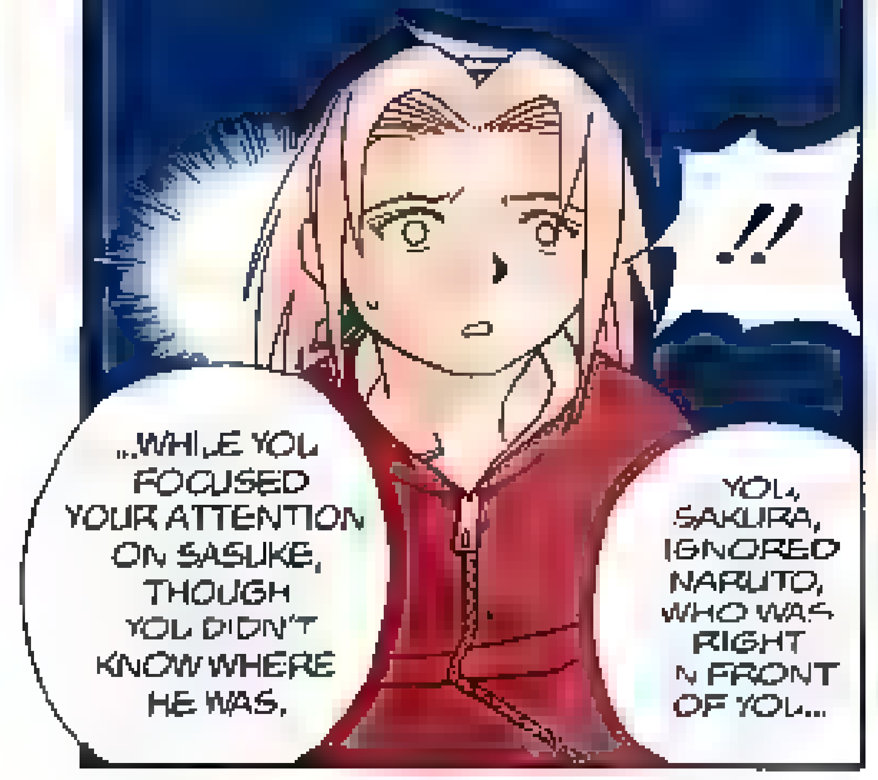


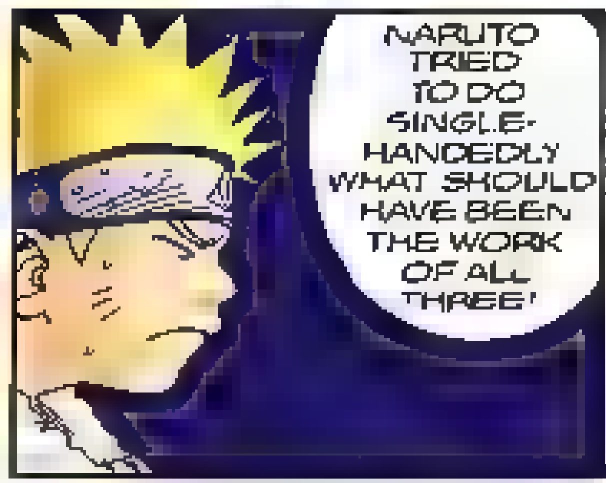
THE SITUATION WAS SET UP TO REVEAL WHICH OF YOU...

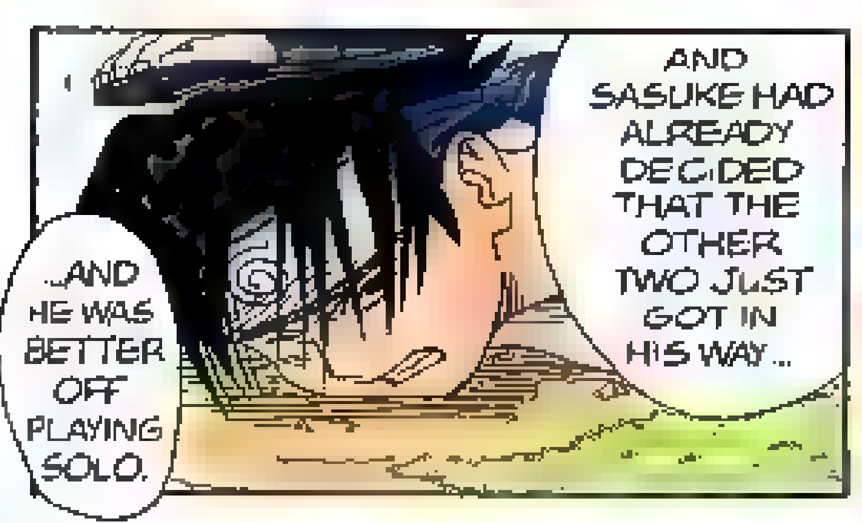
...WOULD SET ASIDE YOUR INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS...

...AND PROPOSE TO THE OTHERS THAT YOU WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.





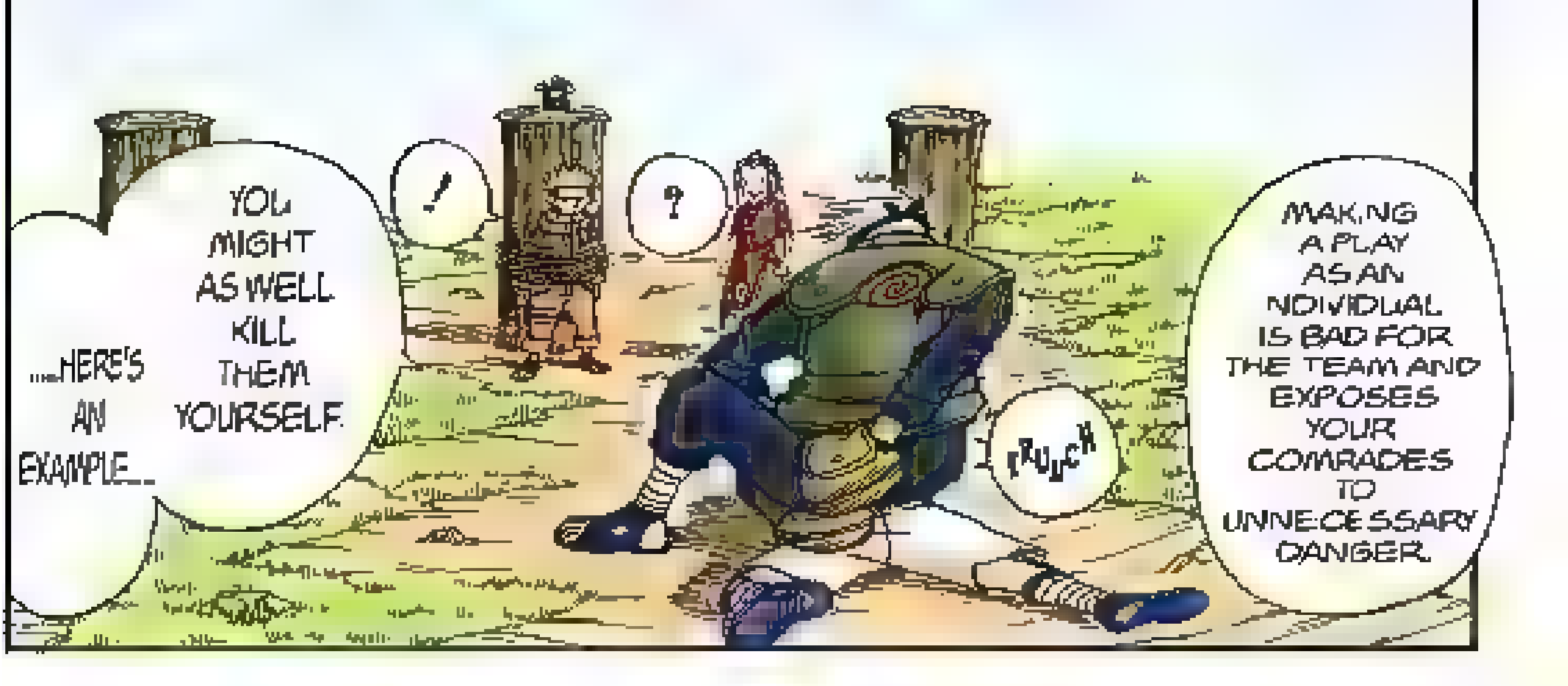
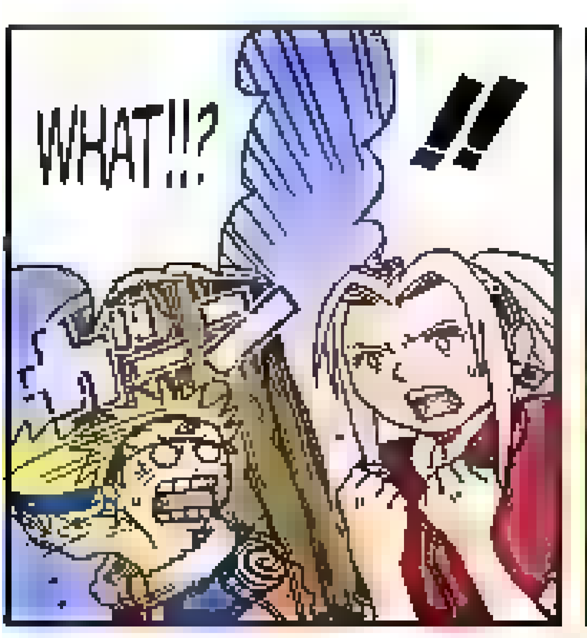
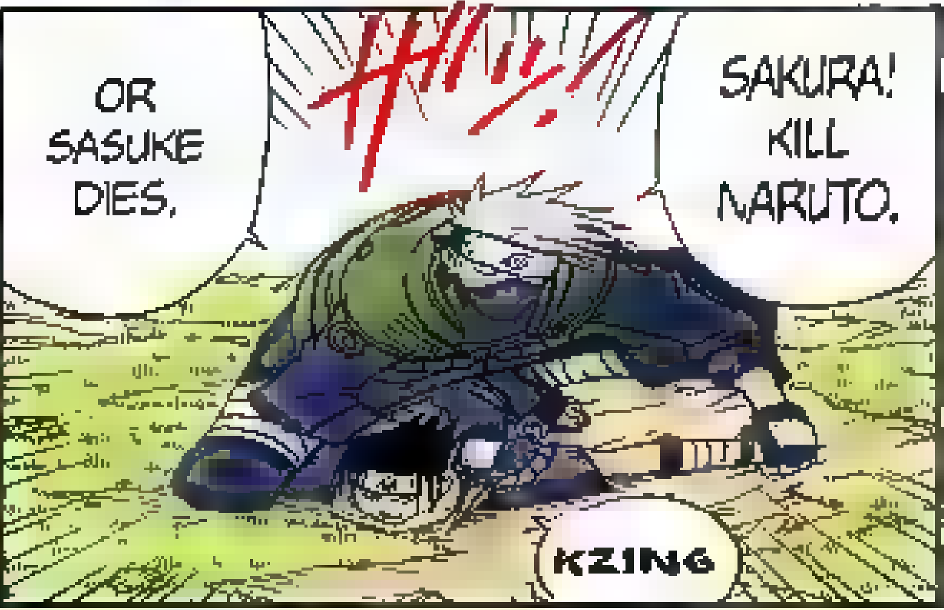
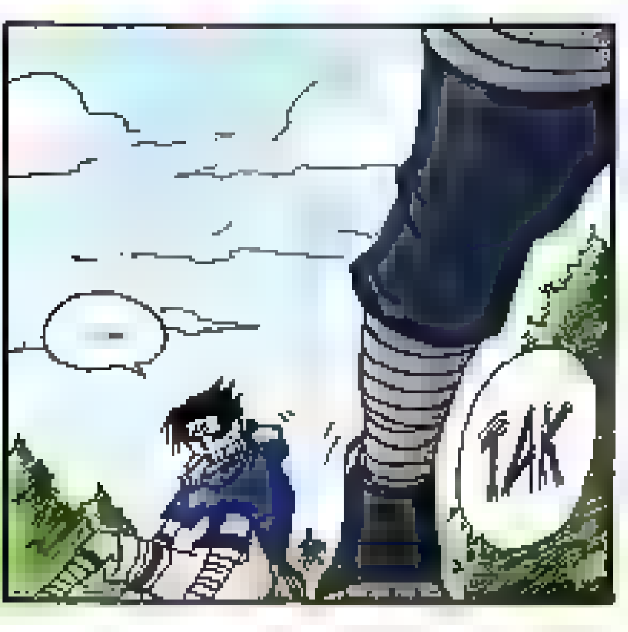
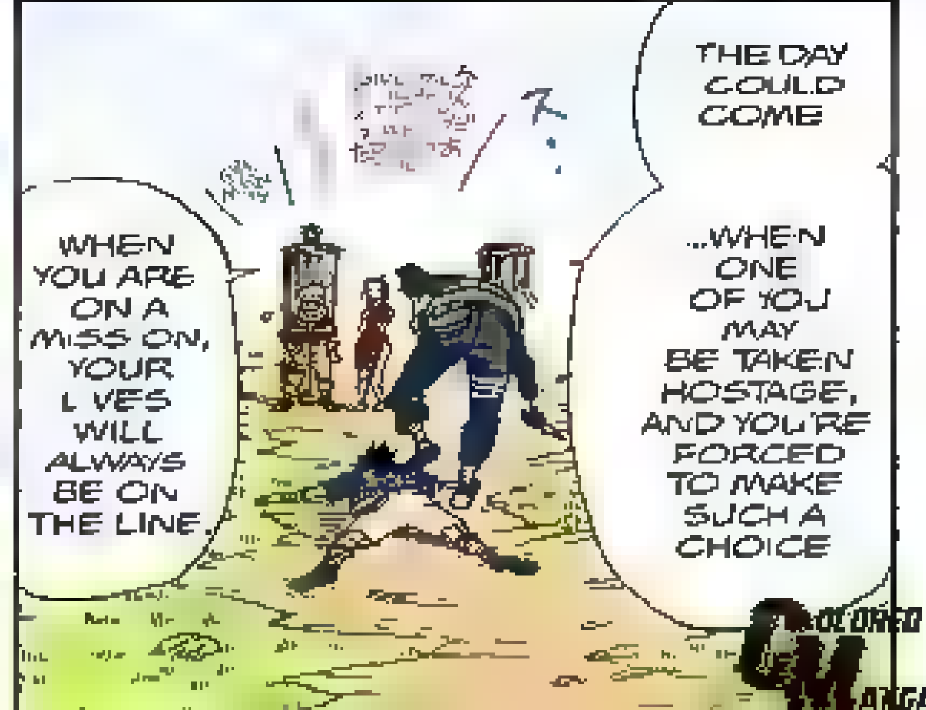


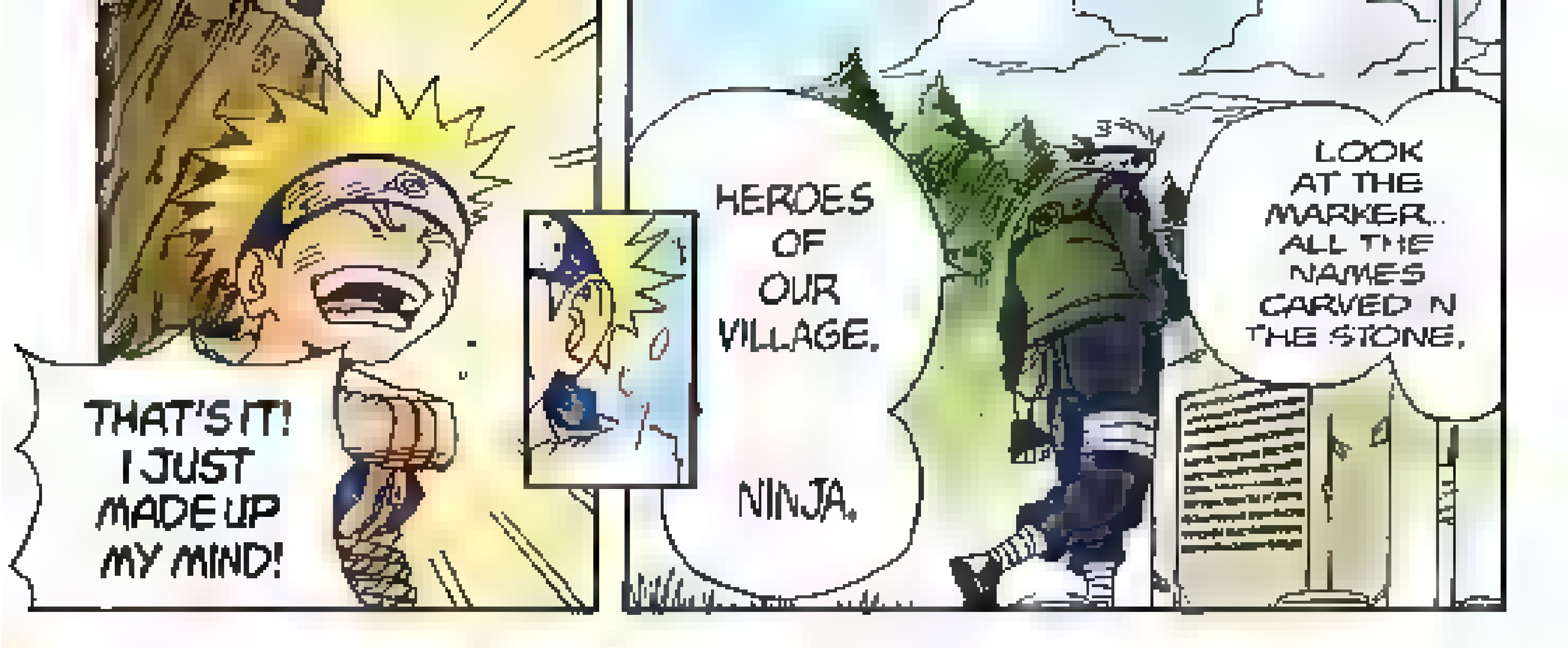


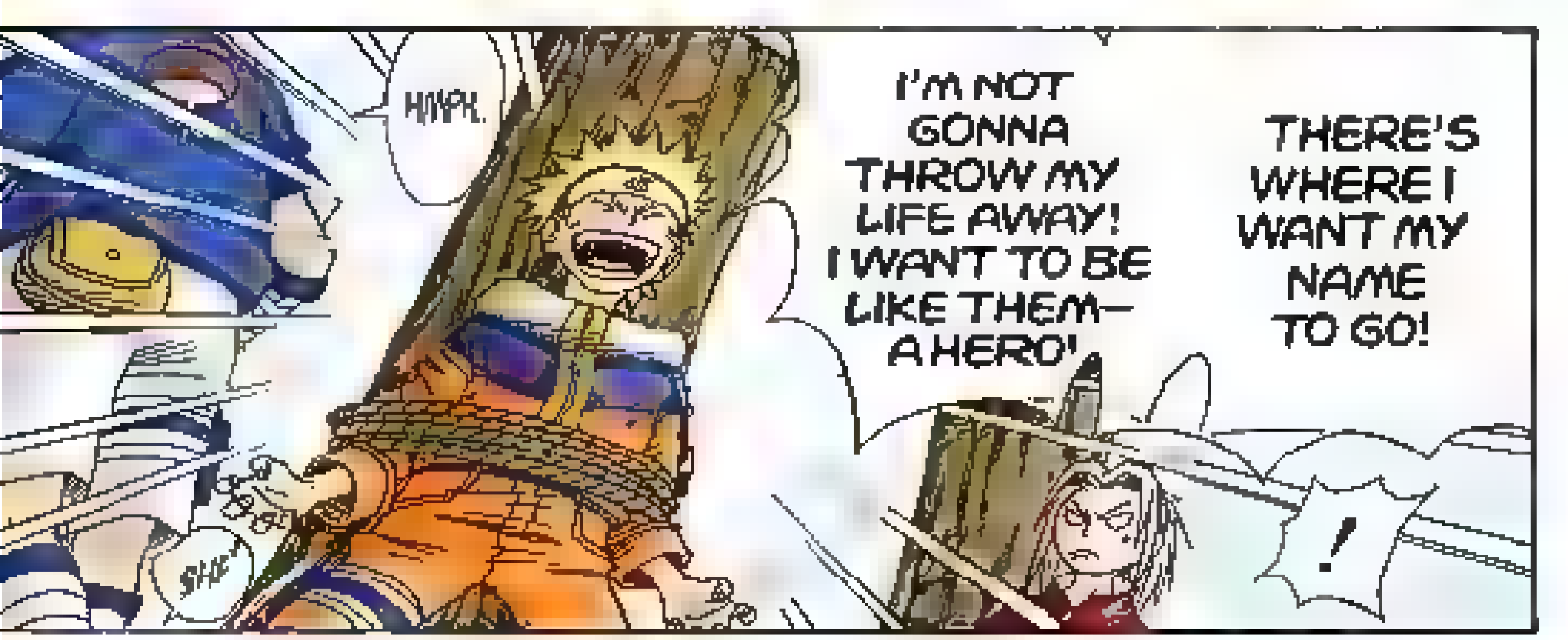
YES, IT'S NECESSARY FOR NINJA TO HAVE INDIVIDUAL SKILLS, BUT...

WHAT IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT NOW IS TEAMWORK!

YOU ARE A TEAM! LEARN TO ACT AS ONE!


MAKING A PLAY AS AN INDIVIDUAL IS BAD FOR THE TEAM AND EXPOSES YOUR COMRADES TO UNNECESSARY DANGER.
CRUNCH
?
!
...HERE'S AN EXAMPLE...
YOU MIGHT AS WELL KILL THEM YOURSELF.

!!
WHAT!!?

SAKURA! KILL NARUTO.
OR SASUKE DIES.
KZING

TAK

THE DAY COULD COME
...WHEN ONE OF YOU MAY BE TAKEN HOSTAGE, AND YOU'RE FORCED TO MAKE SUCH A CHOICE
WHEN YOU ARE ON A MISSION, YOUR LIVES WILL ALWAYS BE ON THE LINE.

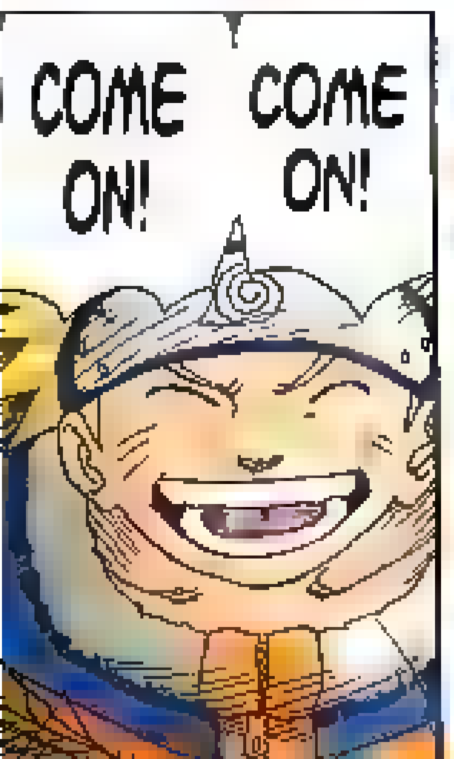

LOOK AT THE MARKER.. ALL THE NAMES CARVED IN THE STONE.
HEROES OF OUR VILLAGE.
NINJA.
THAT'S IT! I JUST MADE UP MY MIND!


THERE'S WHERE I WANT MY NAME TO GO!
I'M NOT GONNA THROW MY LIFE AWAY! I WANT TO BE LIKE THEM— A HERO!
!
HMPH.


...BUT THE ONES LISTED THERE AREN'T JUST ANY HEROES....
AHEM!

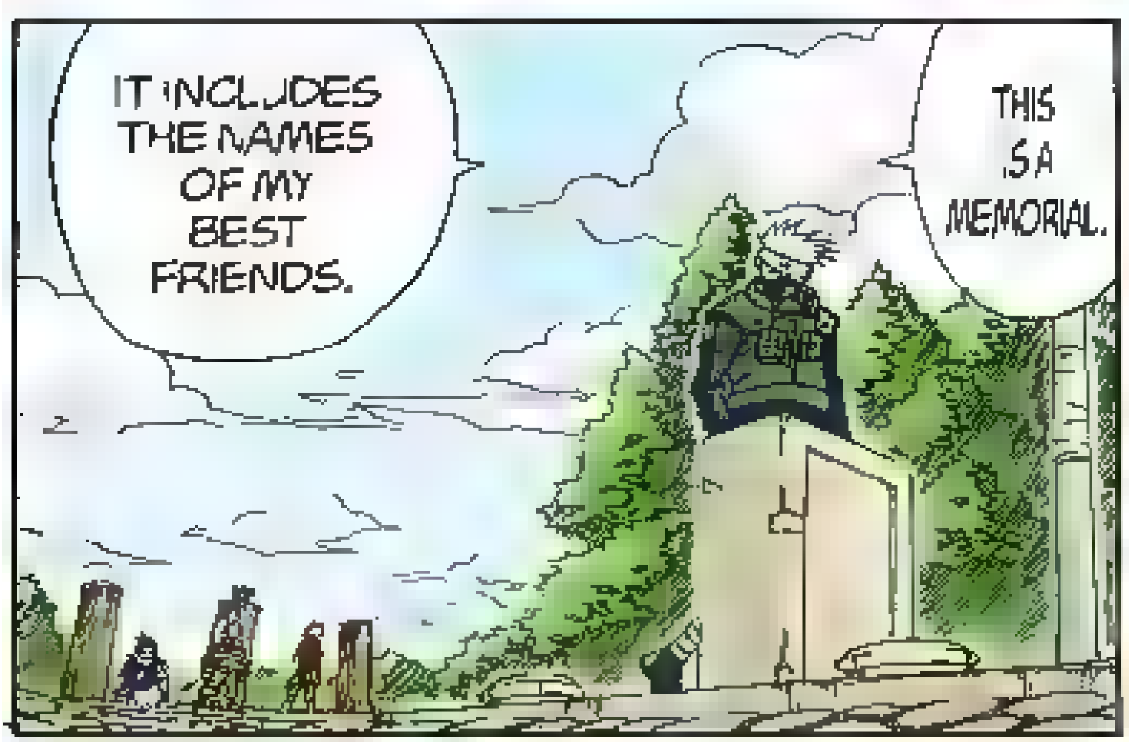

REALLY?
WHAT KIND OF HEROES ARE THEY?

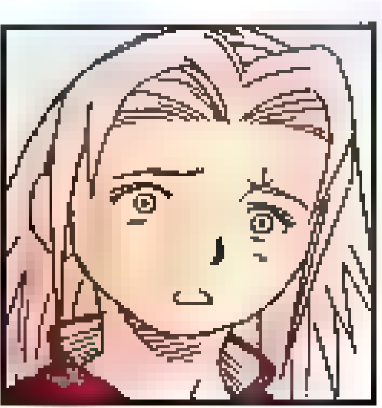

...


COME ON!
COME ON!

THE DEAD KIND. THEY DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

!!!

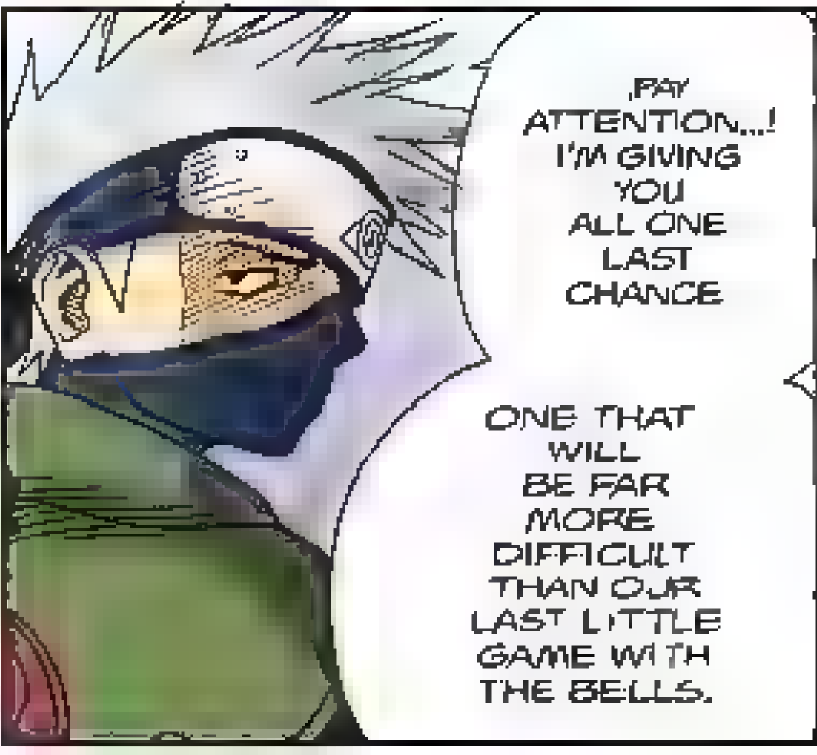
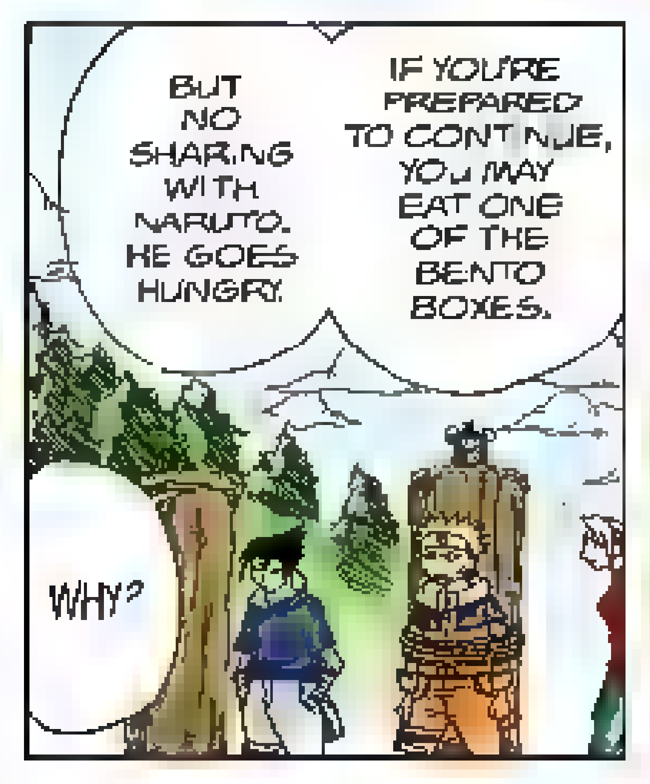
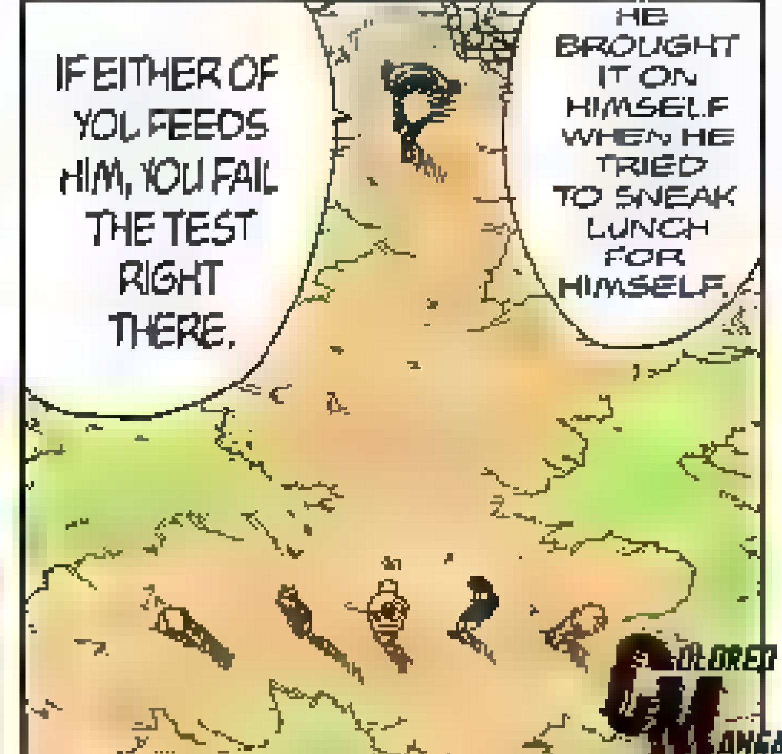
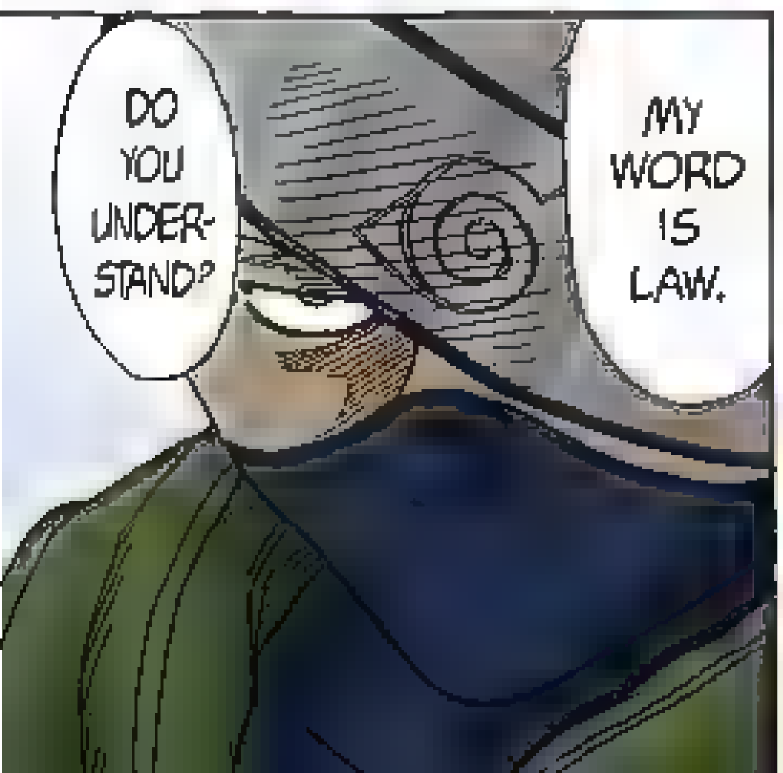


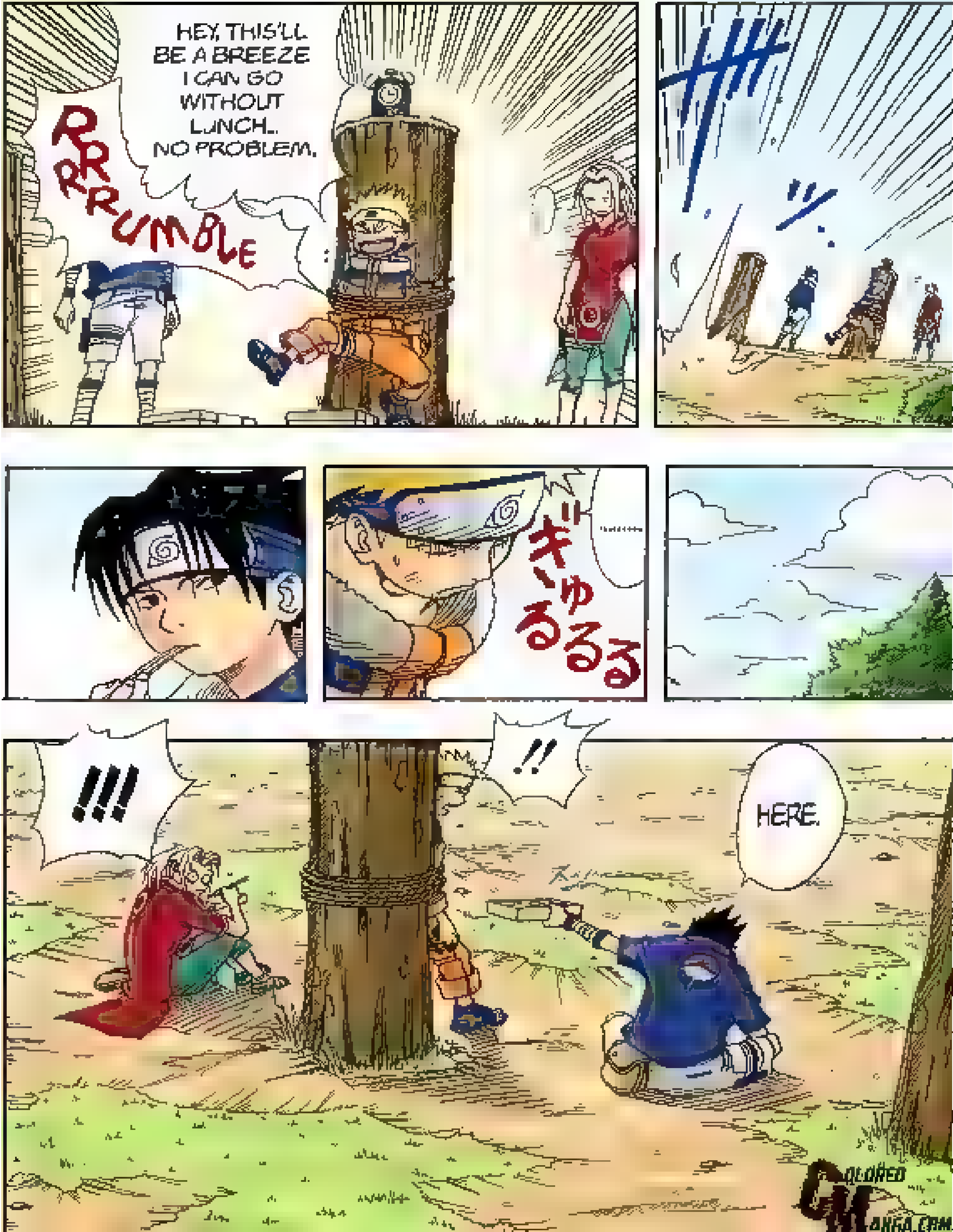


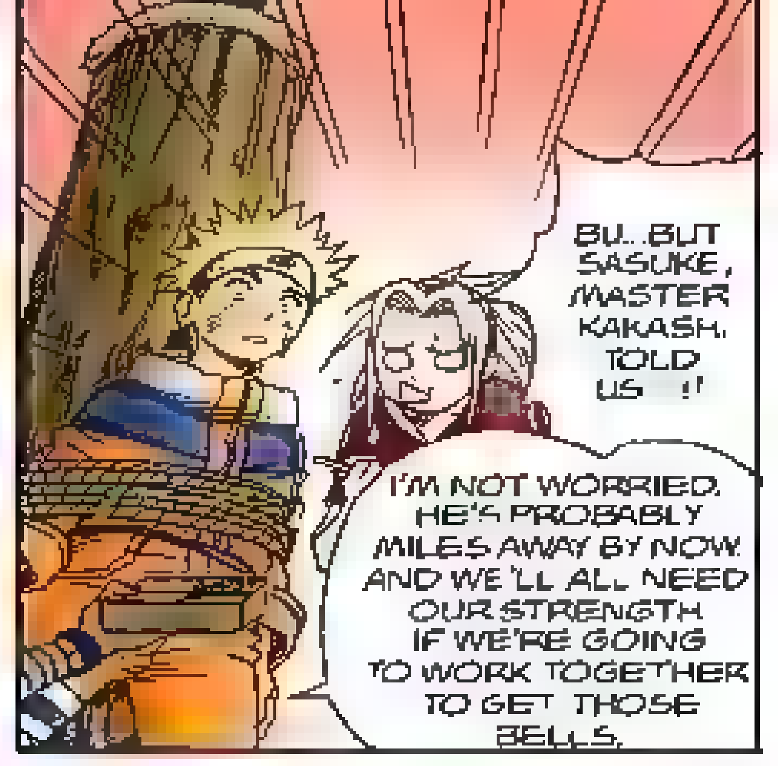




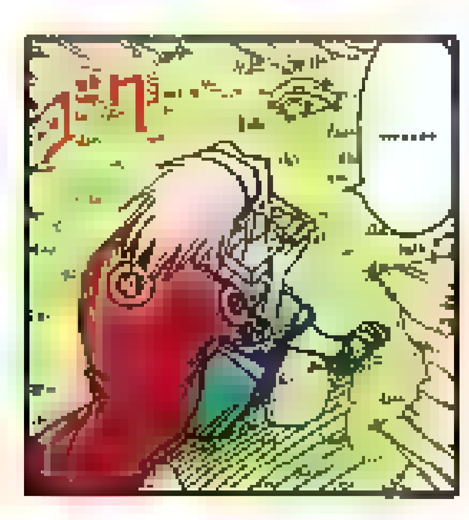
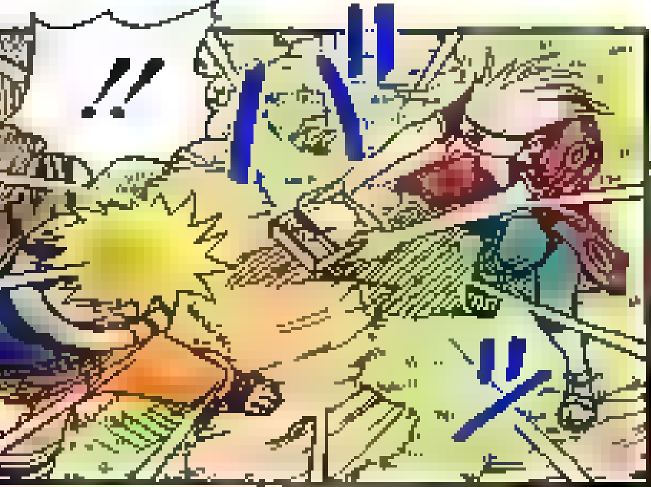
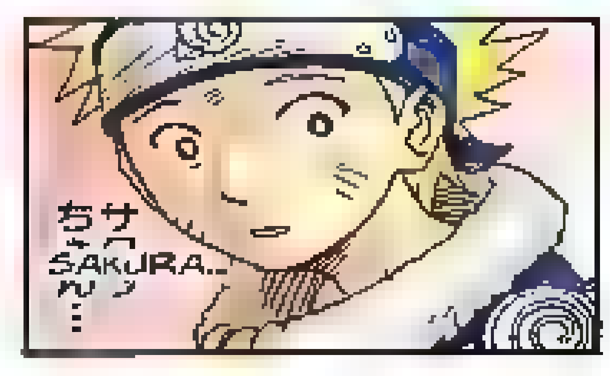
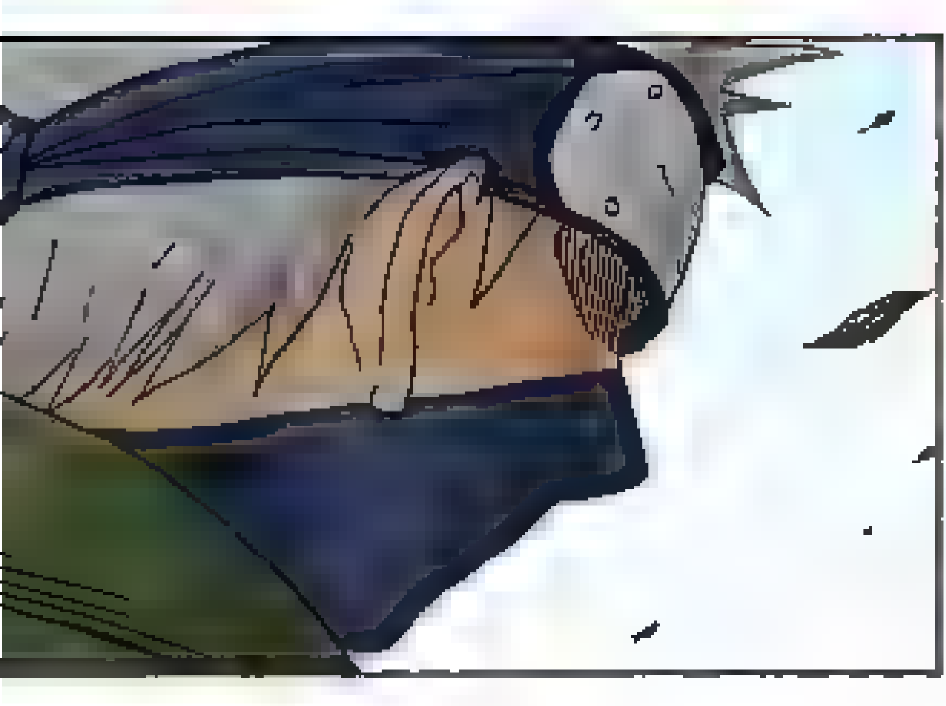
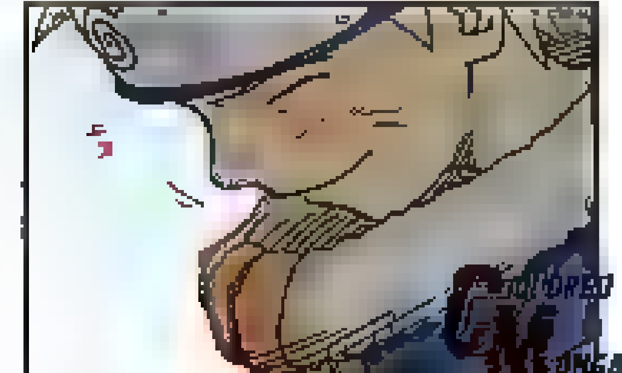


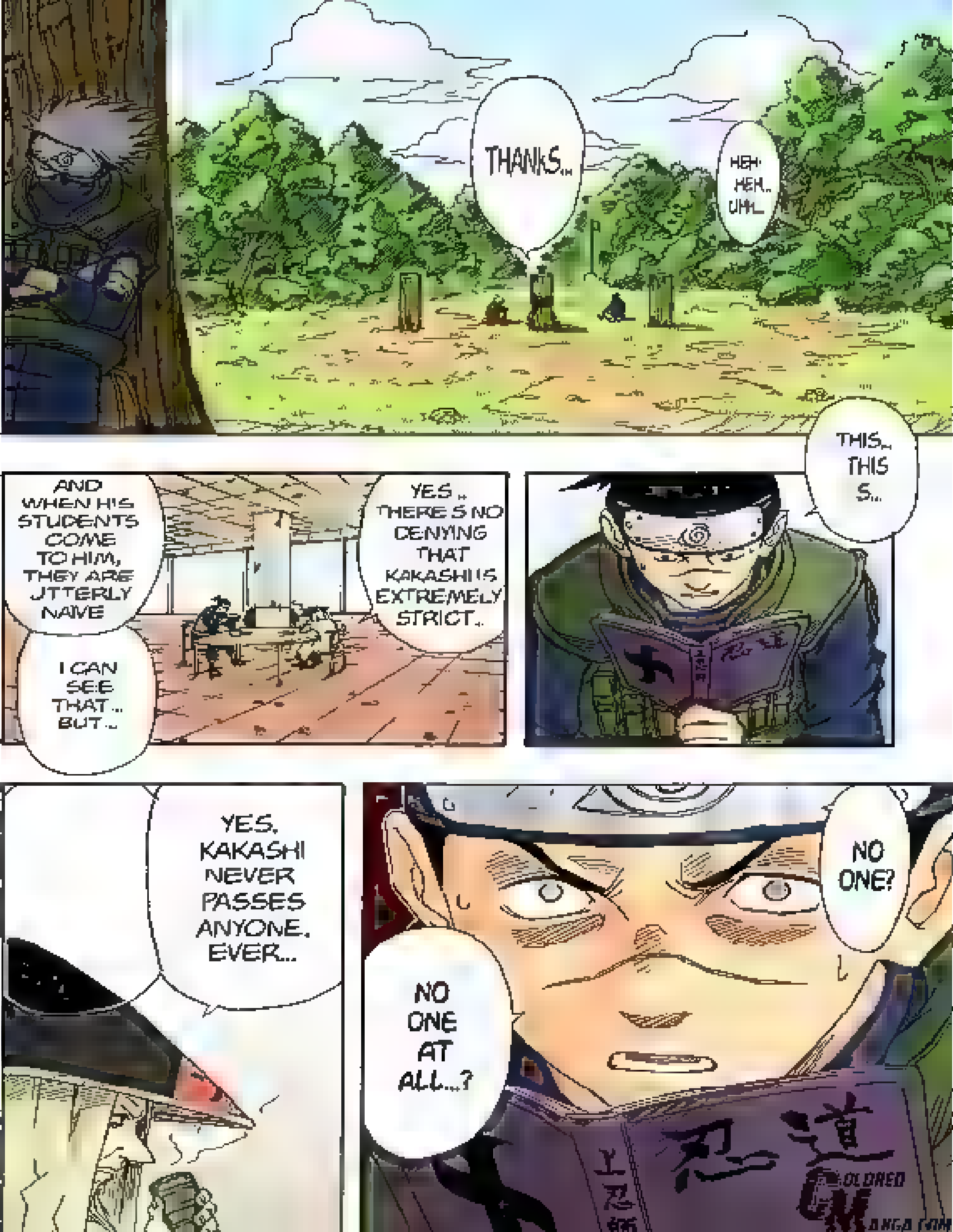


PAY ATTENTION...! I'M GIVING YOU ALL ONE LAST CHANCE
ONE THAT WILL BE FAR MORE DIFFICULT THAN OUR LAST LITTLE GAME WITH THE BELLS.

IF YOU'RE PREPARED TO CONTINUE, YOU MAY EAT ONE OF THE BENTO BOXES.
BUT NO SHARING WITH NARUTO. HE GOES HUNGRY.
WHY?

HE BROUGHT IT ON HIMSELF WHEN HE TRIED TO SNEAK LUNCH FOR HIMSELF.
IF EITHER OF YOU FEEDS HIM, YOU FAIL THE TEST RIGHT THERE.
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MY WORD IS LAW.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

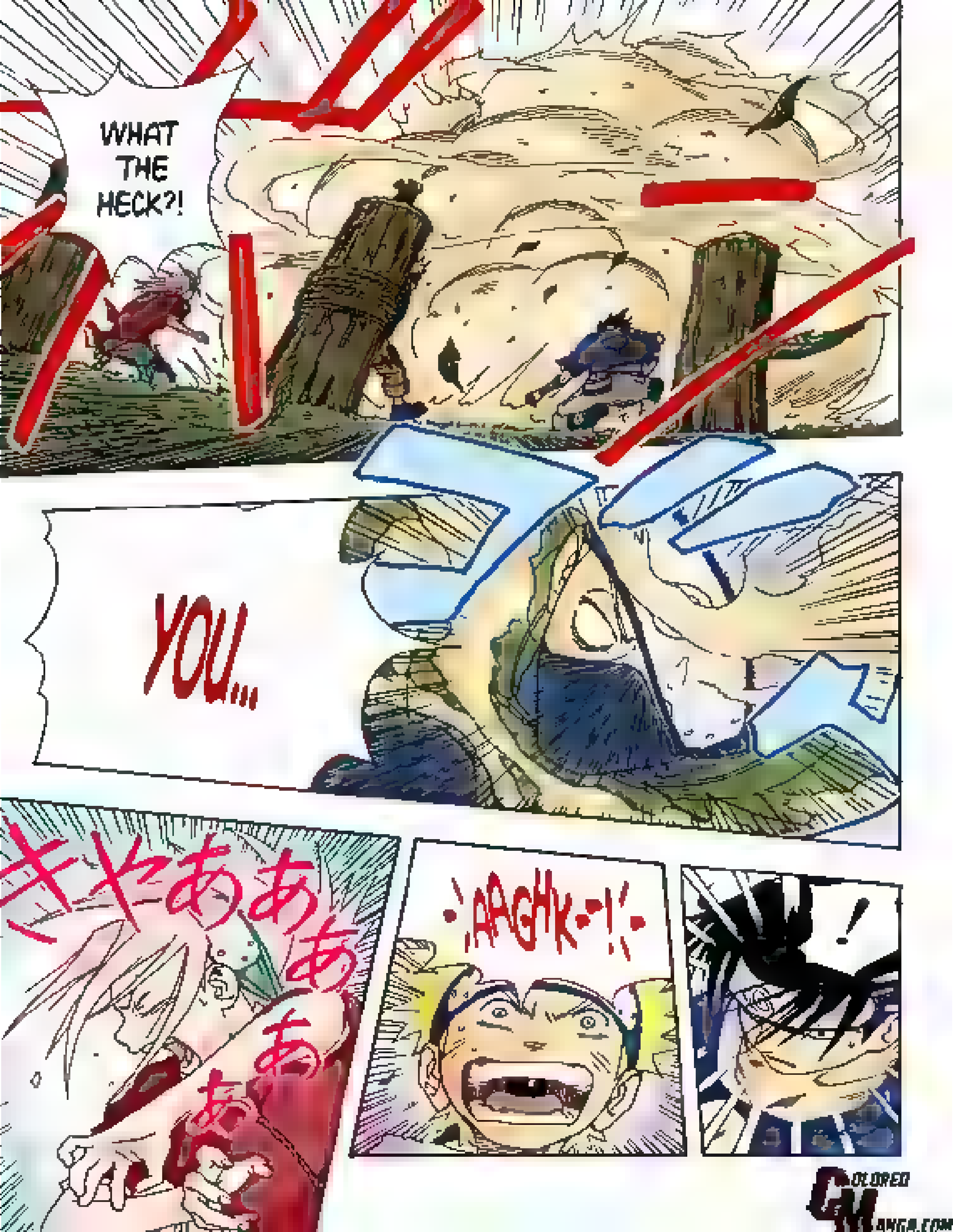

HEY, THIS'LL BE A BREEZE I CAN GO WITHOUT LUNCH.. NO PROBLEM.
RRRUMBLE
ぎゅるるる
!!!
!!
HERE.


BU...BUT SASUKE, MASTER KAKASHI TOLD US...!!
I'M NOT WORRIED. HE'S PROBABLY MILES AWAY BY NOW. AND WE'LL ALL NEED OUR STRENGTH IF WE'RE GOING TO WORK TOGETHER TO GET THOSE BELLS.

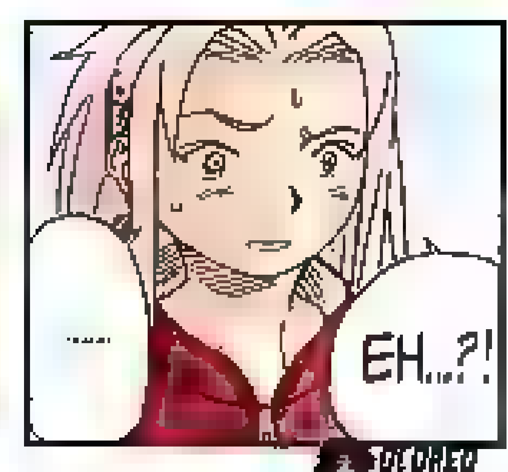
YOU'RE NO GOOD TO ME IF YOU'RE JUST GOING TO BE A LIABILITY

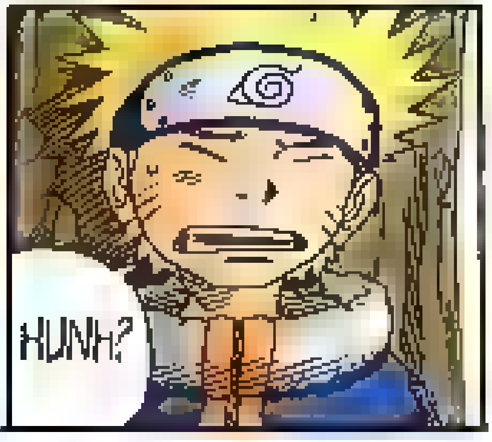

SASUKE...
.....

......

!!

SAKURA...




HEH HEH.. UHH..
THANKS..
THIS.. THIS IS..
YES.. THERE'S NO DENYING THAT KAKASHI IS EXTREMELY STRICT..
AND WHEN HIS STUDENTS COME TO HIM, THEY ARE UTTERLY NAIVE
I CAN SEE THAT... BUT...
NO ONE?
NO ONE AT ALL...?
YES, KAKASHI NEVER PASSES ANYONE, EVER...
忍道
COLORED GM MANGA.COM


WHAT THE HECK?!
YOU...
きゃあああああ
AAGHK--!
!
COLORED MANGA.COM

...PASS! ♡





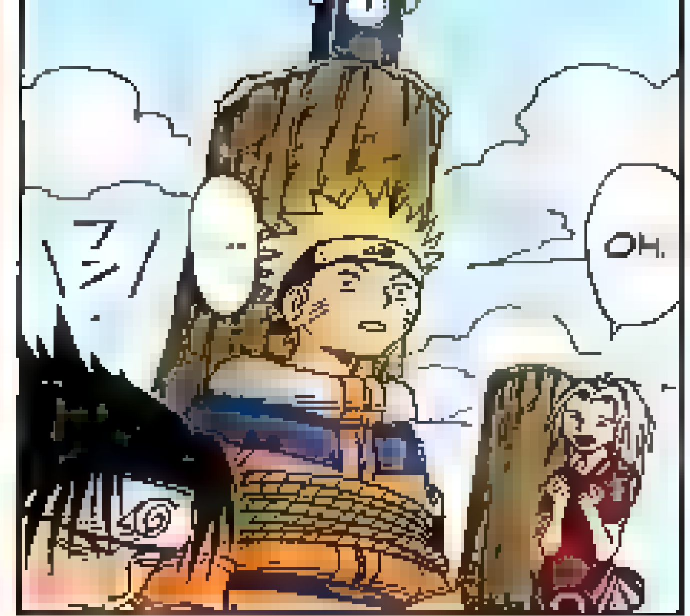


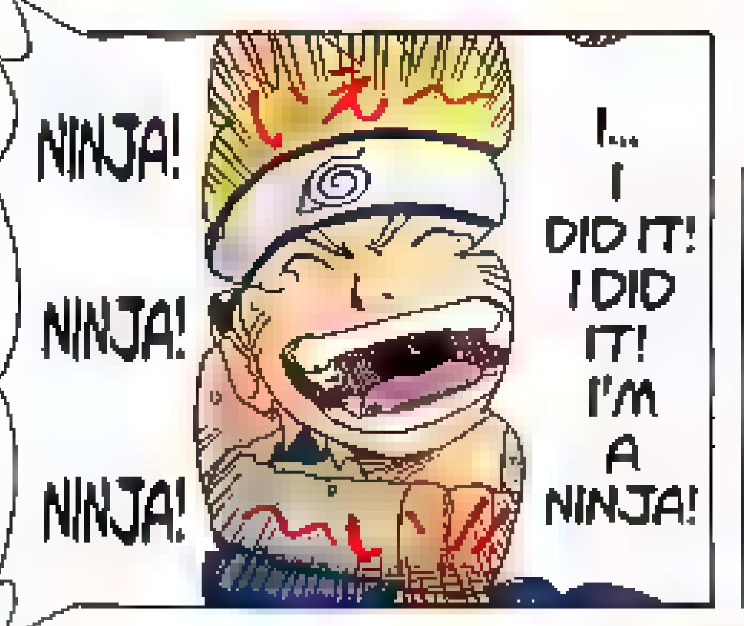

WINK!

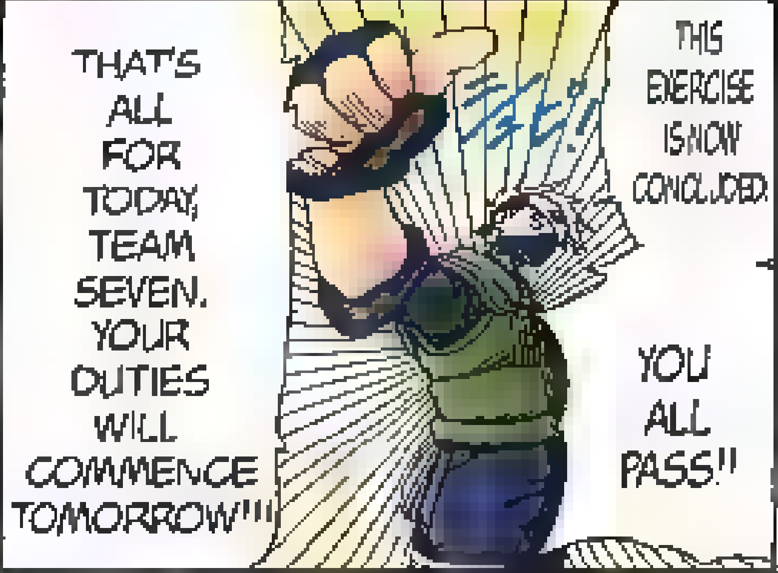


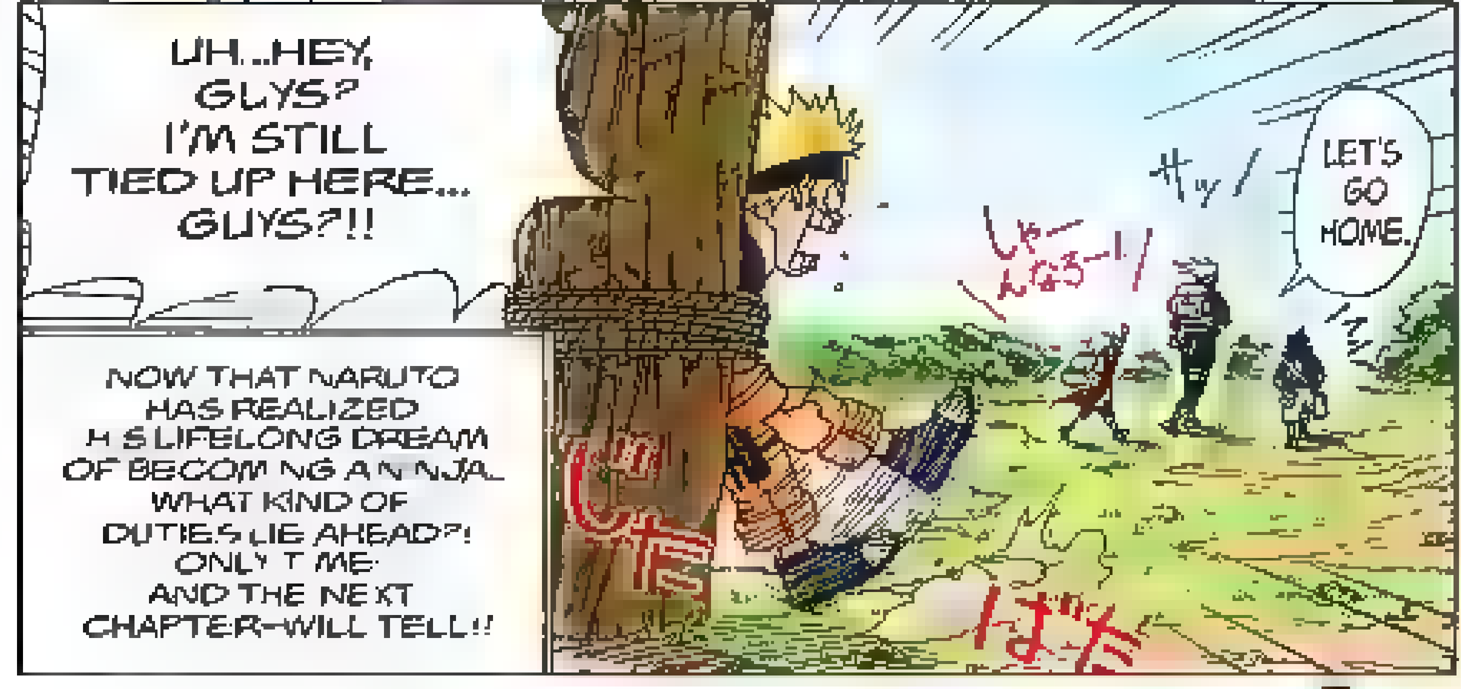
WE PASS!?
BUT... WHY?!
YOU THREE HAVE JUST TAKEN A GIANT STEP FORWARD.
UMMM.. HOW?
?
UP UNTIL NOW, ALL ANY OF YOU HAVE DONE IS LISTEN UNQUESTIONINGLY TO EVERYTHING I SAY...
...LIKE MINDLESS, LITTLE DRONES.
A TRUE SHINOBI SEEKS FOR THE HIDDEN MEANINGS WITHIN HIDDEN MEANINGS.
IN A NINJA'S WORLD, THOSE WHO VIOLATE THE RULES AND FAIL TO FOLLOW ORDERS...
...ARE LOWER THAN GARBAGE
HOWEVER..
...THOSE WHO DO NOT CARE FOR AND SUPPORT THEIR PRECIOUS COMRADES...
ARE EVEN LOWER THAN THAT!


THAT'S... KIND OF...
COOL!
BLUSH


OH.


I... I DID IT! I DID IT! I'M A NINJA!
NINJA!
NINJA!
NINJA!


THIS EXERCISE IS NOW CONCLUDED.
YOU ALL PASS!!
THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY, TEAM SEVEN. YOUR DUTIES WILL COMMENCE TOMORROW!!!


LET'S GO HOME.
UH...HEY, GUYS? I'M STILL TIED UP HERE... GUYS?!!
NOW THAT NARUTO HAS REALIZED HIS LIFELONG DREAM OF BECOMING A NINJA, WHAT KIND OF DUTIES LIE AHEAD?! ONLY TIME AND THE NEXT CHAPTER--WILL TELL!!


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THE MAKING OF NARUTO:

KONOHAMARU & EBISU

These were my first sketches of Konohamaru and his teacher, Ebisu (see **Naruto** Vol. 1). I remember really struggling with Konohamaru's design. He was supposed to be a little punk, smaller than Naruto, but he kept coming out looking like Naruto no matter what I tried. I tried drawing a big-eyed kid but this didn't work either. It always turned out like a face I'd seen somewhere before. Eventually, I drew an angry-looking face with small eyes, and somehow I knew I'd found it!

At that point I decided that Ebisu would look like the sketch above. I like Ebisu's design because he's like me, somehow...

5：最悪の依頼人

THE WORST CLIENT







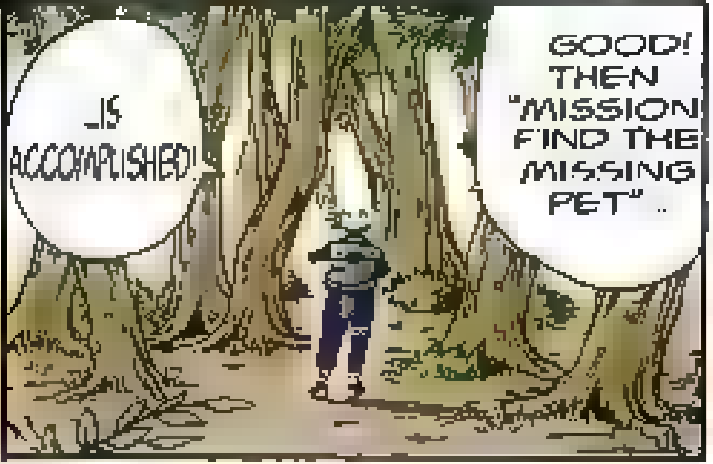


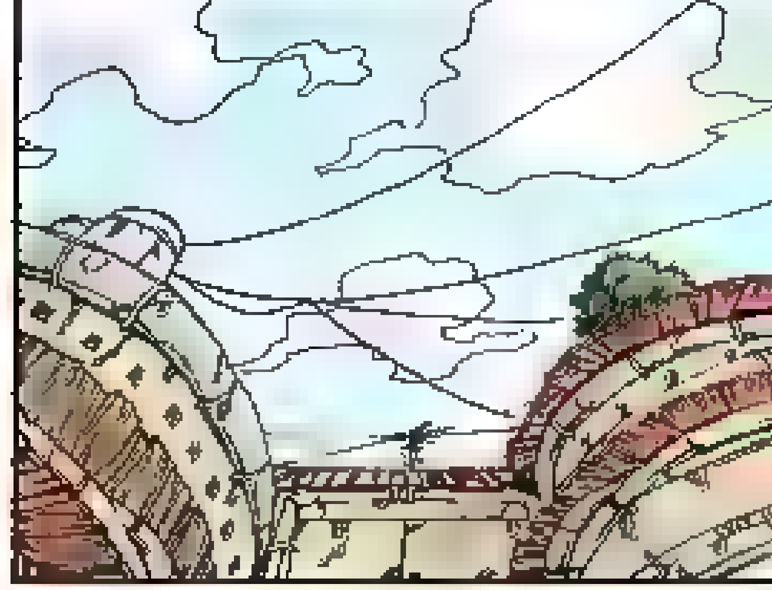

HOW FAR AWAY IS THE TARGET?
FIVE METERS AND CLOSING SO, HOW MUCH LONGER ARE WE GONNA WAIT?!
I'M IN POSITION.
SO AM I.
ALL RIGHT!
GO!
HAI-YAAAAH!
!!!

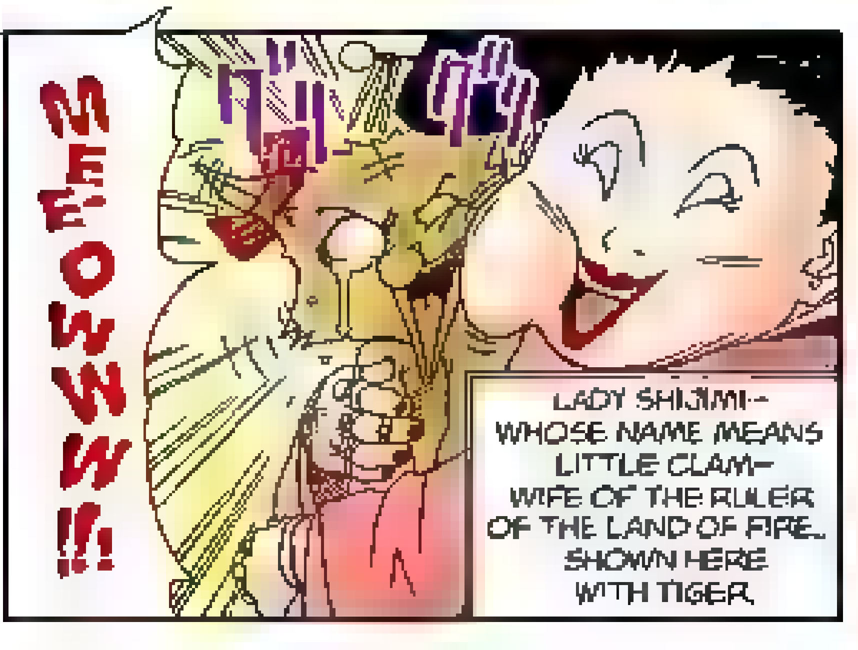
GOTCHA!!!

MEEE-OOOW!!!











POOR TIGER. GOOD LITTLE KITTY KITTY.. WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU, COULD HAVE DIED!

OH, MAN!!! WHAT A NIGHTMARE. HOW DOES THAT POOR, DUMB CAT PUT UP WITH IT?

WITH THAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO AT HOME, CAN YOU BLAME HIM FOR RUNNING AWAY?

任務受付はこちらまで



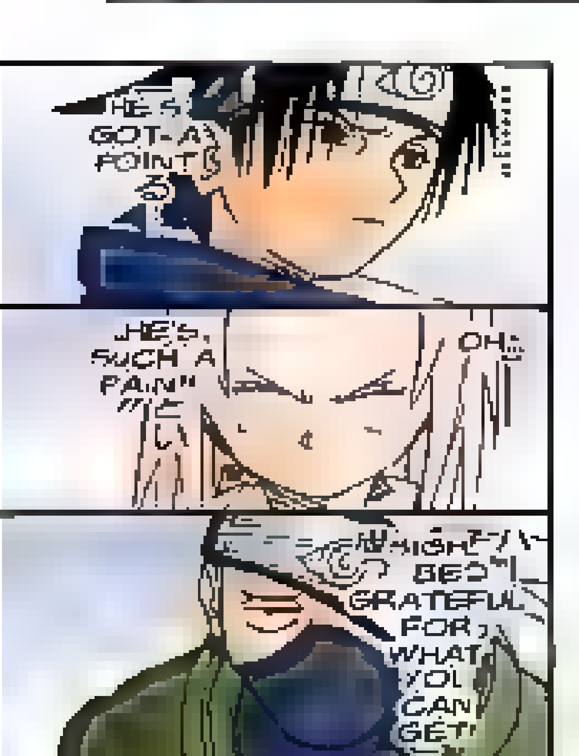
HMM.. TO BABY-SIT FOR THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS.

TO RUN ERRANDS TO THE NEIGHBORING VILLAGE.

TO HELP DIG SWEET POTATOES.



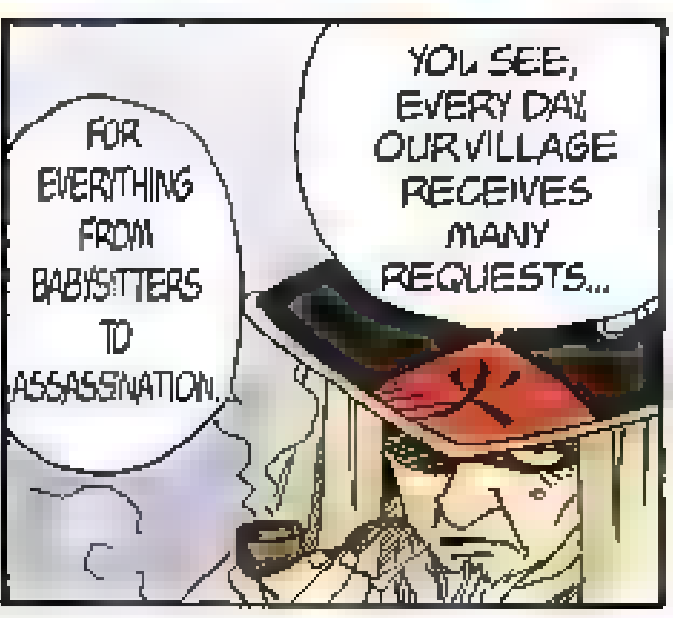


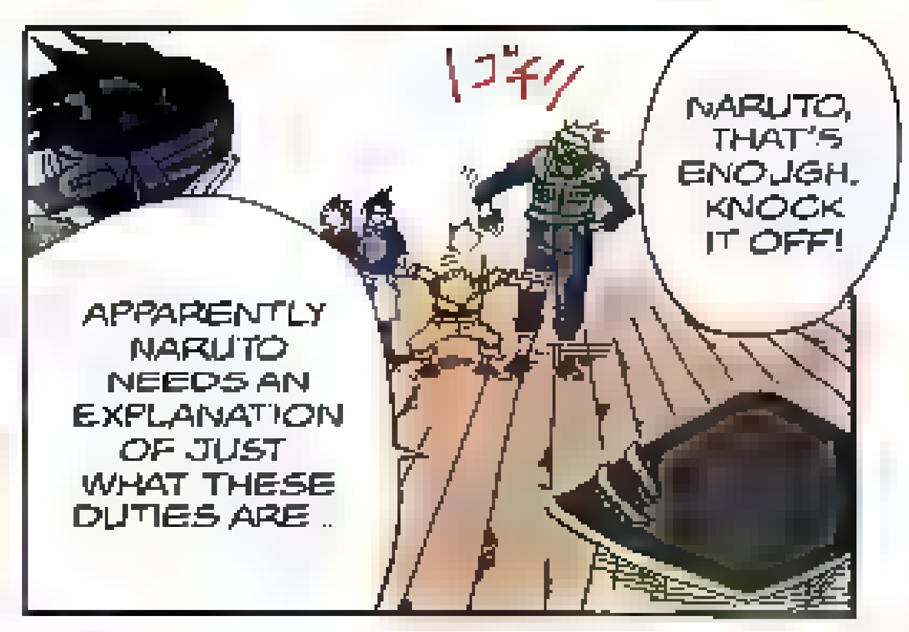





WE'VE DONE TONS OF SMALL STUFF. CAN'T WE GET SOME ACTION?!!


DON'T BE A FOOL--!! YOU'RE ONLY A BEGINNER!
EVERYONE STARTS OUT DOING GRUNT WORK. IT'S WHERE YOU GET EXPERIENCE, SO YOU CAN WORK YOUR WAY UP TO THE BIGGER THINGS.
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ガタ


YOU SEE, EVERY DAY, OUR VILLAGE RECEIVES MANY REQUESTS...
FOR EVERYTHING FROM BABYSITTERS TO ASSASSINATION.

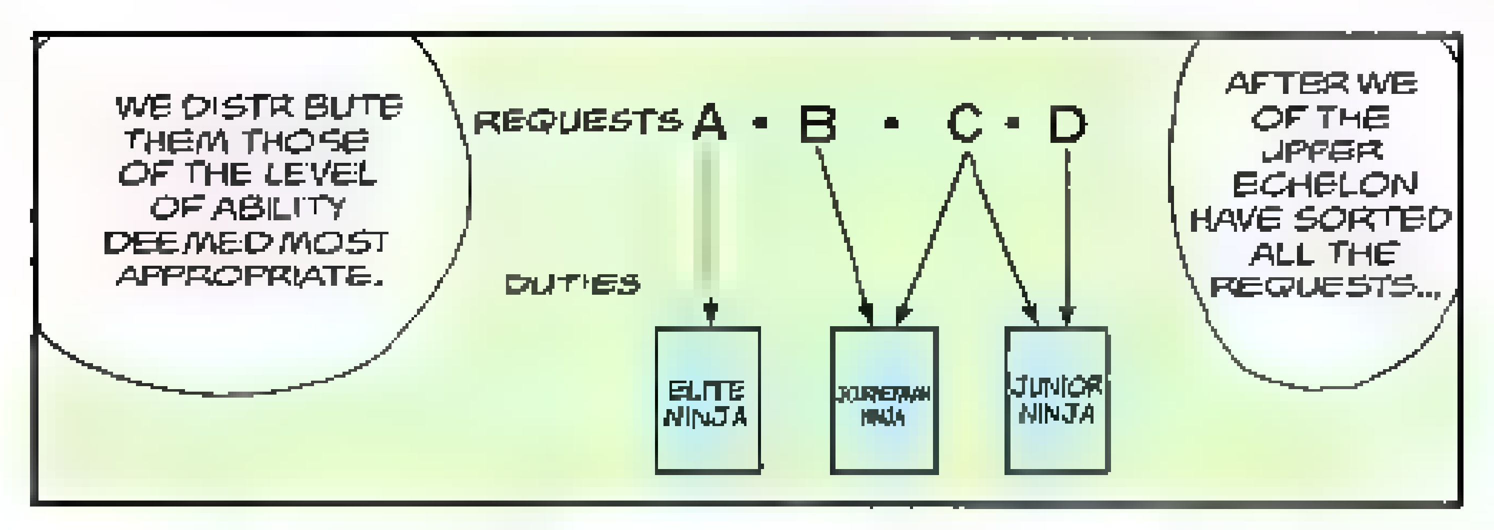

ゴチッ
NARUTO, THAT'S ENOUGH. KNOCK IT OFF!
APPARENTLY NARUTO NEEDS AN EXPLANATION OF JUST WHAT THESE DUTIES ARE...

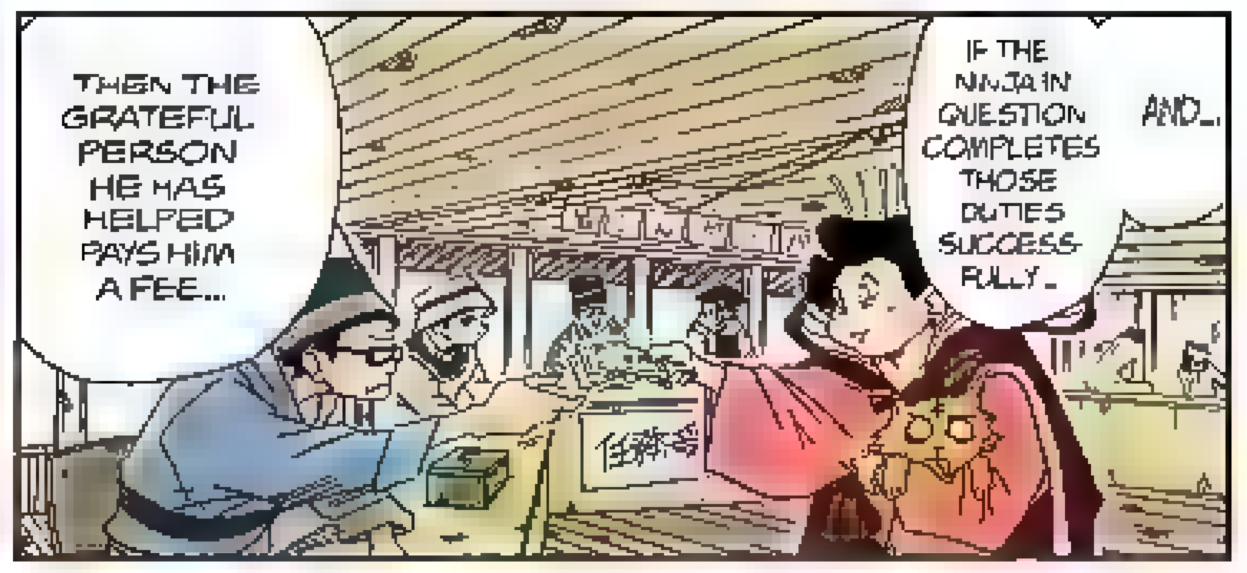

WE TAKE THAT TREMENDOUS VARIETY...
...AND SORT THEM INTO CATEGORIES FROM A TO D, BASED ON THE DEGREE OF SKILL THEY REQUIRE
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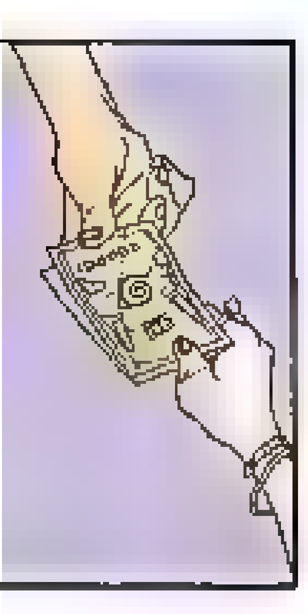
WE HAVE ALSO DIVIDED THE SHINOBI INTO CLASSES...

...BASED ON THE LEVEL OF THEIR SKILLS.

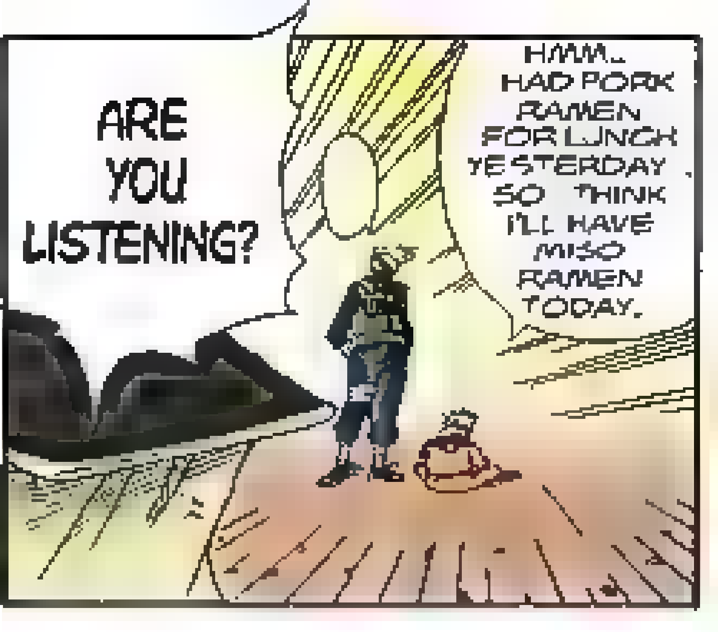
HOKAGE THE THIRD	HOKAGE	LEADER
KAKASHI	JONIN	ELITE NINJA
IRUKA	CHUNIN	JOURNEYMAN NINJA
NARUTO SASUKE SAKURA	GENIN	JUNIOR NINJA
	NINJA ACADEMY	CADETS

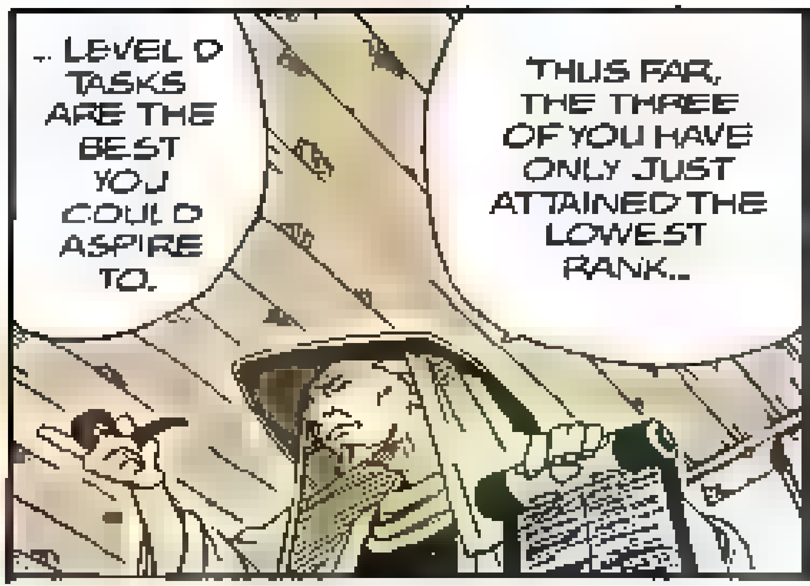


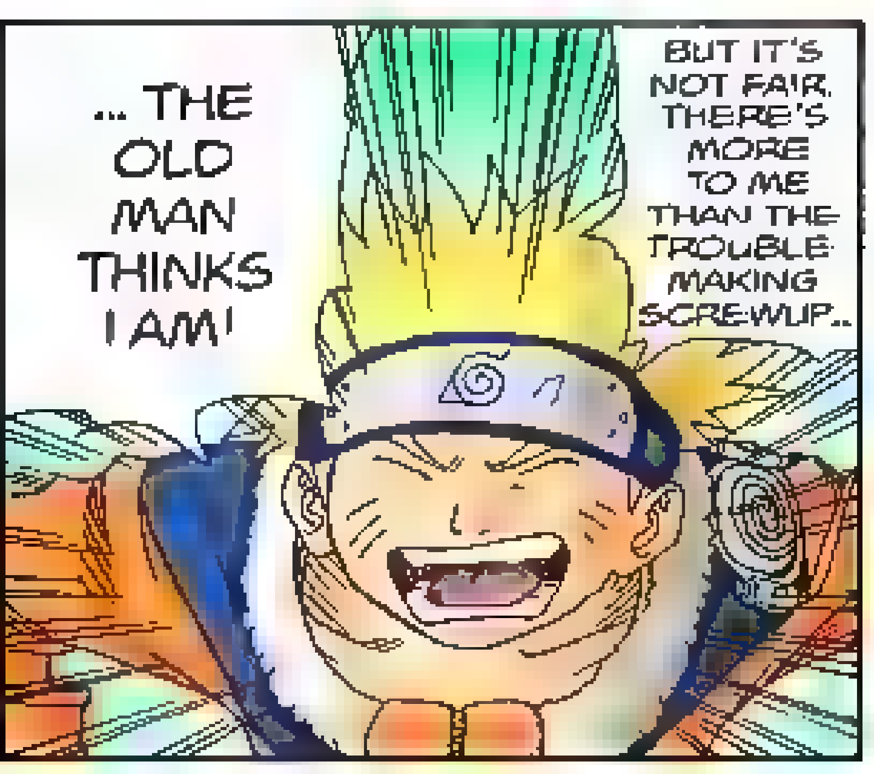


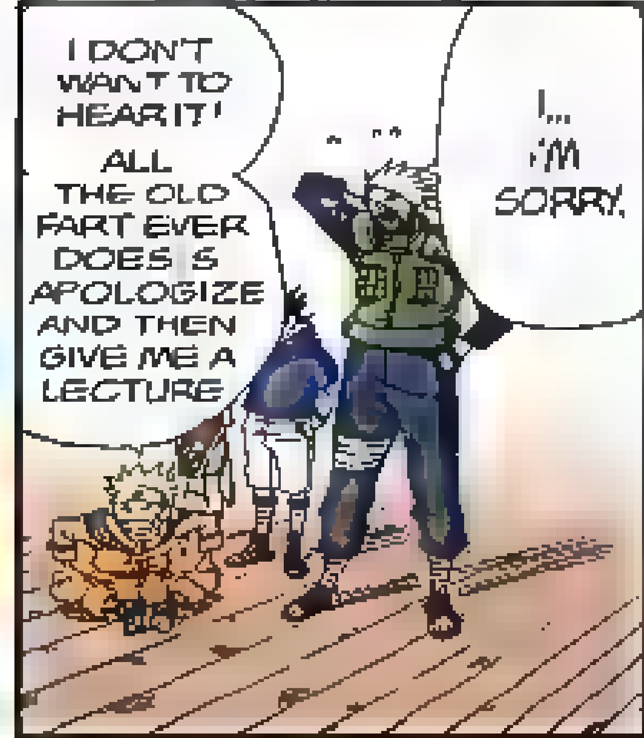





ARE YOU LISTENING?
HMM... HAD PORK RAMEN FOR LUNCH YESTERDAY SO THINK I'LL HAVE MISO RAMEN TODAY.


THUS FAR, THE THREE OF YOU HAVE ONLY JUST ATTAINED THE LOWEST RANK...
...LEVEL D TASKS ARE THE BEST YOU COULD ASPIRE TO.

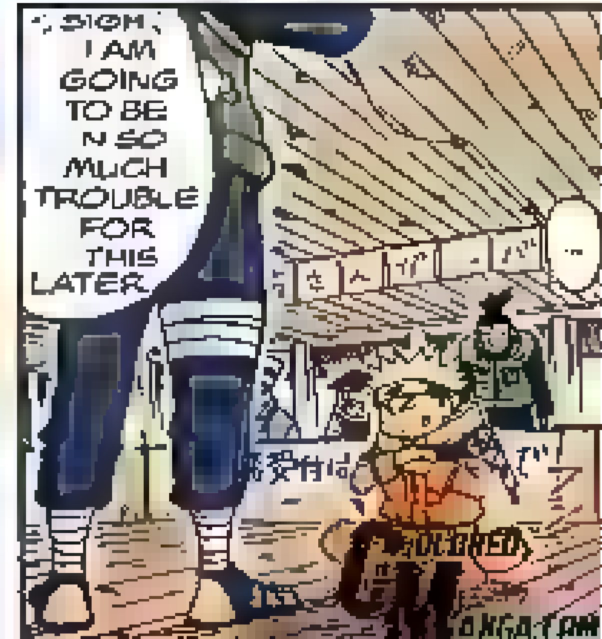

BUT IT'S NOT FAIR. THERE'S MORE TO ME THAN THE TROUBLE-MAKING SCREWUP...
... THE OLD MAN THINKS I AM!


I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!
ALL THE OLD FART EVER DOES IS APOLOGIZE AND THEN GIVE ME A LECTURE
I... I'M SORRY.

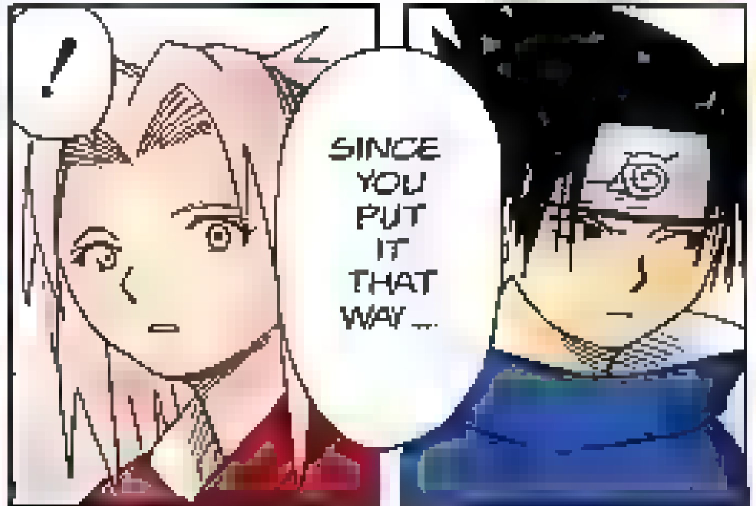


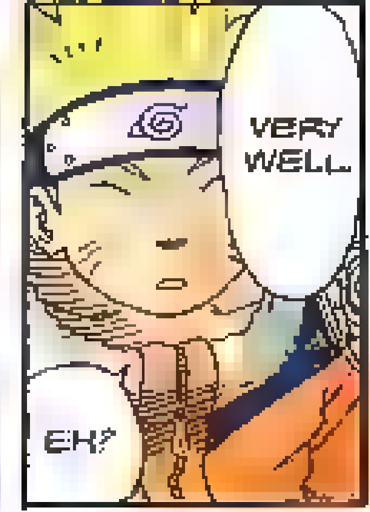

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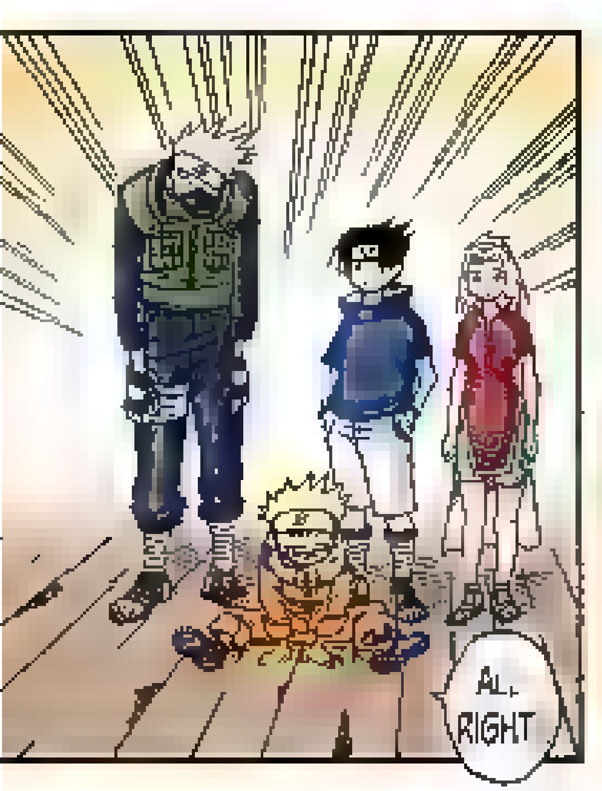


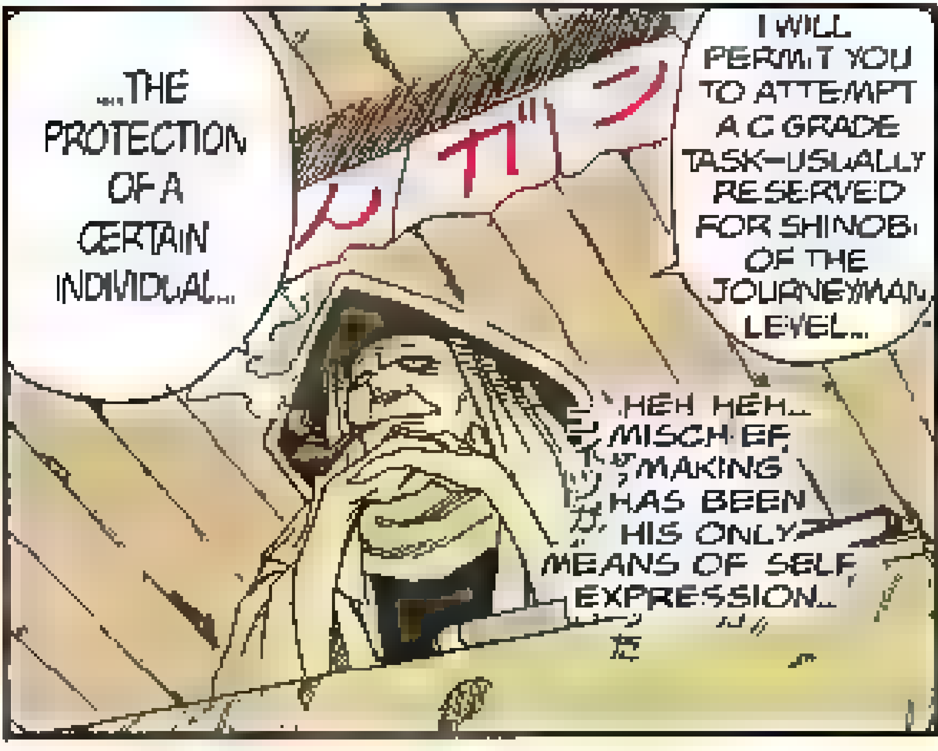

SIGH I AM GOING TO BE IN SO MUCH TROUBLE FOR THIS LATER.
...


!


!
SINCE YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...

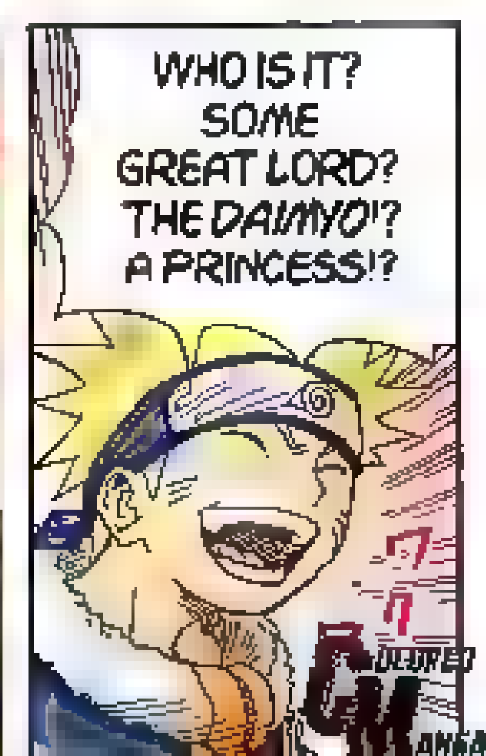

VERY WELL...
EH?


ALL RIGHT


I WILL PERMIT YOU TO ATTEMPT A C GRADE TASK–USUALLY RESERVED FOR SHINOBI OF THE JOURNEYMAN LEVEL...
...THE PROTECTION OF A CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL...
HEH HEH... MISCHIEF MAKING HAS BEEN HIS ONLY MEANS OF SELF EXPRESSION...

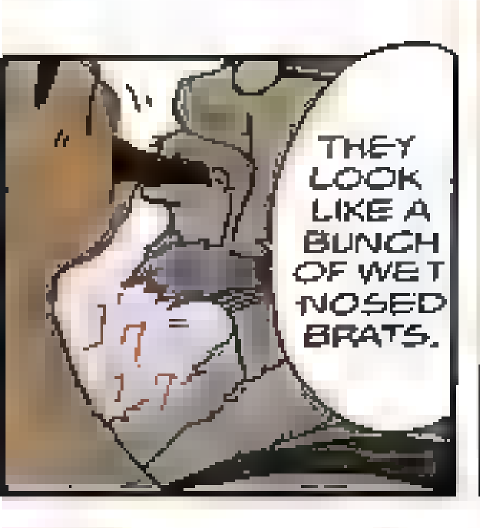

PLEASE INVITE HIM IN...


COMPOSE YOURSELF. I'LL PERFORM THE INTRODUCTIONS STRAIGHTAWAY.


WHO IS IT? SOME GREAT LORD? THE *DAIMYO*!? A PRINCESS!?







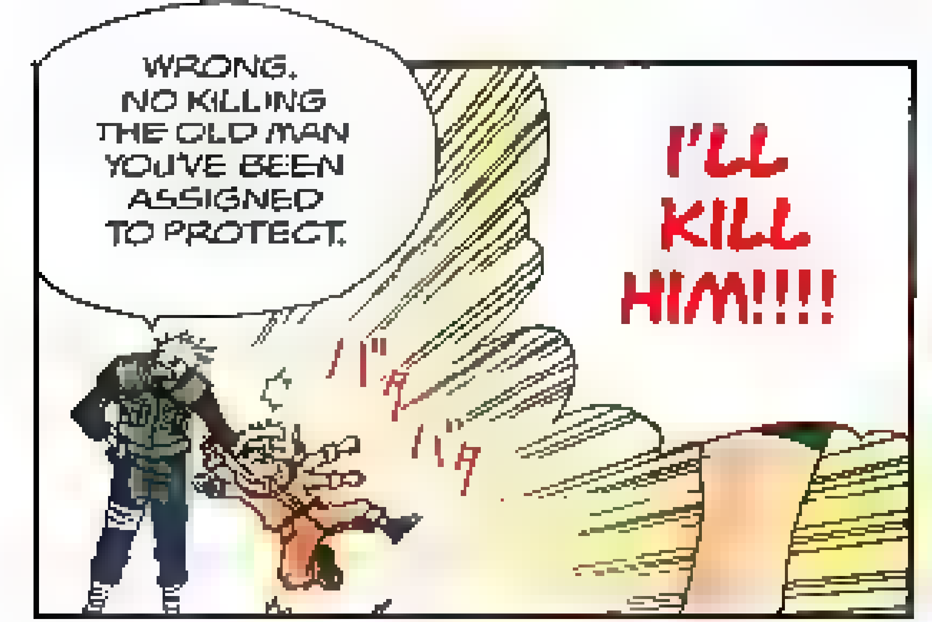
ESPECIALLY...

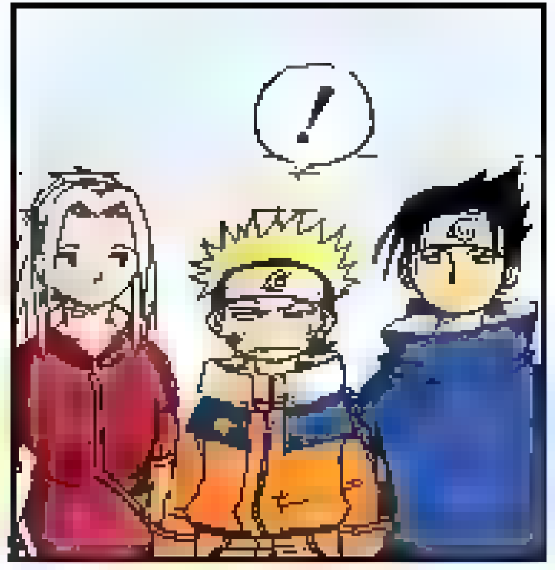
THE MIDGET. HE'S GOT THE FACE OF AN IMBECILE

IT'S A JOKE RIGHT? YOU KIDS AREN'T REALLY NINJA, ARE YOU?

HA-HA!

WHO'D YOU MEAN? WHICH MIDGET? WHICH IMBECI .

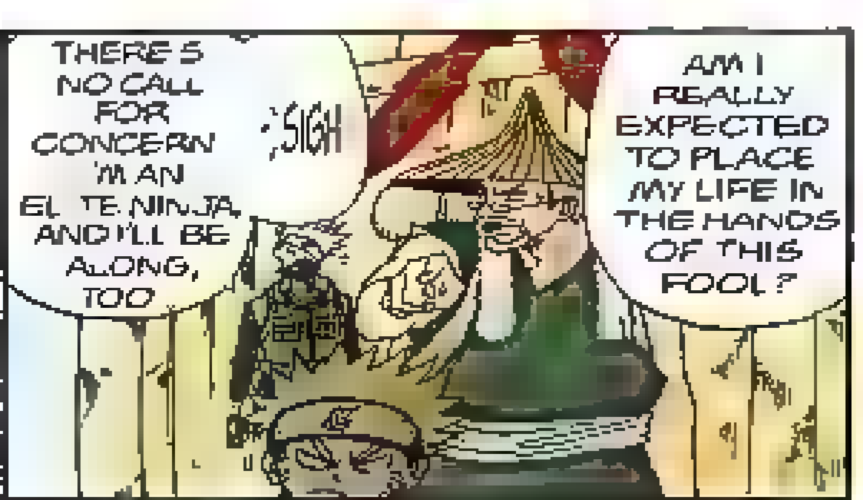

I'LL KILL HIM!!!!
WRONG. NO KILLING THE OLD MAN YOU'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO PROTECT.

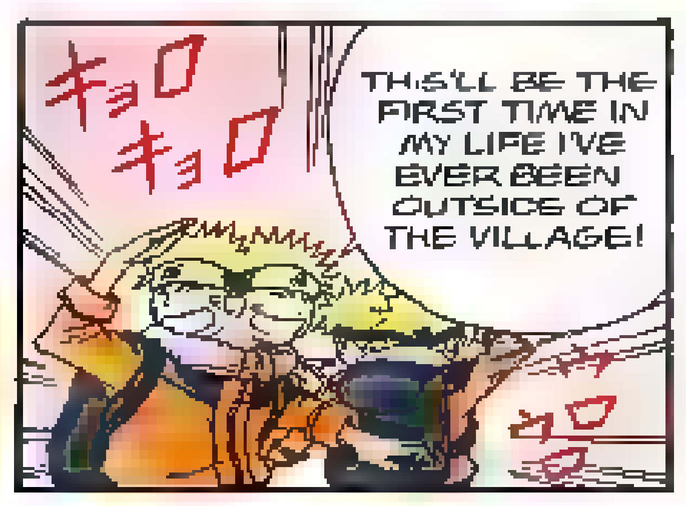

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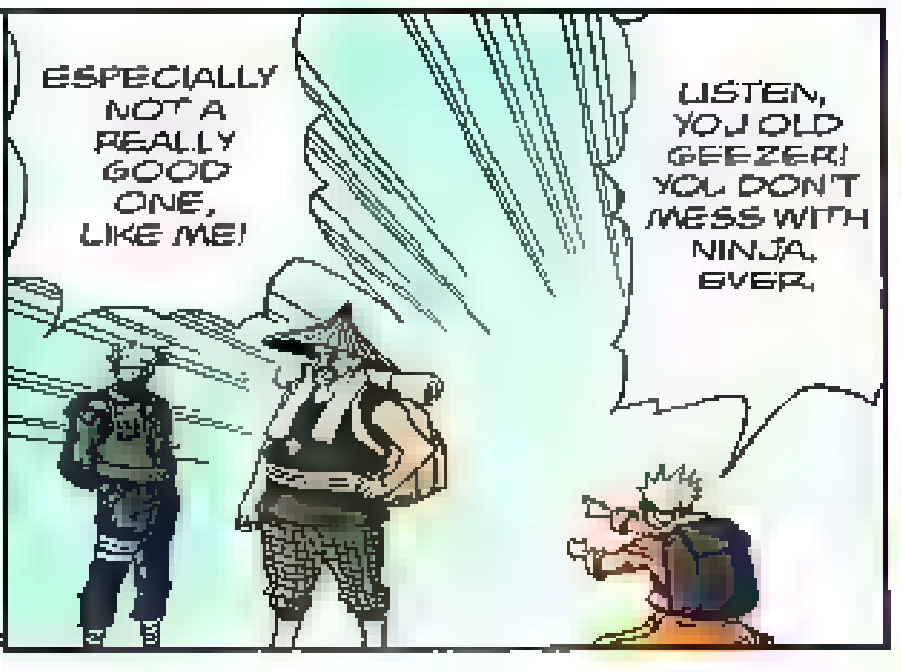

I AM TAZUNA,
A BRIDGE BUILDER OF ULTIMATE RENOWN..
UNTIL I AM SAFELY BACK IN MY OWN COUNTRY, WHERE I'LL BE COMPLETING MY NEXT BRIDGE, YOU'LL ALL BE EXPECTED TO PROTECT ME EVEN IF IT COSTS YOU YOUR LIVES.

ALL RIGHT! ROAD TRIP!!

WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?

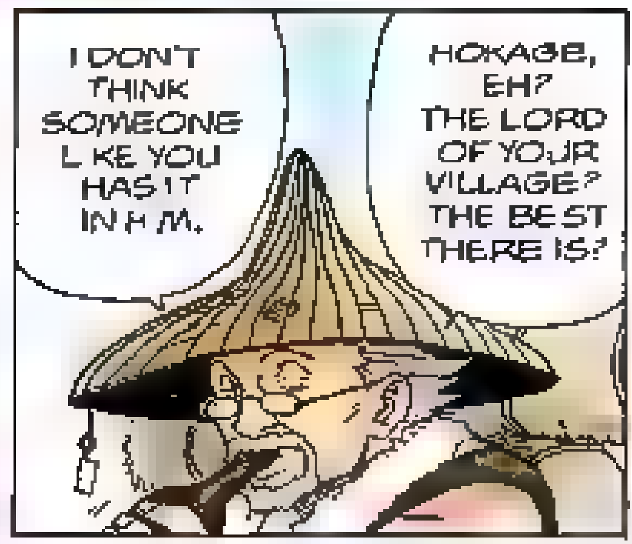


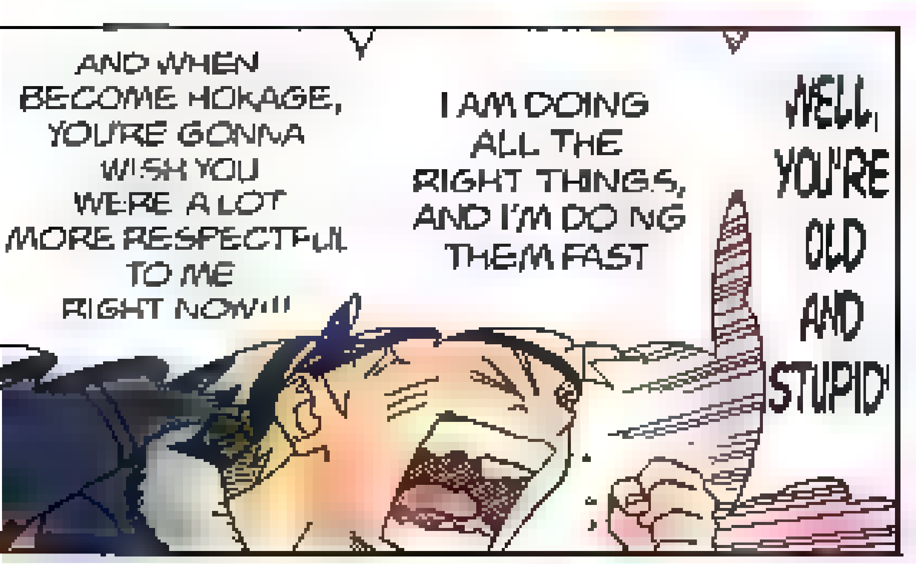


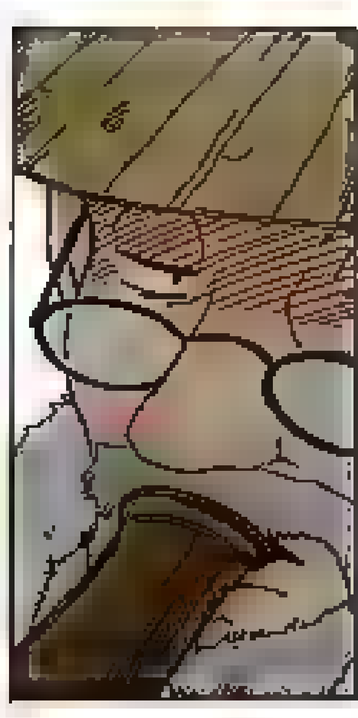


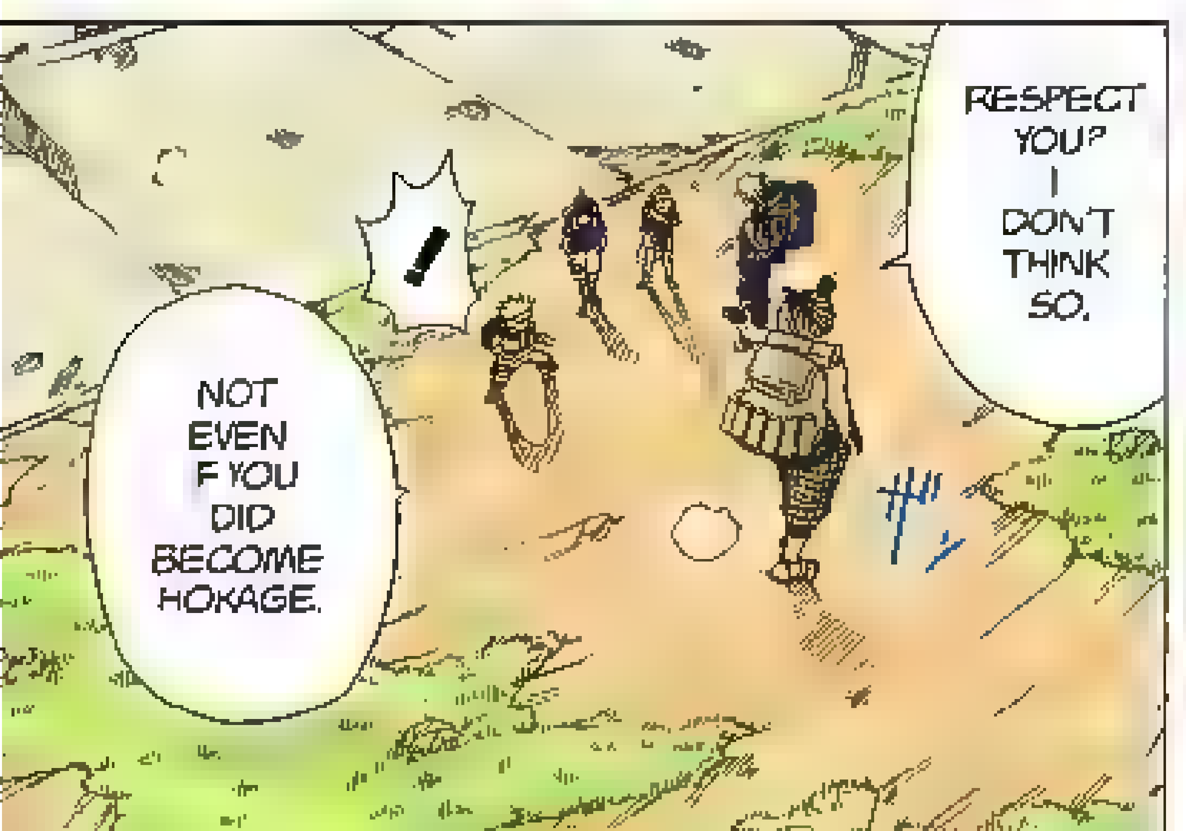



I AM THE CREAM OF THE ELITE. IN FACT, ONE DAY I'M GONNA BE THE NEXT LORD HOKAGE! SO REMEMBER MY NAME.
IT'S UZUMAKI NARUTO.

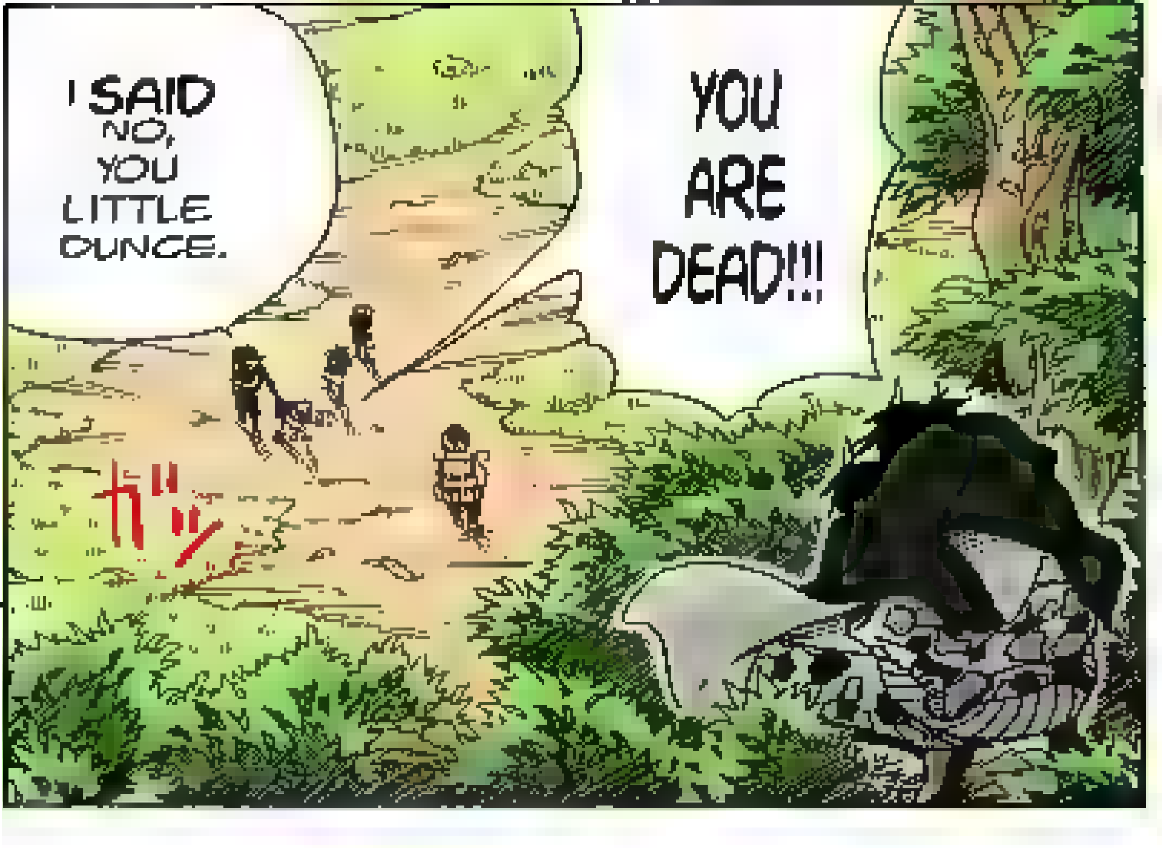

HOKAGE, EH? THE LORD OF YOUR VILLAGE? THE BEST THERE IS?
I DON'T THINK SOMEONE LIKE YOU HAS IT IN HIM.

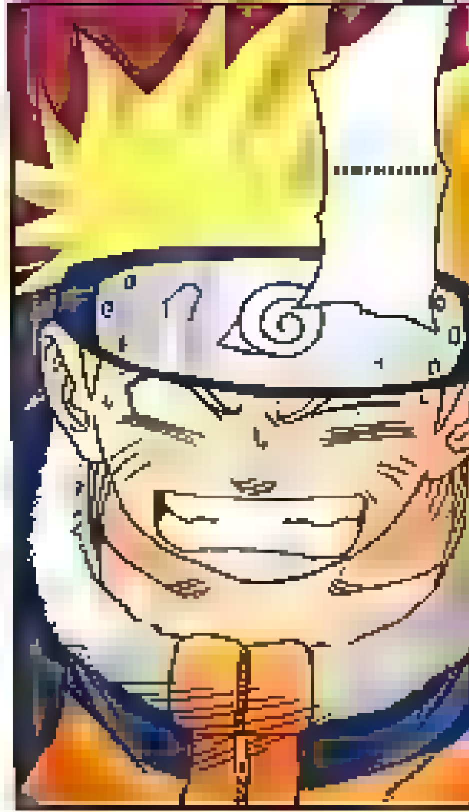

WELL, YOU'RE OLD AND STUPID!
I AM DOING ALL THE RIGHT THINGS, AND I'M DOING THEM FAST
AND WHEN BECOME HOKAGE, YOU'RE GONNA WISH YOU WERE A LOT MORE RESPECTFUL TO ME RIGHT NOW!!!



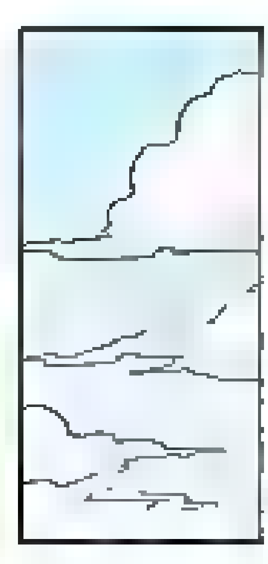

RESPECT YOU? I DON'T THINK SO.
NOT EVEN IF YOU DID BECOME HOKAGE.

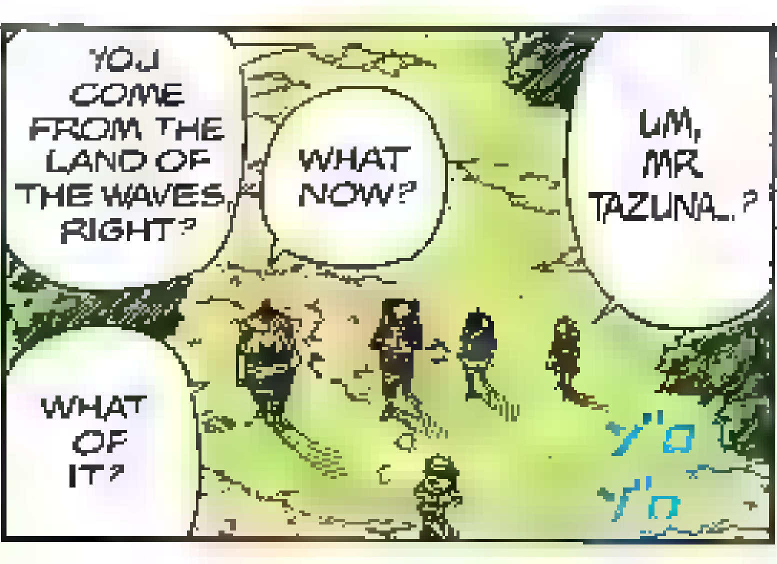

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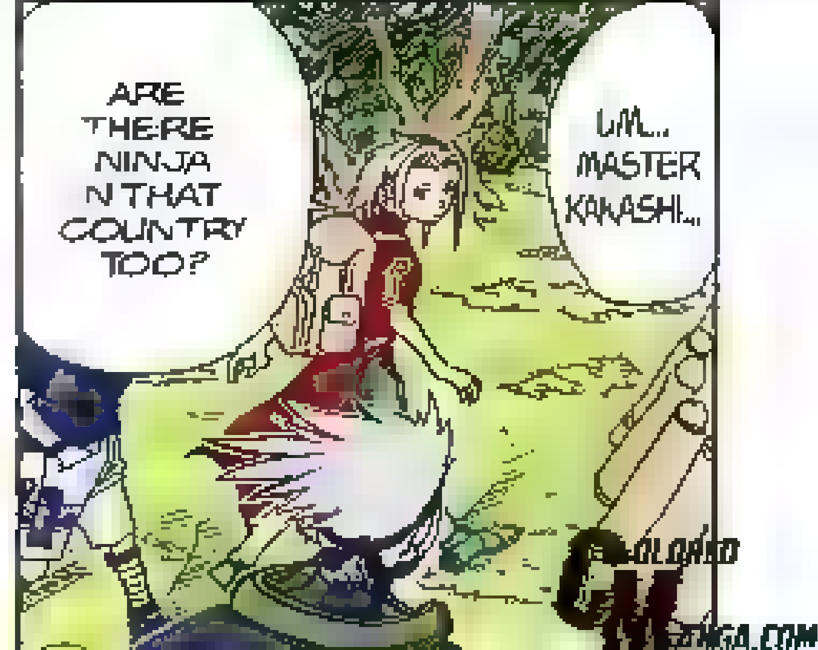

YOU ARE DEAD!!!
I SAID NO, YOU LITTLE DUNCE.
ガッ








UM, MR. TAZUNA...?
WHAT NOW?
YOU COME FROM THE LAND OF THE WAVES, RIGHT?
WHAT OF IT?
ゾロ
ゾロ


UM... MASTER KAKASHI...
ARE THERE NINJA IN THAT COUNTRY TOO?


NO. NOT IN THE LAND OF THE WAVES.
BUT AS A GENERAL RULE, EVEN WITH ALL THE DIFFERENCES THAT EXIST IN LOCAL CUSTOMS AND CULTURES.
...MOST OTHER LANDS HAVE THEIR OWN HIDDEN VILLAGE WHERE A NINJA CLAN RESIDES.

IWA NO KUNI
THE LAND
OF STONES

KUMO NO
KUNI
THE LAND
OF CLOUDS

HI NO KUNI
THE LAND
OF FIRE

MIZU NO
KUNI
THE LAND
OF WATER

SUNA NO
KUNI
THE LAND
OF SAND

MASTER KAKASHI'S BIG SCROLL OF SHINOBI
THE FIVE PRINCIPAL SHINOBI TERRITORIES

THE FIVE LANDS

KONOHA NO KUNI
KONOHAGAKURE NO SATO
VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE LEAVES
THE FIRE SHADOW

KIRI NO KUNI
KIRIGAKURE NO SATO
VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE MIST
THE WATER SHADOW

KUMO NO KUNI
KUMOGAKURE NO SATO
VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE CLOUDS
THE LIGHTNING SHADOW

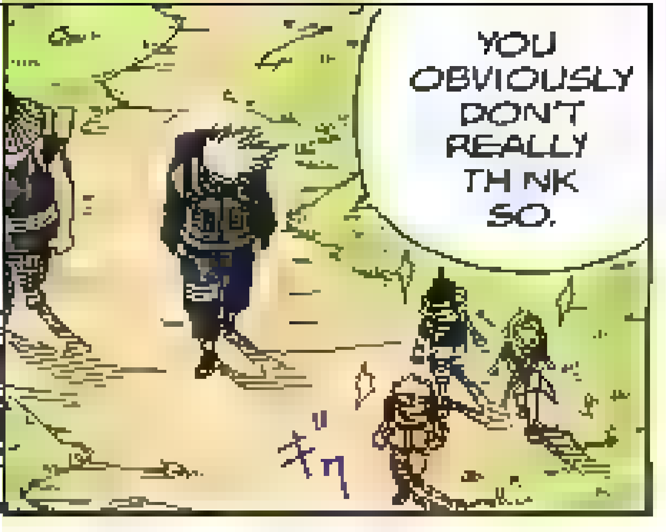
SUNA NO KUNI
SUNAGAKURE NO SATO
VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE SAND
THE WIND SHADOW

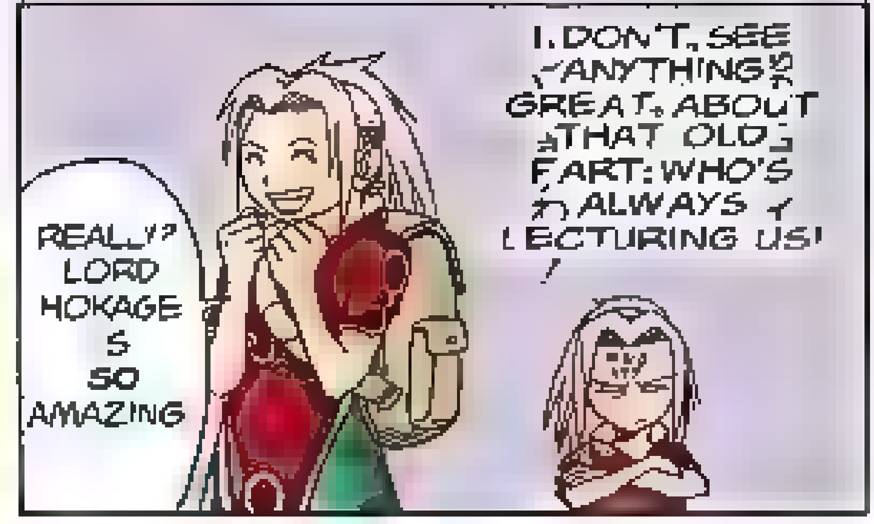
IWA NO KUNI
IWAGAKURE NO SATO
VILLAGE HIDDEN AMONG THE STONES
THE EARTH SHADOW

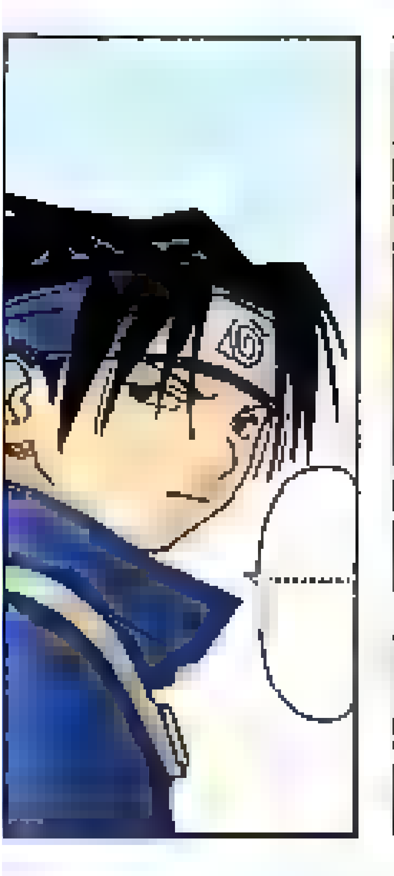
FOR MOST OF THE COUNTRIES ON THIS CONTINENT, THE NINJA VILLAGES SERVE AS THE MILITARY FORCE. THEY PROTECT THEIR OWN PEOPLE AND HANDLE THE ONGOING RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. YET, THE VILLAGES DO NOT ANSWER TO THE RULERS OF THEIR NATIVE COUNTRIES. INSTEAD, THEY ARE ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH THE GOVERNMENT. IN THE CASE OF VERY SMALL ISLAND NATIONS WHERE AN INVASION WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO MOUNT, A NINJA VILLAGE IS REGARDED AS UNNECESSARY. AMONG THE VARIOUS NINJA VILLAGES, IN PARTICULAR, THOSE LOCATED IN THE LANDS OF KONOHA, KIRI, KUMO, SUNA AND IWA ARE LARGE—AND THEIR STRENGTH IS IMMENSE. THOSE ARE CALLED THE FIVE GREAT LANDS OF SHINOBI. THEY ARE ALSO THE ONLY PLACES WHERE THE SHINOBI LEADER CALLS HIMSELF A KAGE, OR SHADOW.

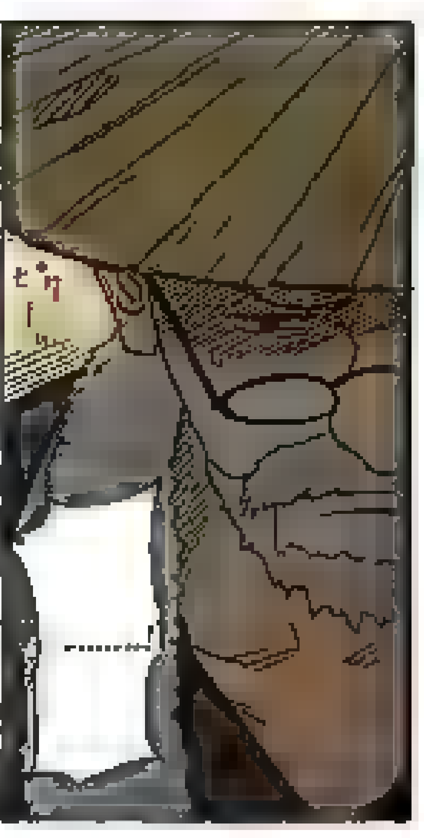
...THE ULTIMATE COMMANDERS OF ALL THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF SHINOBI THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

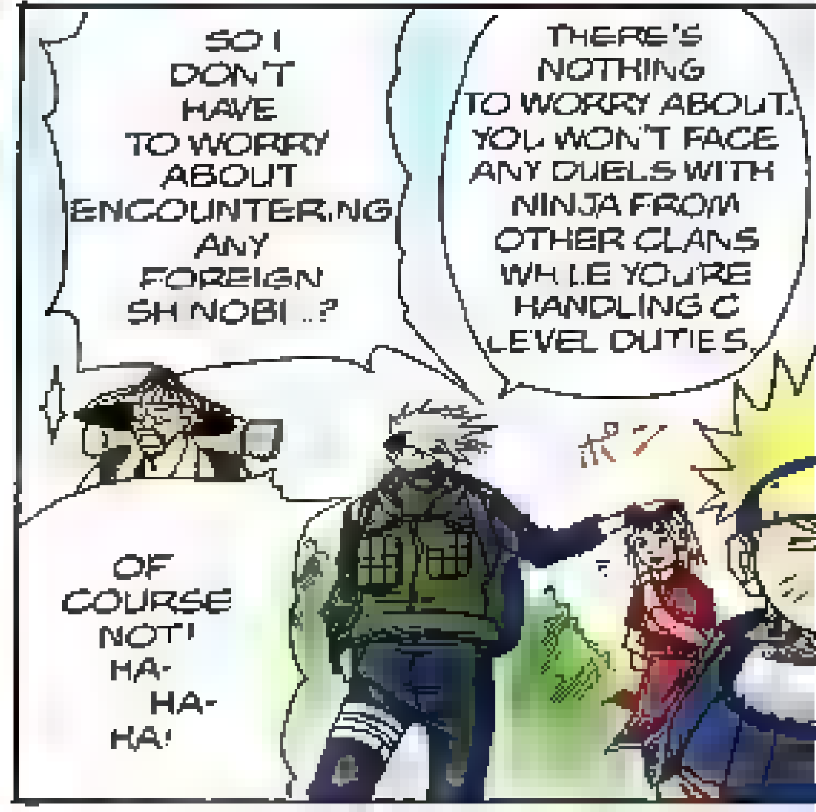
THOSE LEGENDARY LEADERS, HOKAGE, MIZUKAGE, RAIKAGE, KAZEKAGE, AND TSUCHIKAGE ARE KNOWN TO NINJA EVERYWHERE AS THE FIVE SHADOWS...


YOU OBVIOUSLY DON'T REALLY THINK SO.


REALLY? LORD HOKAGE IS SO AMAZING
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING GREAT ABOUT THAT OLD FART WHO'S ALWAYS LECTURING US!

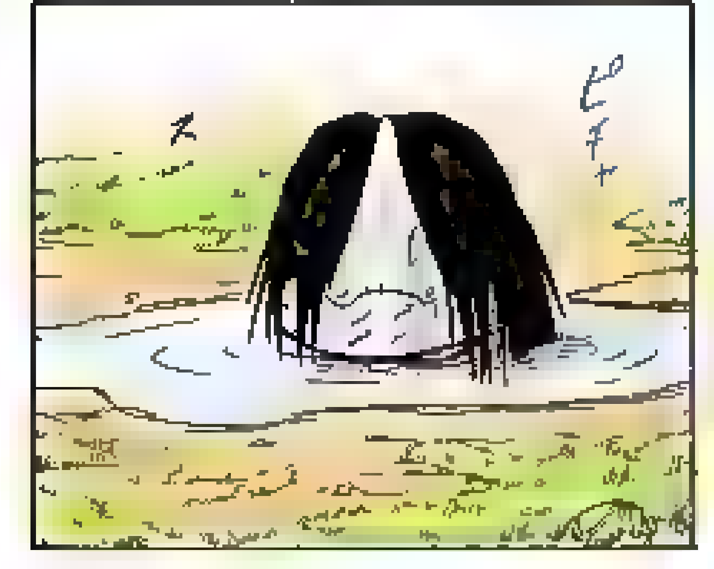

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THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. YOU WON'T FACE ANY DUELS WITH NINJA FROM OTHER CLANS WHILE YOU'RE HANDLING C LEVEL DUTIES.
SO I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ENCOUNTERING ANY FOREIGN SHINOBI..?
OF COURSE NOT! HA-HA-HA!




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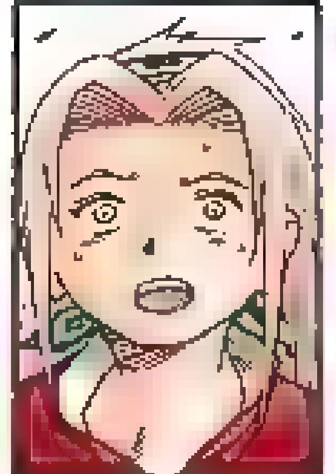

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WHAT?
!
WHAT TH--?!
EH--?!
ONE LITTLE PIGGY.


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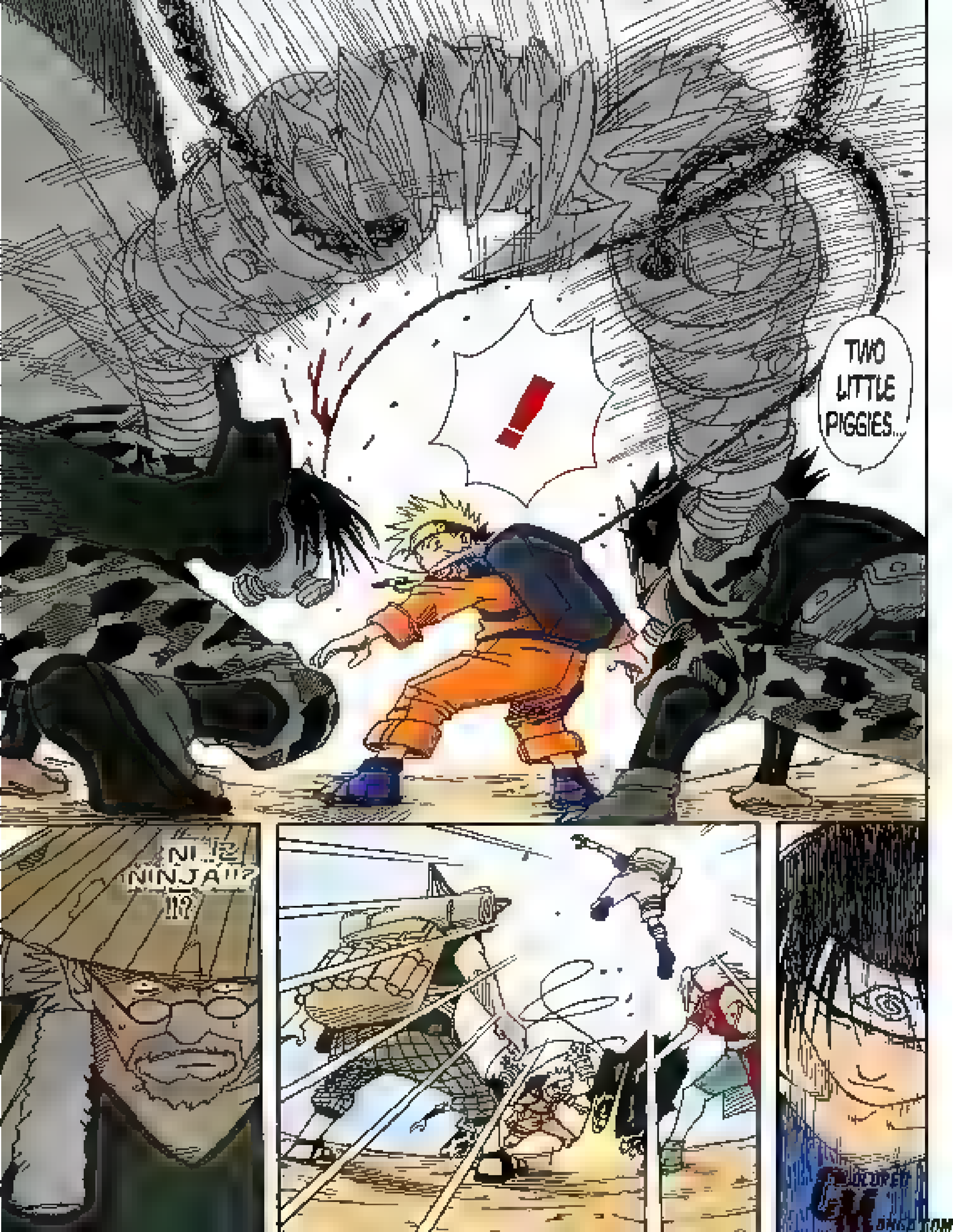

MASTER KAKASHI!!
M...
EEEYAA!

!!!!

TWO LITTLE PIGGIES...




10：2匹目
TARGET 2


TWO LITTLE PIGGIES...
!
NI...!?
NINJA!!?
!!?


CHAK
!!

IT WON'T COME LOOSE!



WOW...!!

GUAK!

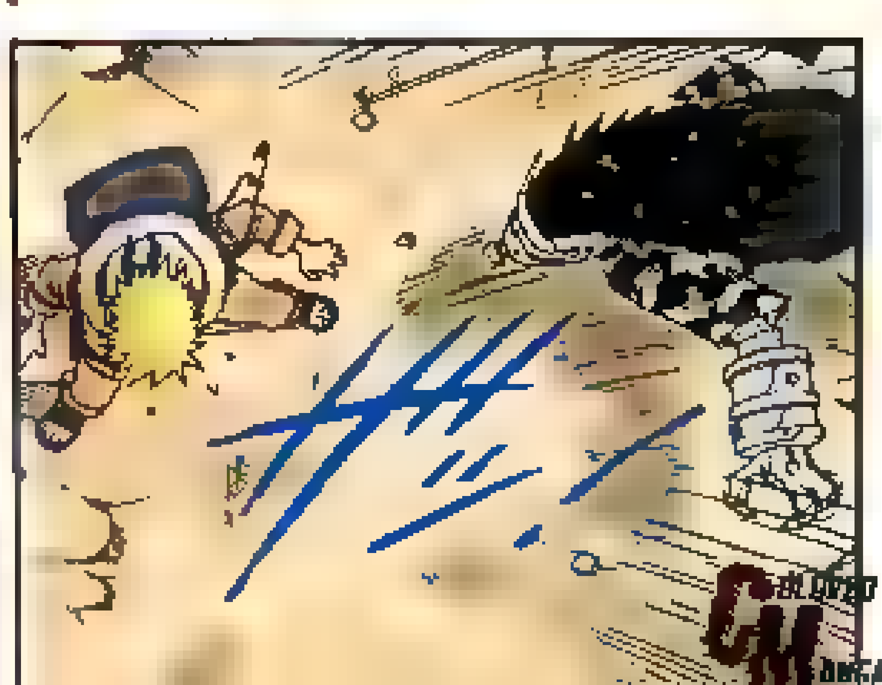
KLANNG

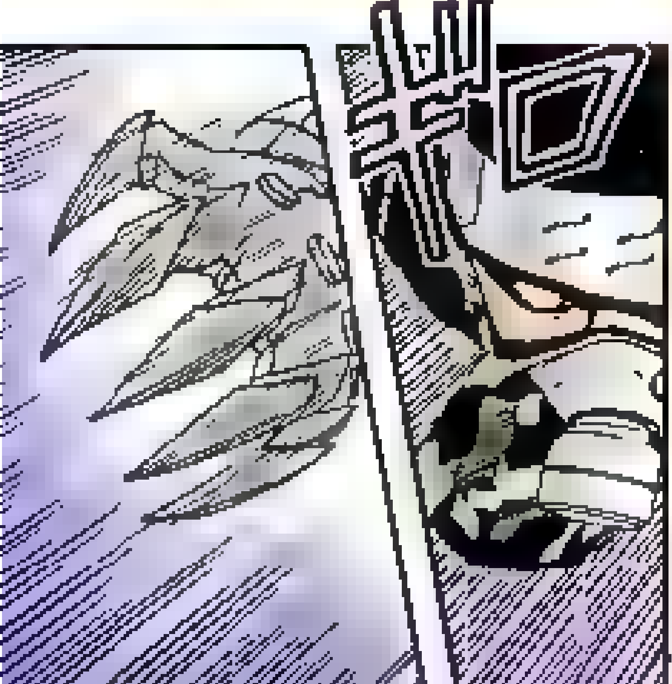


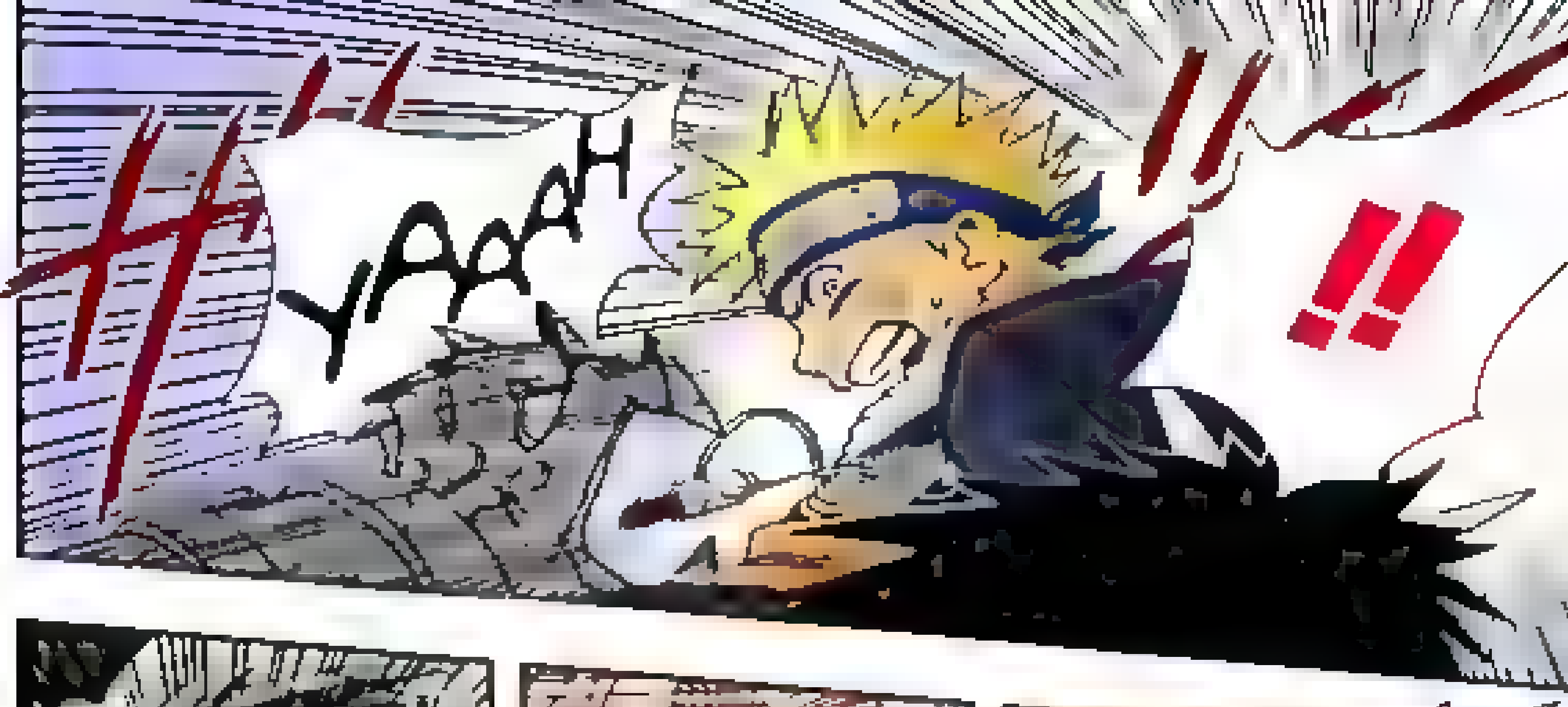


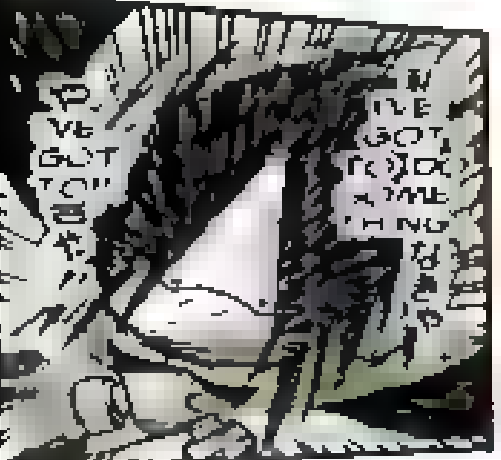


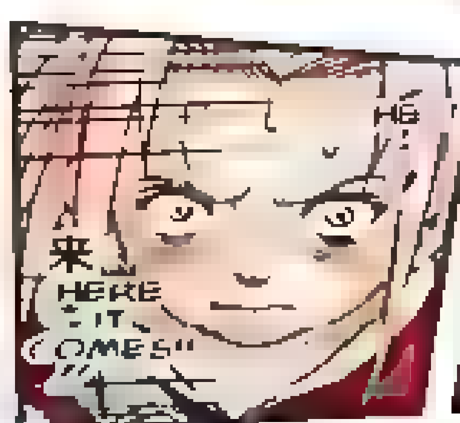
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TMP

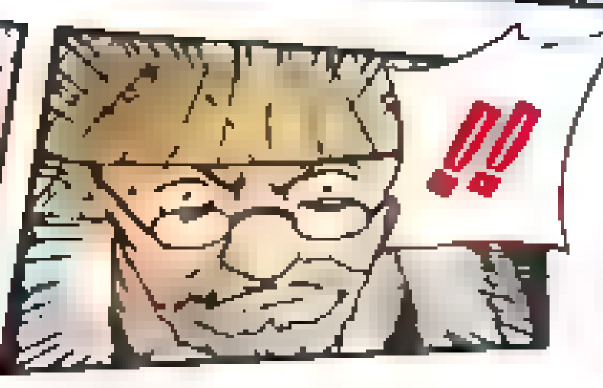










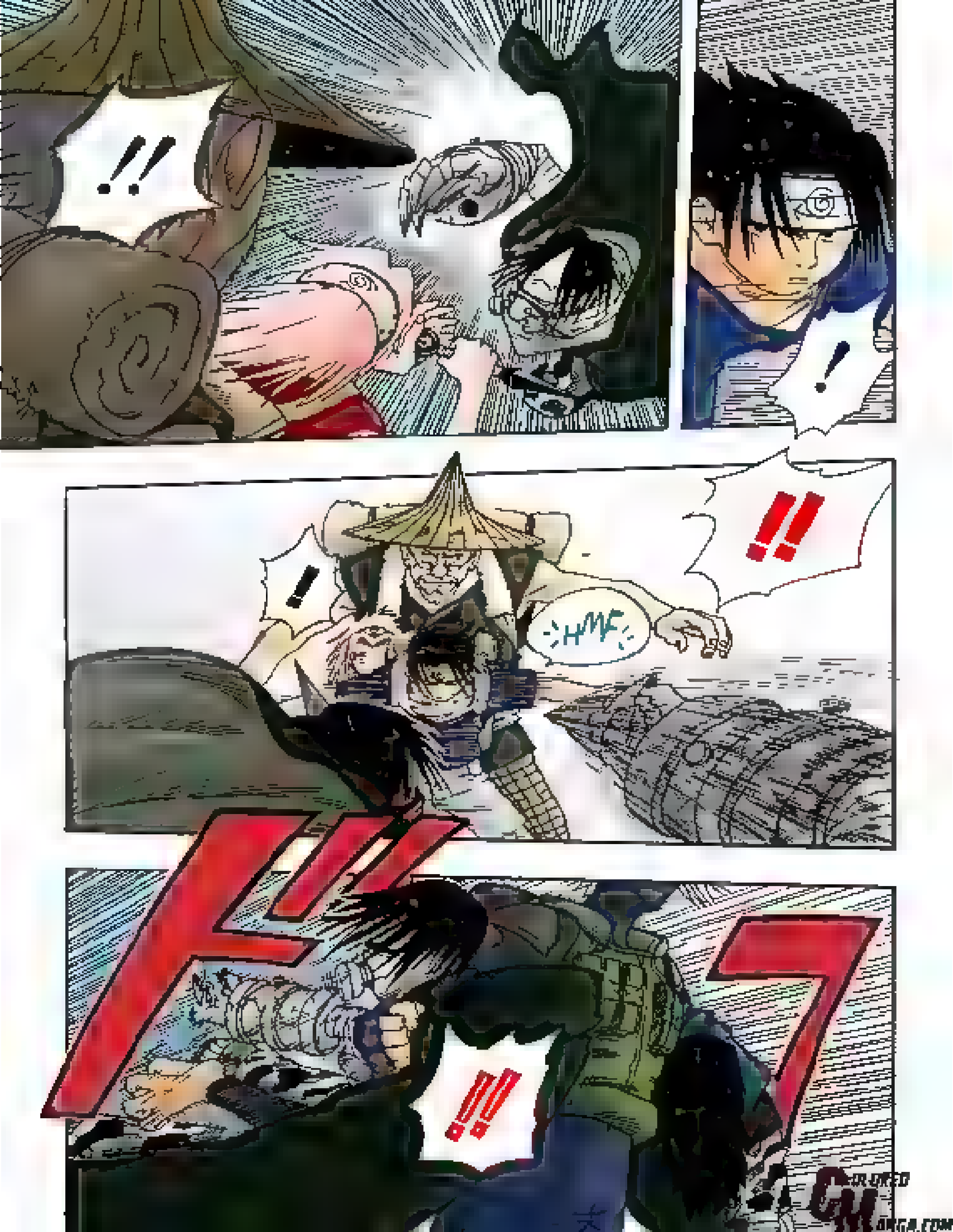


STAND BACK, SIR!!

!!

BUMP!



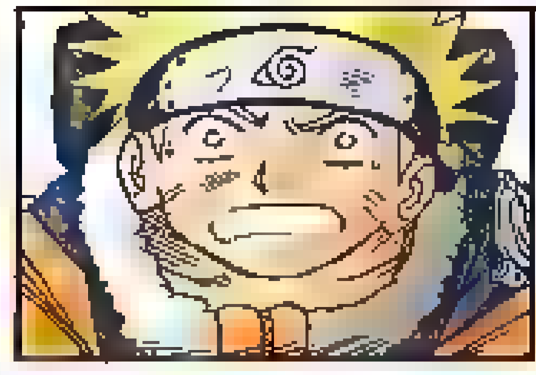


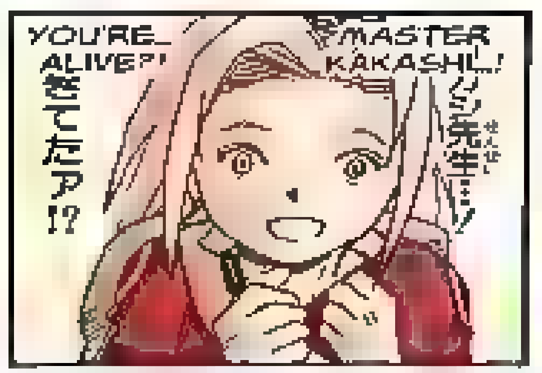
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!!
!!
HMF
!
!!!

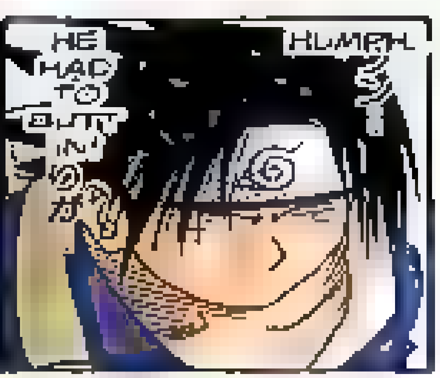
AAIEEGH...

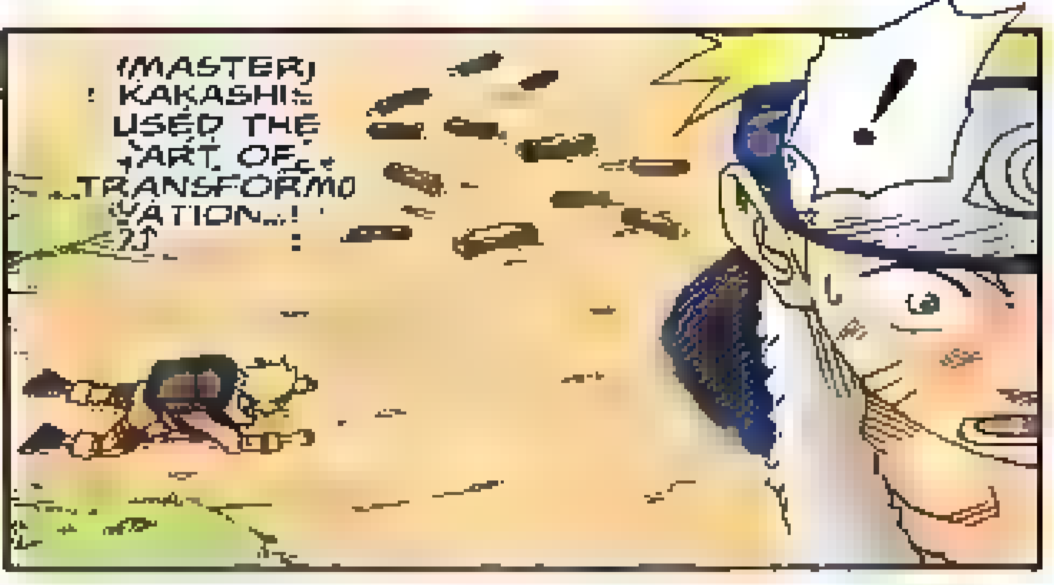
!!

!




MASTER KAKASHI...!
YOU'RE ALIVE?!


HUMPH
HE HAD TO BUTT IN!


!
(MASTER) KAKASHI USED THE ART OF TRANSFORMATION...!

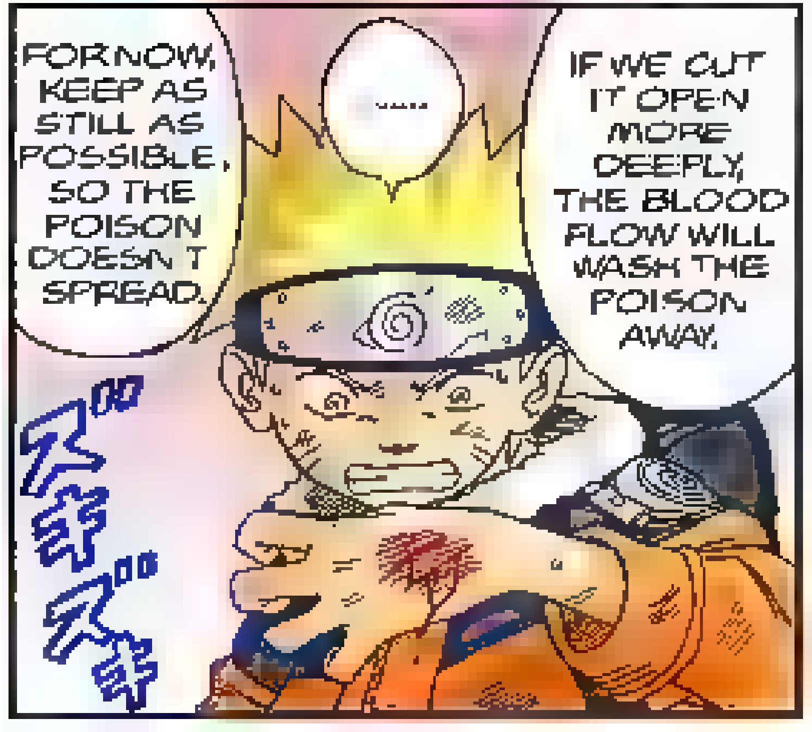

I'M NOT SURE HOW THEY DID IT BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE BEEN SAVED!



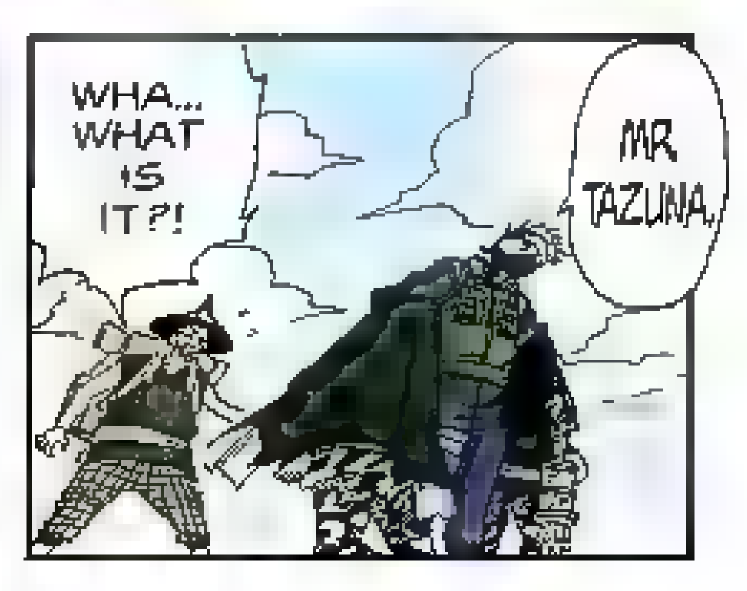

BUT SASUKE, WHO'S NEVER BEEN IN A REAL
COULDN'T DO A SINGLE THING!
GOOD JOB, SASUKE.
YOU TOO, SAKURA
IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT YOU WOULD FREEZE UP.
..BEFORE YOU WERE INJURED.
I'M SORRY, NARUTO. I SHOULD HAVE MOVED TO HELP YOU SOONER..
ACTED LIKE IT WAS NO BIG DEAL
初めての実戦なのに…怖いって思ったのか
HE DIDN'T EVEN BREAK A SWEAT
平気な顔して汗一つ
BUT HE STILL MANAGED TO SAVE MY LIFE
HEY...
!!!
ARE YOU OKAY...
..YOU BIG CHICKEN?
COLORED MANGA.COM



NARUTO THERE'S NO TIME NOW FOR FIGHTING
THEIR CLAWS ARE POISONED.
WE HAVE TO CLEAN THAT WOUND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
!



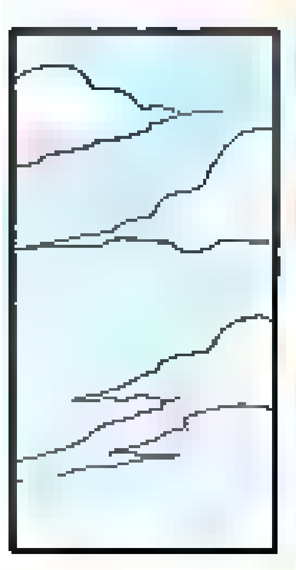
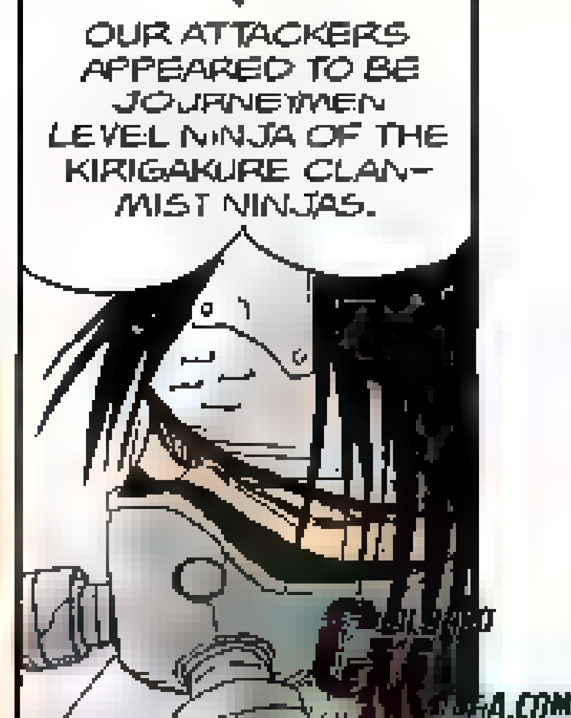
IF WE CUT IT OPEN MORE DEEPLY, THE BLOOD FLOW WILL WASH THE POISON AWAY.
.....
FOR NOW, KEEP AS STILL AS POSSIBLE, SO THE POISON DOESN'T SPREAD.
ズキズキ



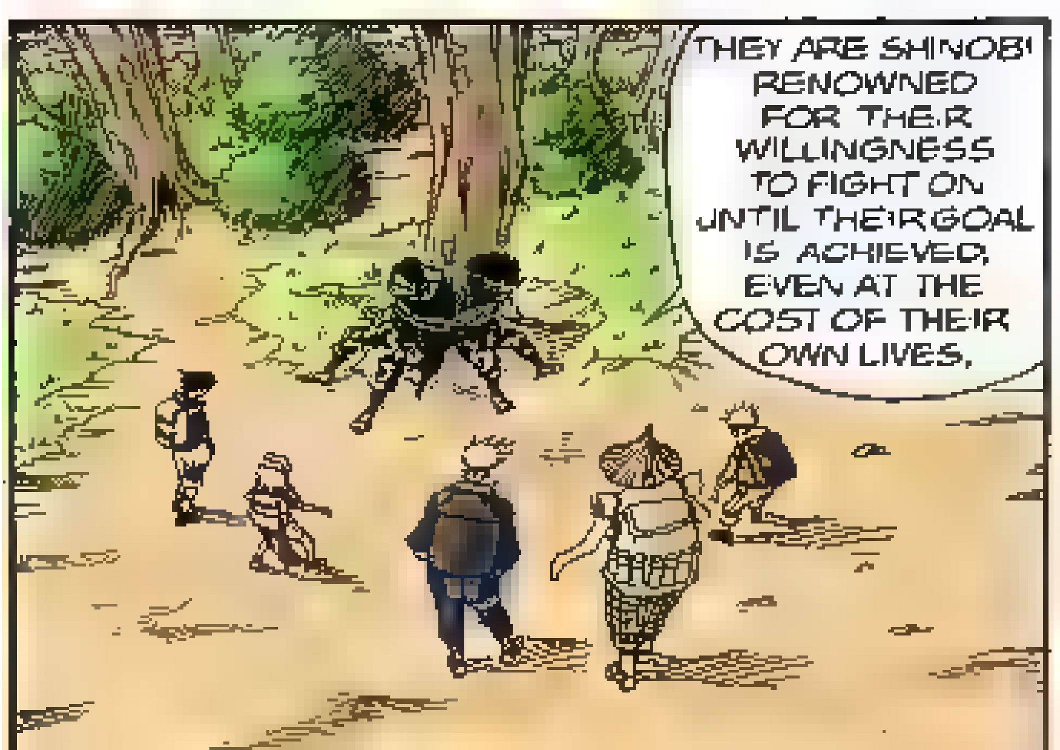
MR TAZUNA,
WHA... WHAT IS IT?!



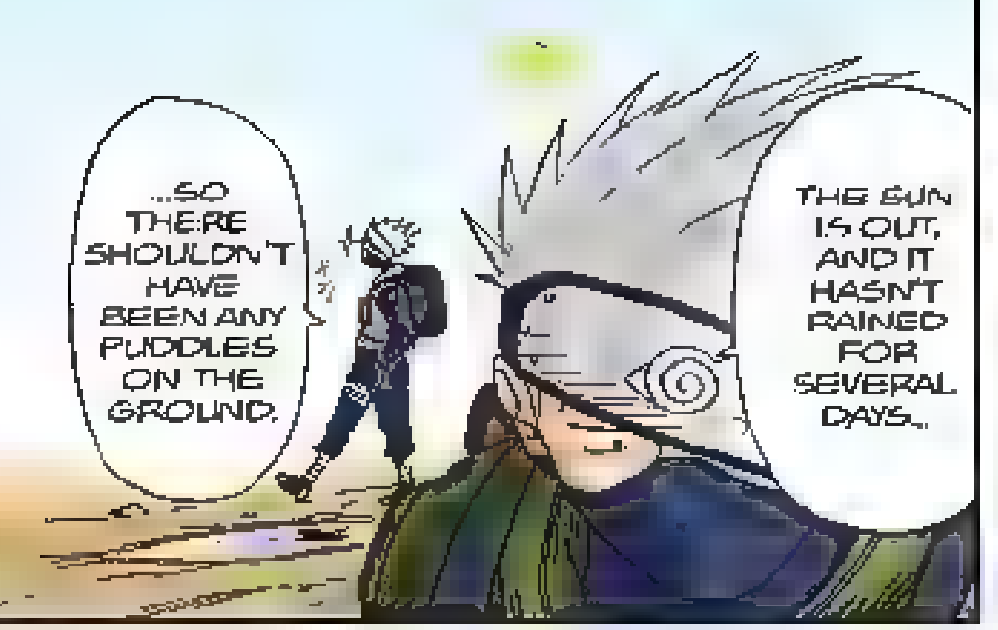
I NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOU

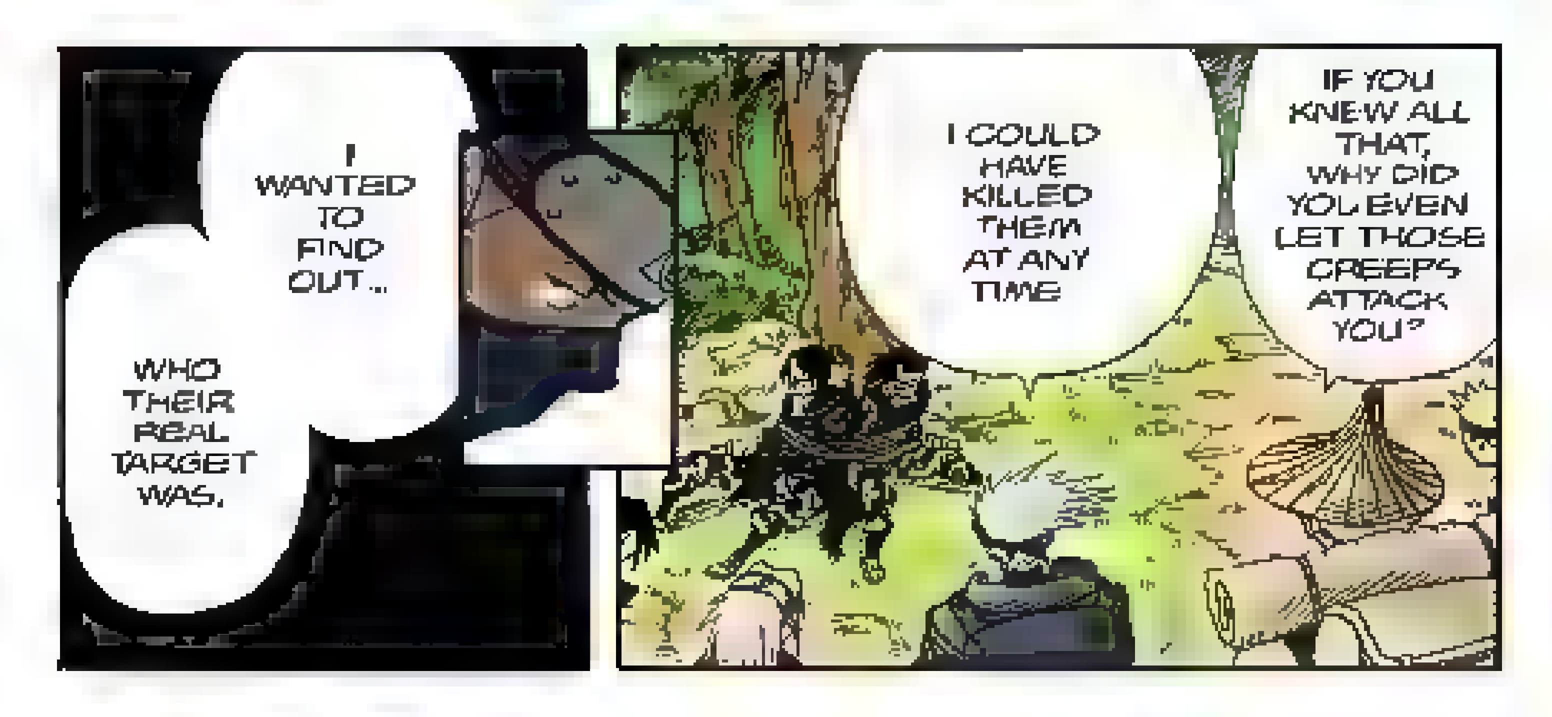
OUR ATTACKERS APPEARED TO BE JOURNEYMEN LEVEL NINJA OF THE KIRIGAKURE CLAN– MIST NINJAS.

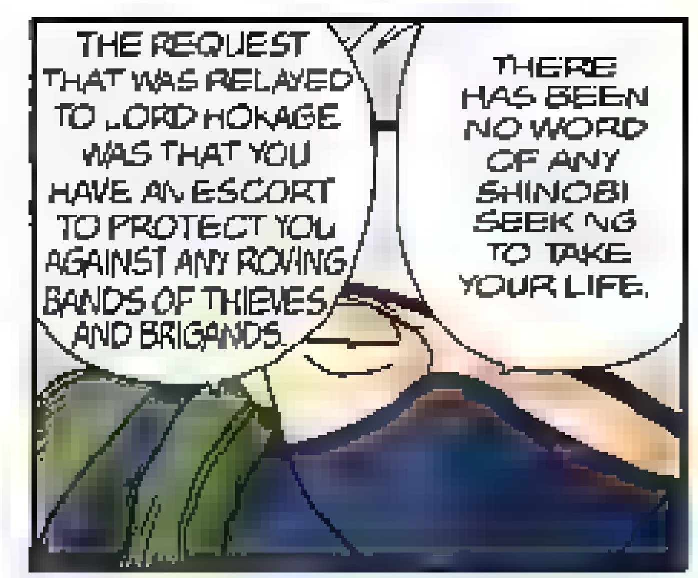


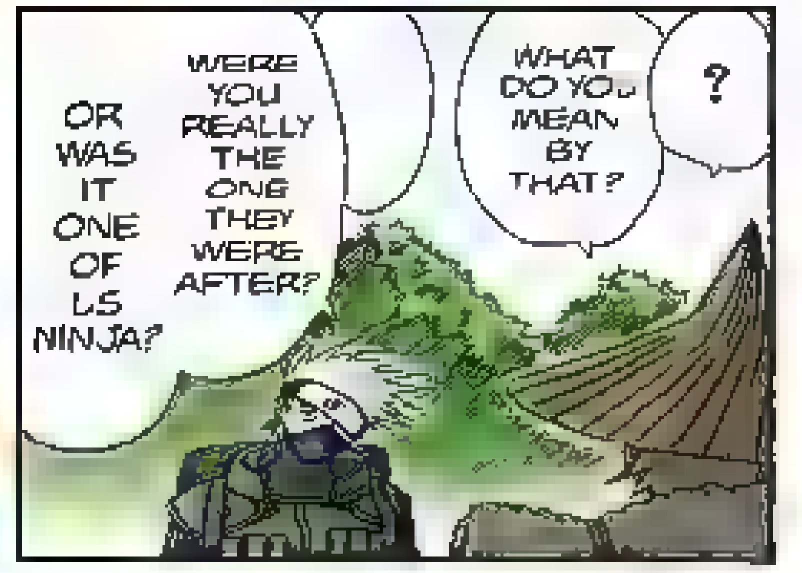
THEY ARE SHINOBI RENOWNED FOR THEIR WILLINGNESS TO FIGHT ON UNTIL THEIR GOAL IS ACHIEVED, EVEN AT THE COST OF THEIR OWN LIVES.


THE SUN IS OUT, AND IT HASN'T RAINED FOR SEVERAL DAYS...
...SO THERE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY PUDDLES ON THE GROUND.

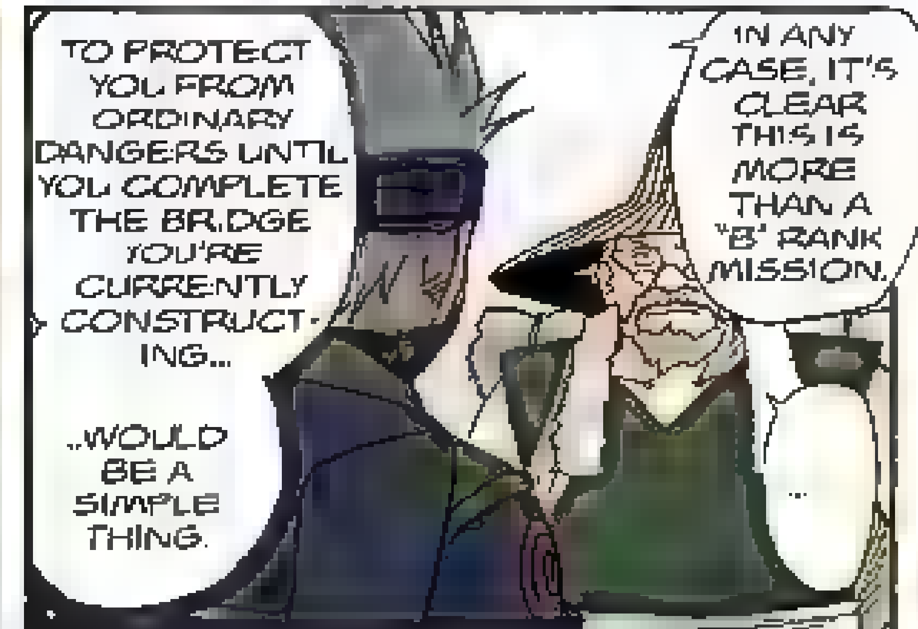
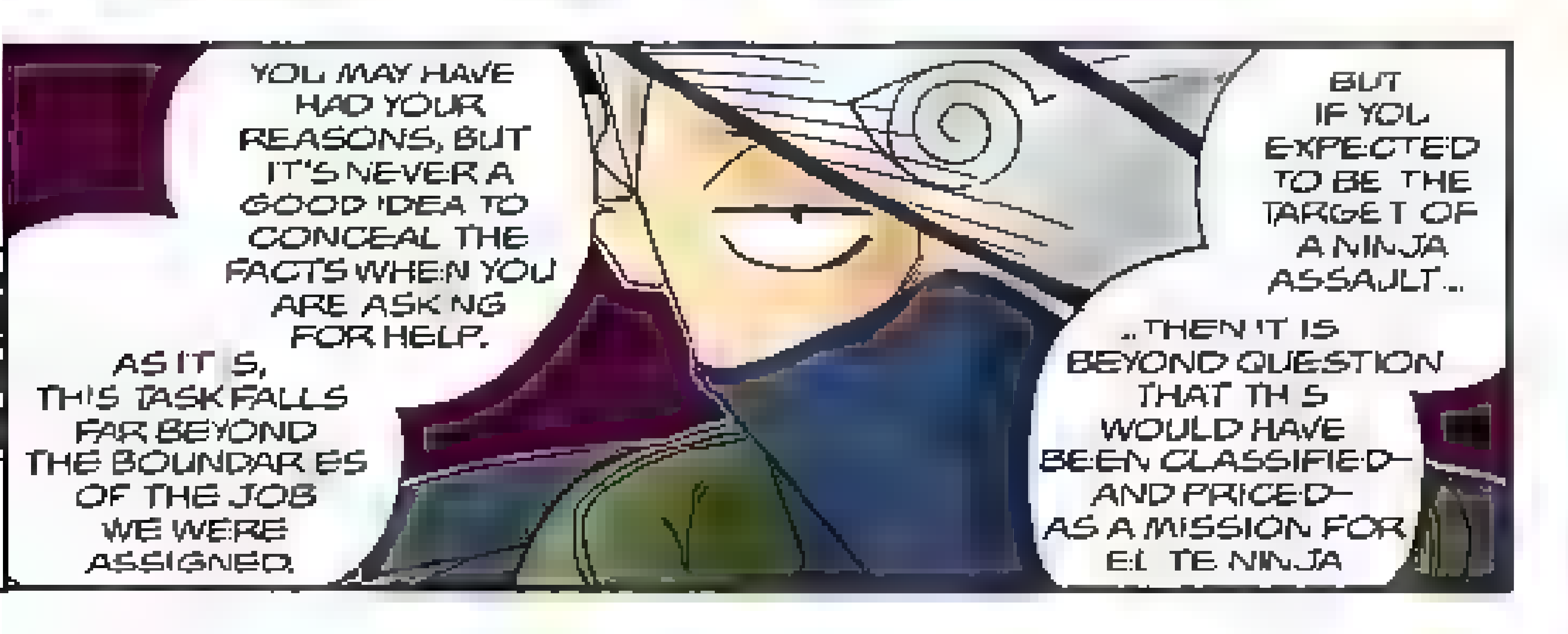

OBVIOUSLY, THEY WERE WATCHING AND WAITING FOR US.

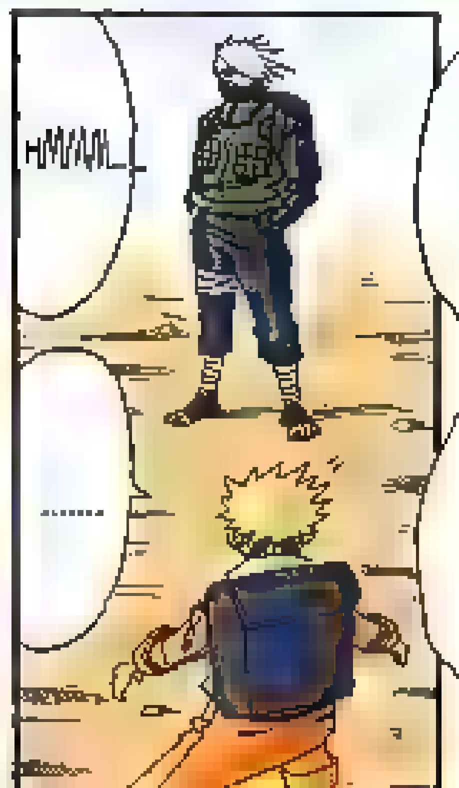

IF YOU KNEW ALL THAT, WHY DID YOU EVEN LET THOSE CREEPS ATTACK YOU?
I COULD HAVE KILLED THEM AT ANY TIME
I WANTED TO FIND OUT...
WHO THEIR REAL TARGET WAS.


THE REQUEST THAT WAS RELAYED TO LORD HOKAGE WAS THAT YOU HAVE AN ESCORT TO PROTECT YOU AGAINST ANY ROVING BANDS OF THIEVES AND BRIGANDS.
THERE HAS BEEN NO WORD OF ANY SHINOBI SEEKING TO TAKE YOUR LIFE.

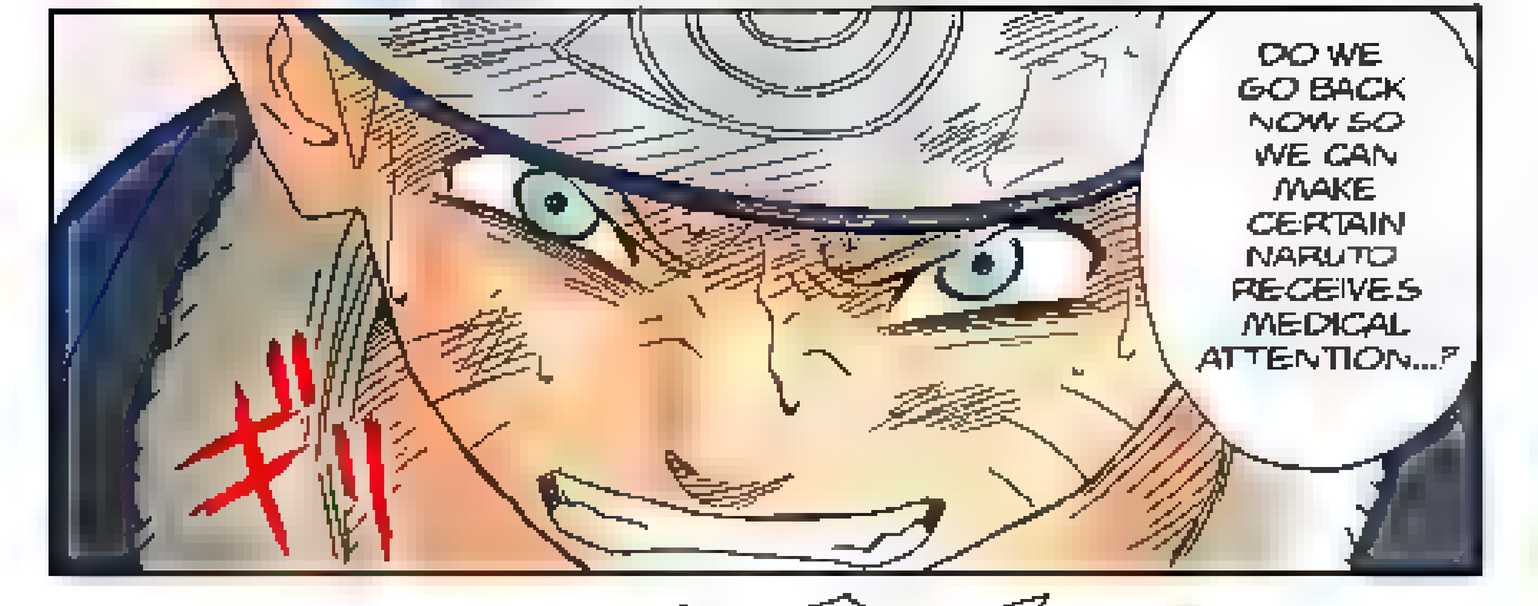

?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
WERE YOU REALLY THE ONE THEY WERE AFTER?
OR WAS IT ONE OF US NINJA?

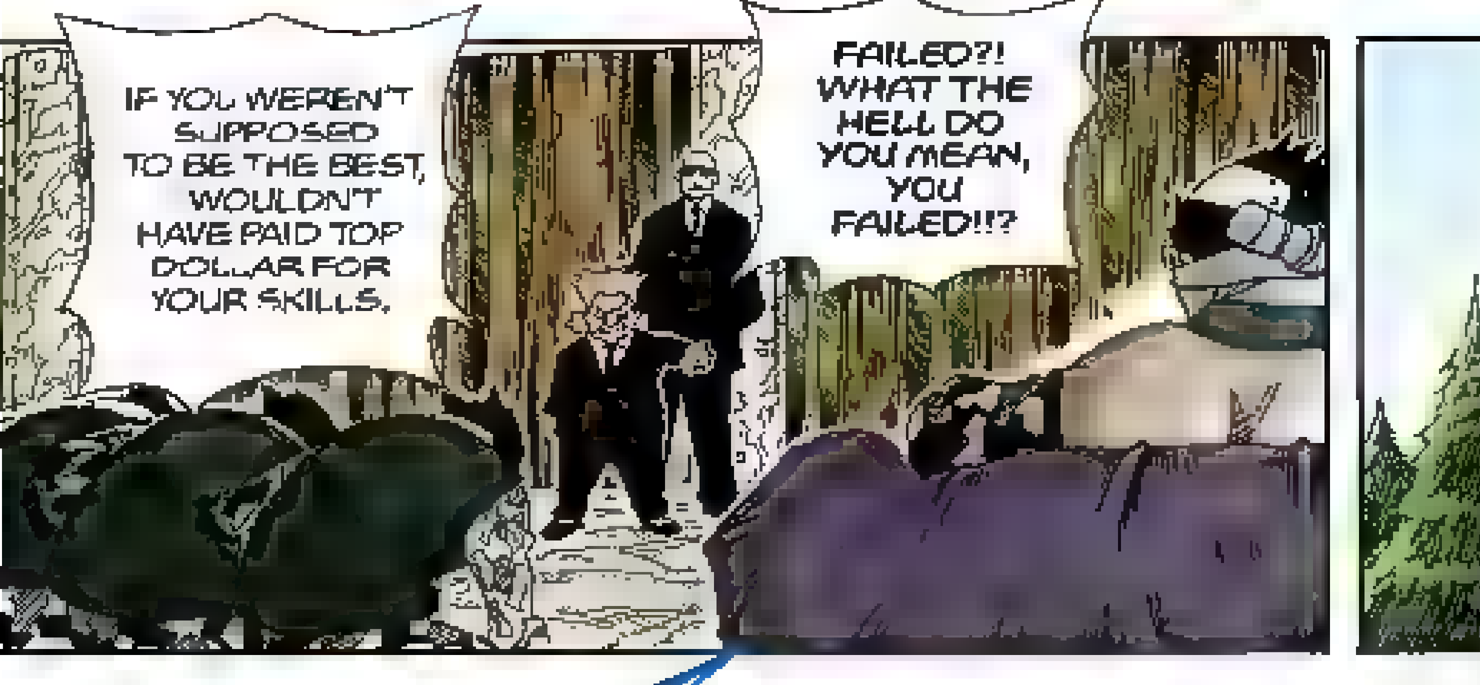




TO PROTECT YOU FROM ORDINARY DANGERS UNTIL YOU COMPLETE THE BRIDGE YOU'RE CURRENTLY CONSTRUCTING...
...WOULD BE A SIMPLE THING.
IN ANY CASE, IT'S CLEAR THIS IS MORE THAN A "B" RANK MISSION.

BUT IF YOU EXPECTED TO BE THE TARGET OF A NINJA ASSAULT...
...THEN IT IS BEYOND QUESTION THAT THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN CLASSIFIED— AND PRICED— AS A MISSION FOR ELITE NINJA.
YOU MAY HAVE HAD YOUR REASONS, BUT IT'S NEVER A GOOD IDEA TO CONCEAL THE FACTS WHEN YOU ARE ASKING FOR HELP.
AS IT IS, THIS TASK FALLS FAR BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE JOB WE WERE ASSIGNED.

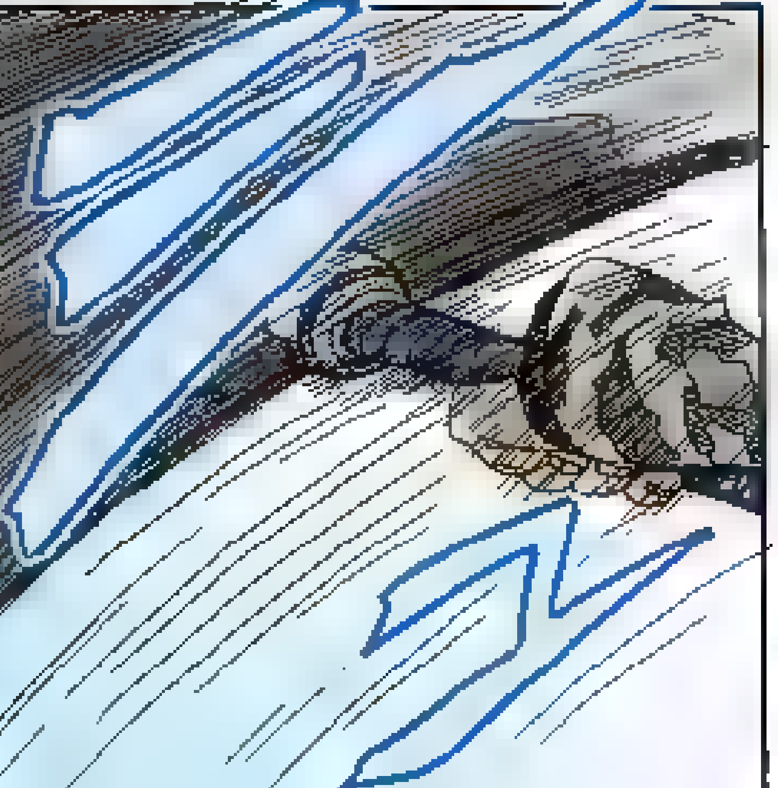
WE'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH YET TO HANDLE SOMETHING LIKE THIS... CAN WE QUIT?
WE'LL NEED AN ANESTHETIC FOR NARUTO'S WOUND BEFORE WE CAN RE-OPEN IT AND DRAIN THE POISON.
CAN'T WE RETURN TO THE VILLAGE AND HAVE A DOCTOR LOOK AT IT?

HMMM...

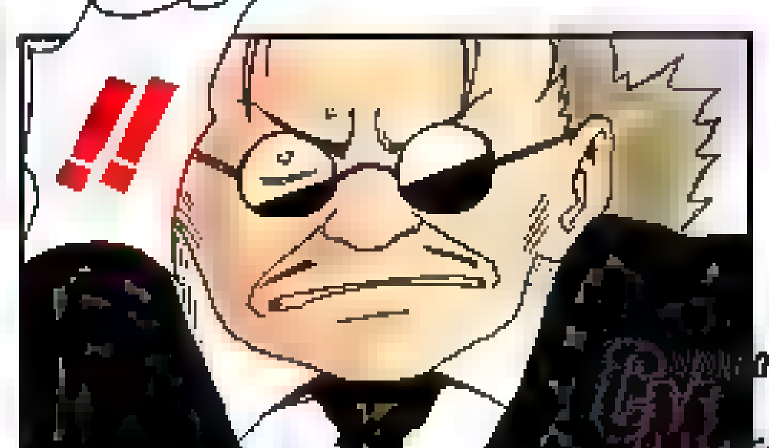
THIS IS... COMPLICATED!

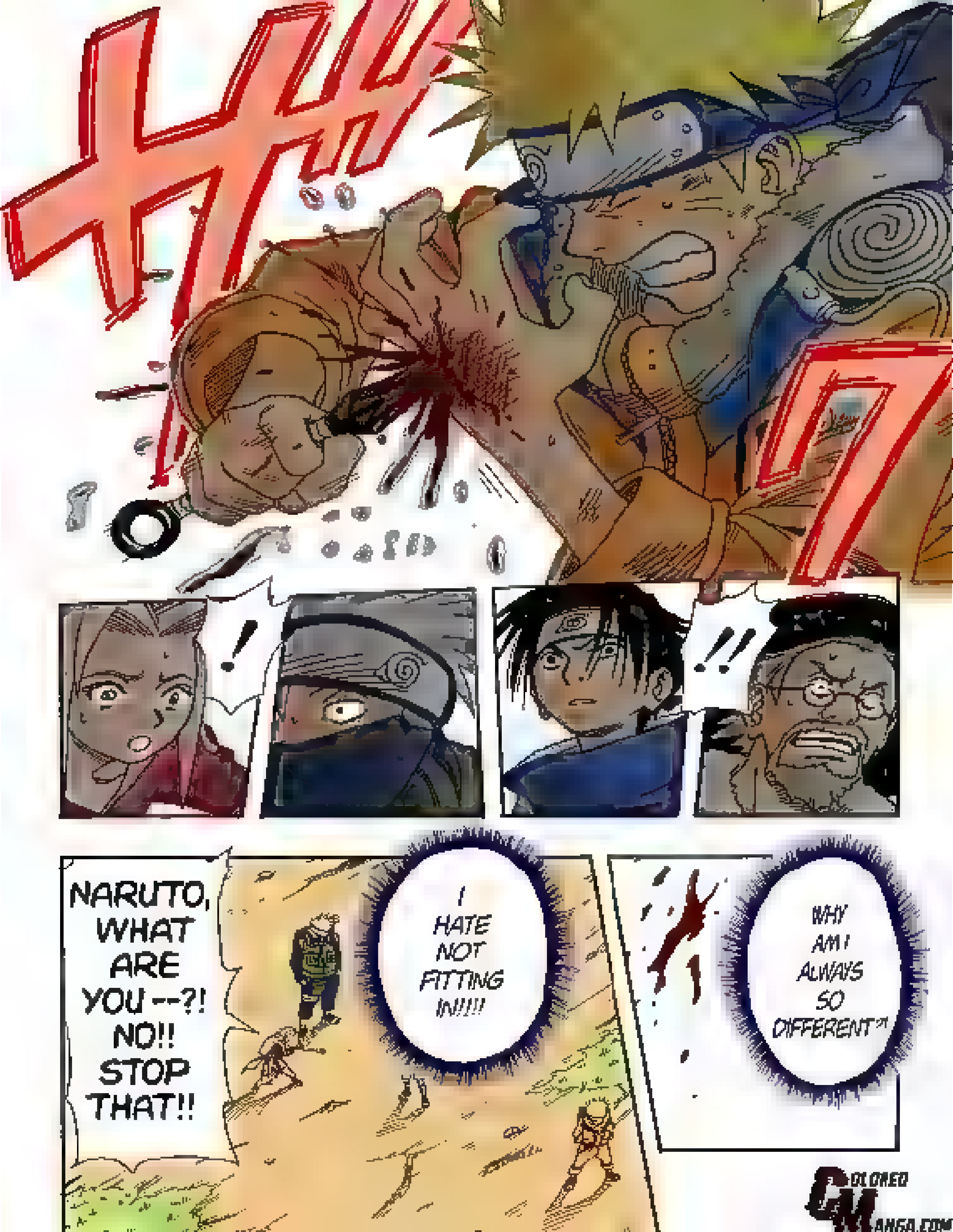

ギリ
DO WE GO BACK NOW SO WE CAN MAKE CERTAIN NARUTO RECEIVES MEDICAL ATTENTION...?

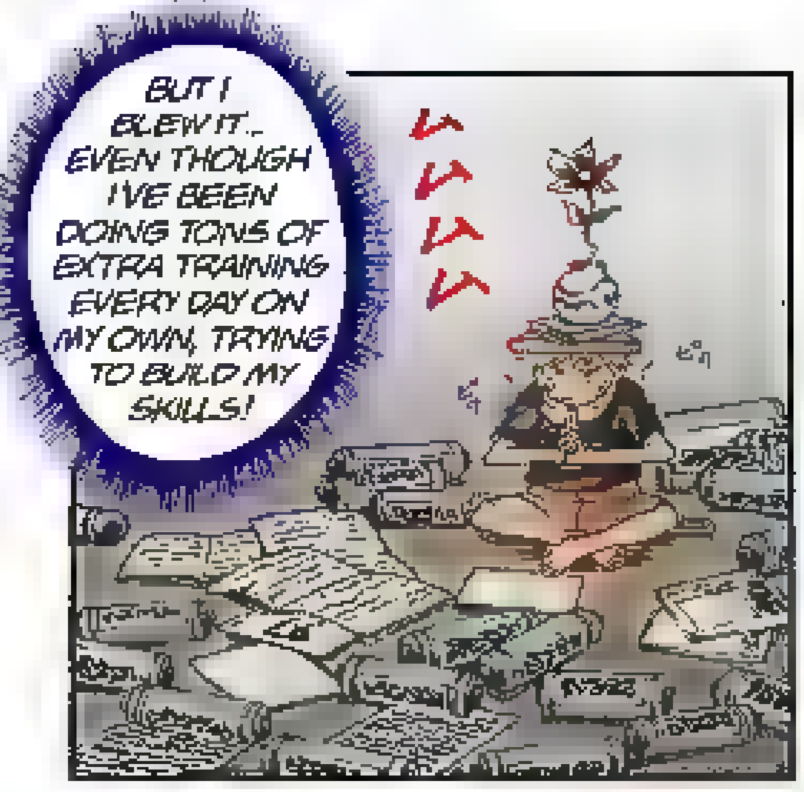

FAILED?! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU MEAN, YOU FAILED!!?
IF YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE THE BEST, WOULDN'T HAVE PAID TOP DOLLAR FOR YOUR SKILLS.

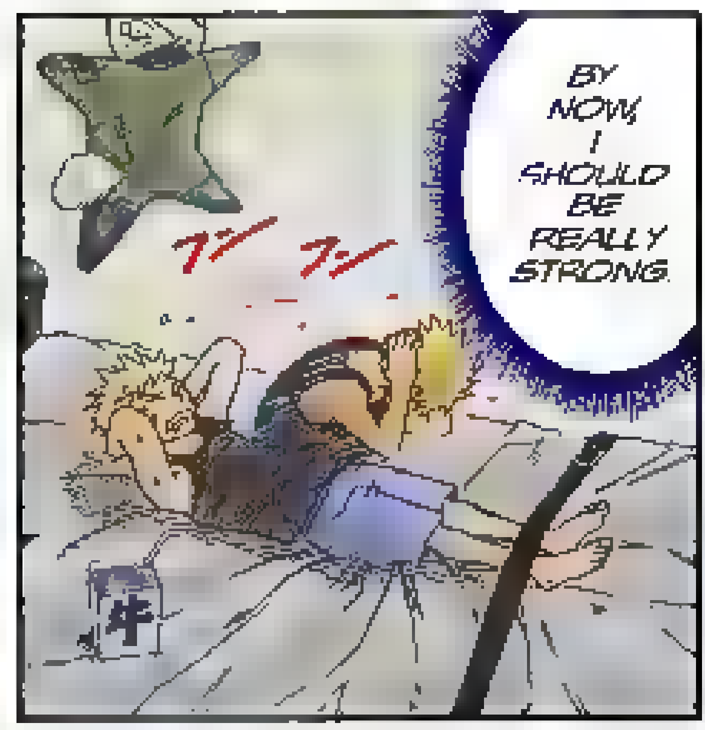

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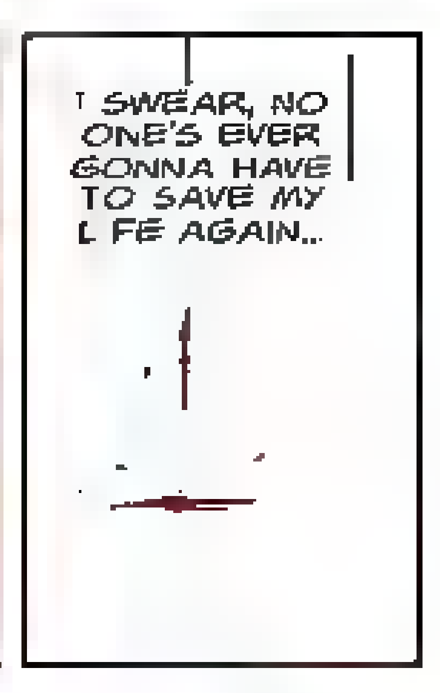

!!
!
WHY AM I ALWAYS SO DIFFERENT?!
I HATE NOT FITTING IN!!!!
NARUTO, WHAT ARE YOU --?! NO!! STOP THAT!!
COLORED MANGA.COM

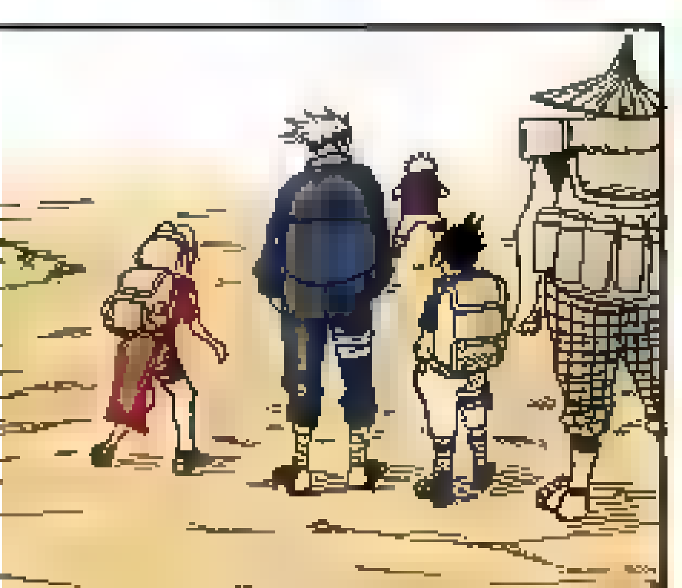

BUT I BLEW IT... EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN DOING TONS OF EXTRA TRAINING EVERY DAY ON MY OWN, TRYING TO BUILD MY SKILLS!

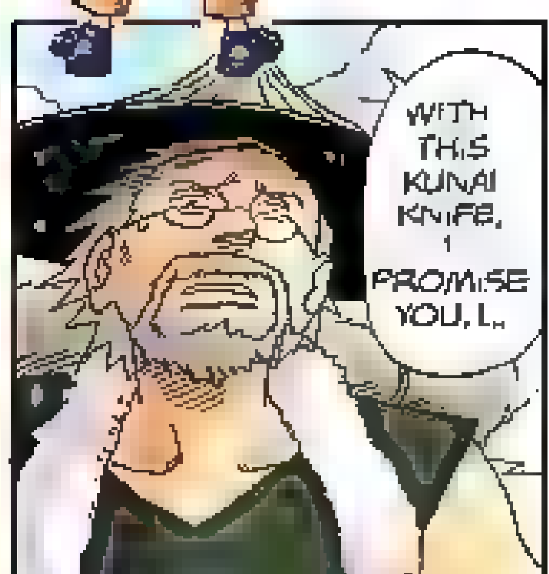

BY NOW, I SHOULD BE REALLY STRONG.


I SWEAR IT... BY THE PAIN IN MY LEFT HAND...


I'M NOT GOING TO BE THE ONE WHO HANGS BACK TO
UP...
...AND I'M NOT GONNA BE OUTDONE BY SASUKE!


I SWEAR, NO ONE'S EVER GONNA HAVE TO SAVE MY LIFE AGAIN...



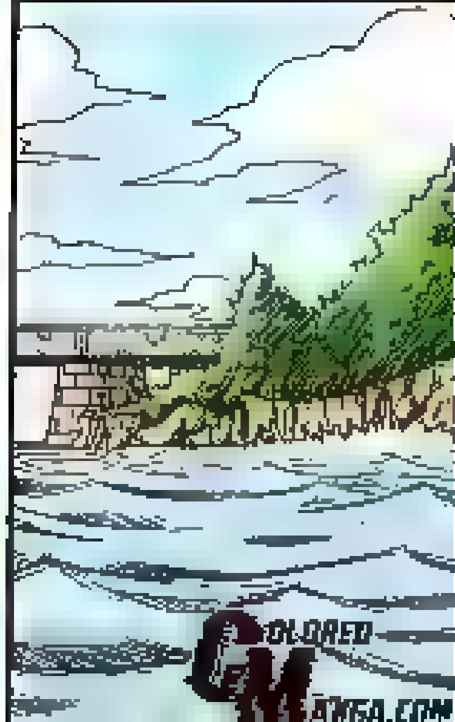

WITH THIS KUNAI KNIFE, I PROMISE YOU, I...



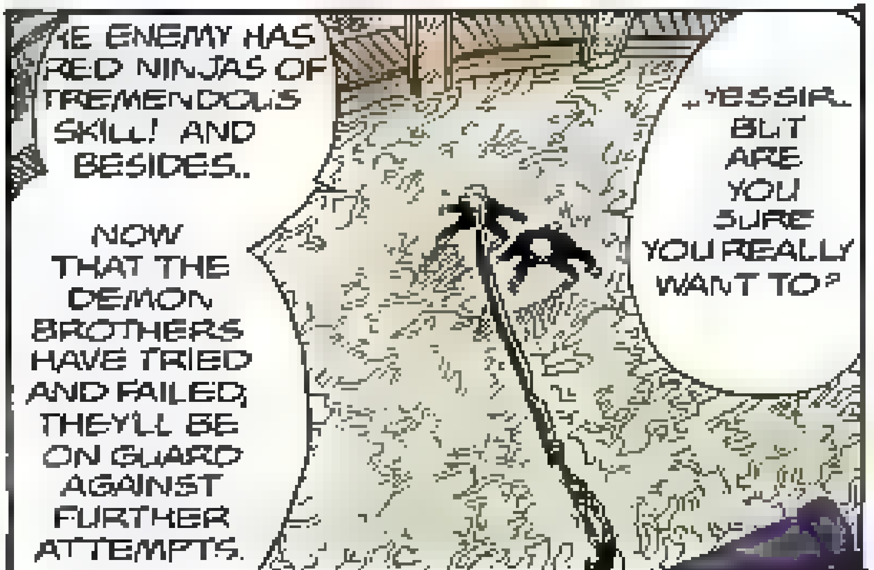
REPORTING, FIT FOR DUTY, MASTER!

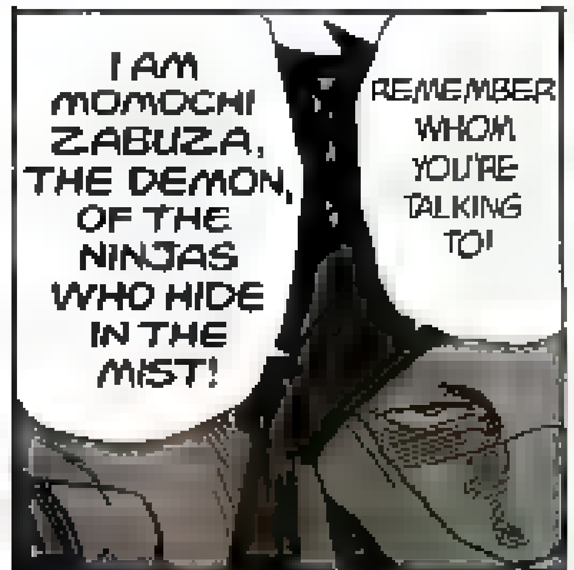
...WILL PROTECT THE OLD MAN.





...WILL TAKE THE HIT BY MYSELF.







Fan Letters

Closet (Personal Space)

Me, Sleeping in the Closet

Reference Library (Full of Manga)

Piles of Shonen Jump

Toilet

Super-Deluxe Massage Machine (Never Used)

Garbage (Hasn't Been Taken Out)

My Desk

My Dead Plant, "Ukki-kun"

Unwashed Dishes

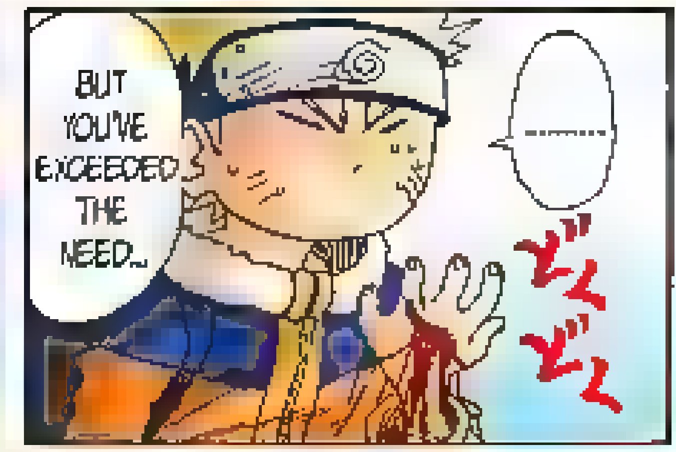


NARUTO, WE NEEDED A FREE FLOW OF BLOOD TO CLEAN THE POISON FROM YOUR WOUND...

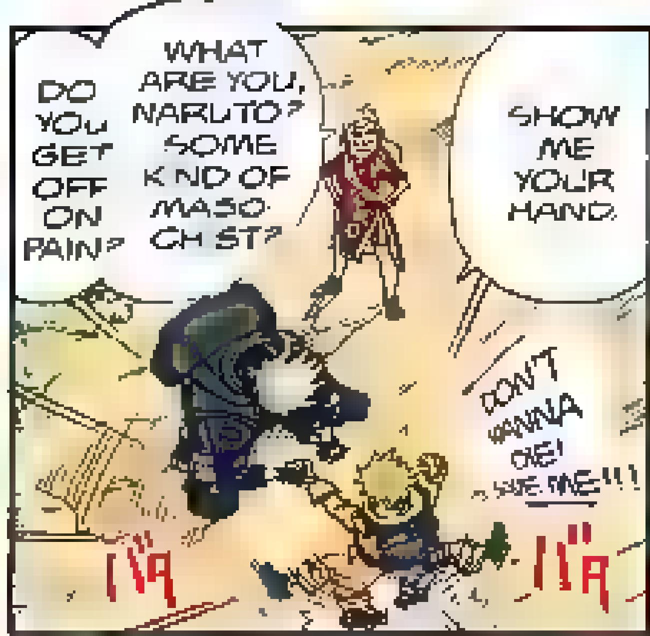
第11話 上陸…!!

GOING ASHORE...!



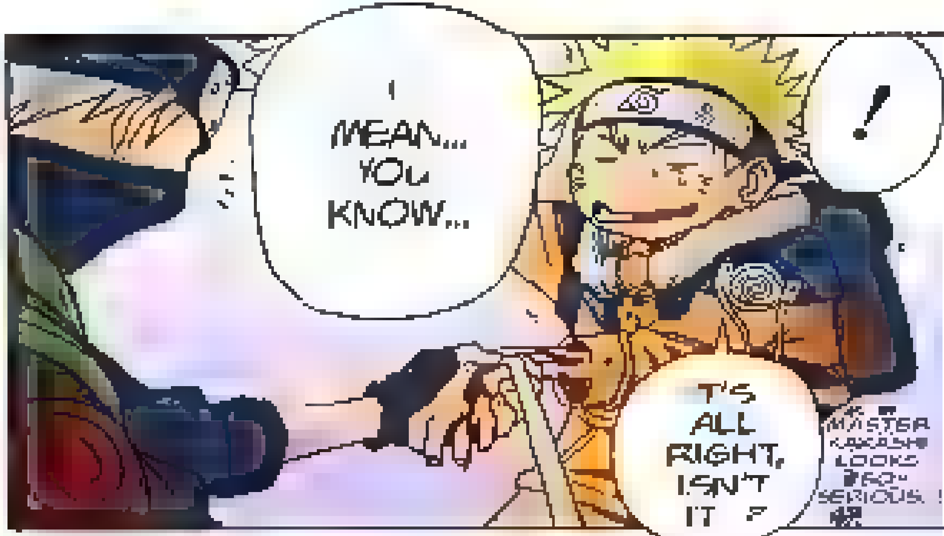


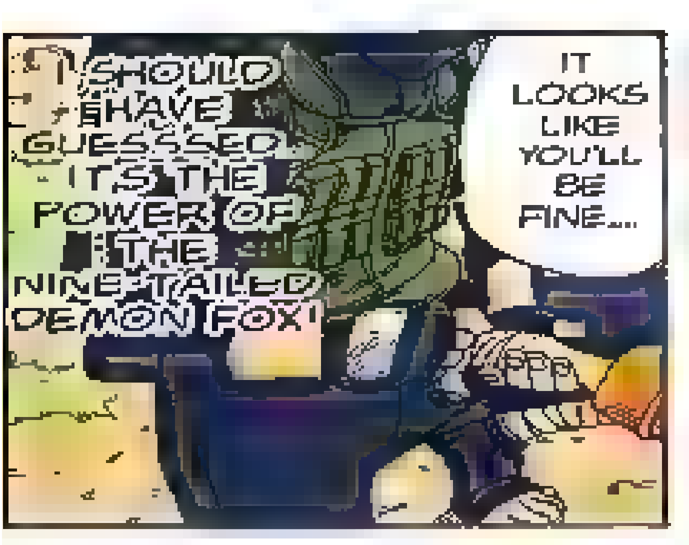


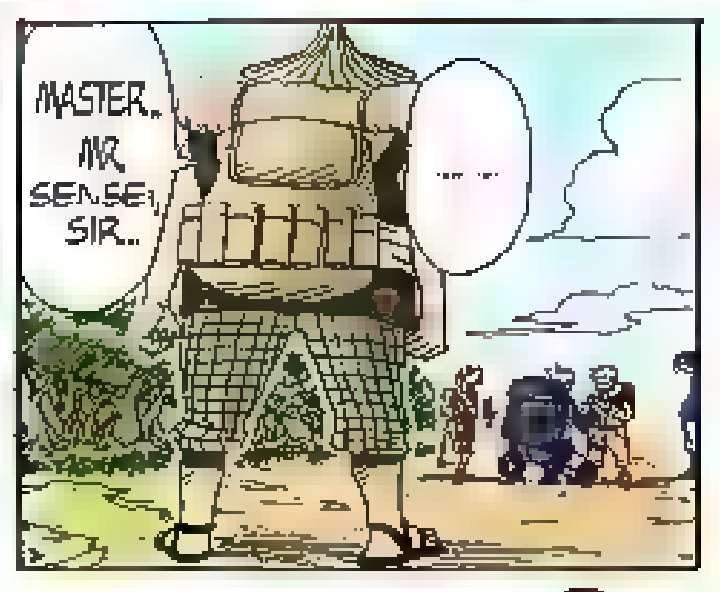




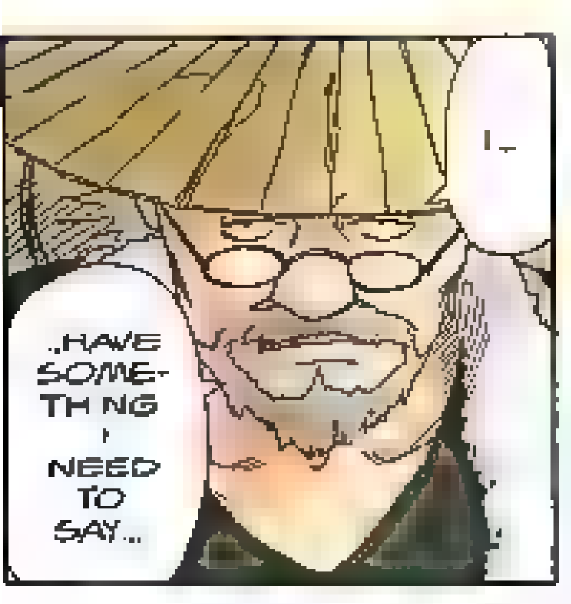
HIS HAND
THE WOULD
IT'S
もう…
ALMOST HEALED!
かけている…







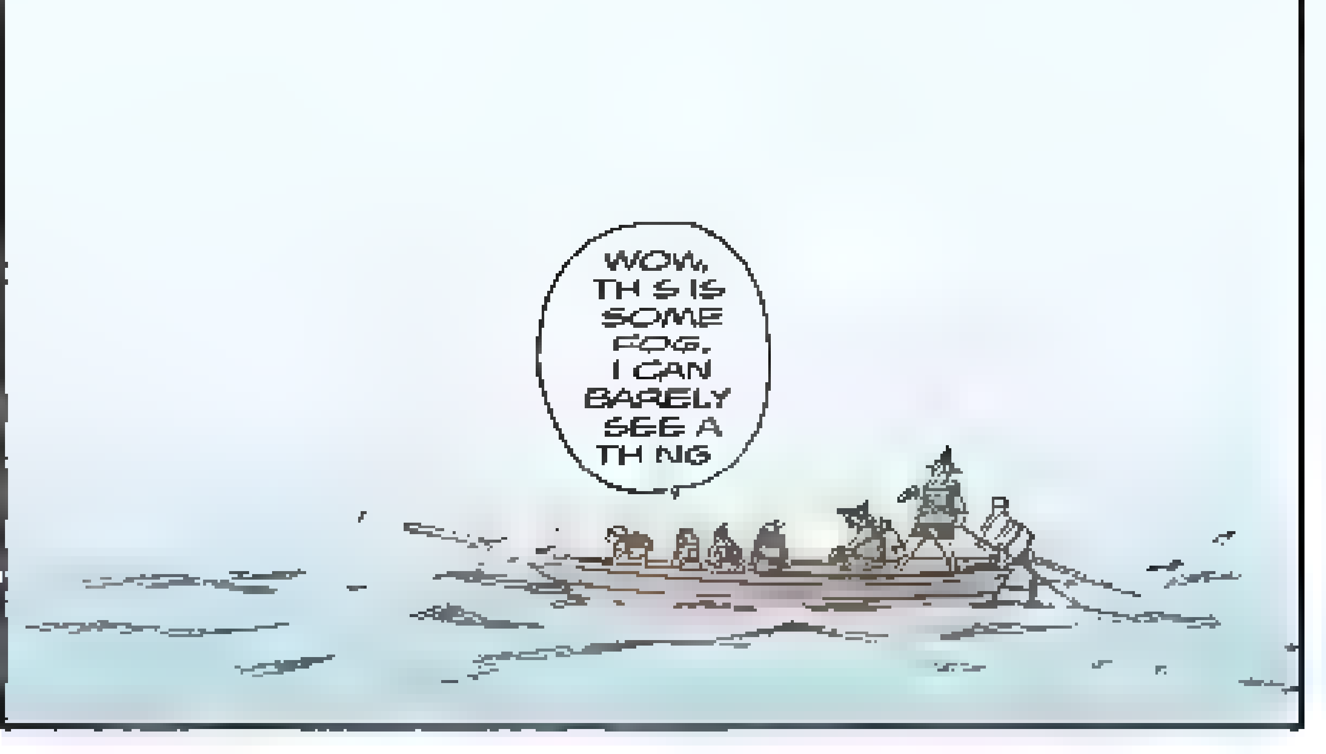


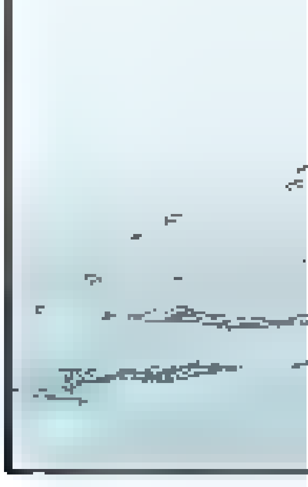


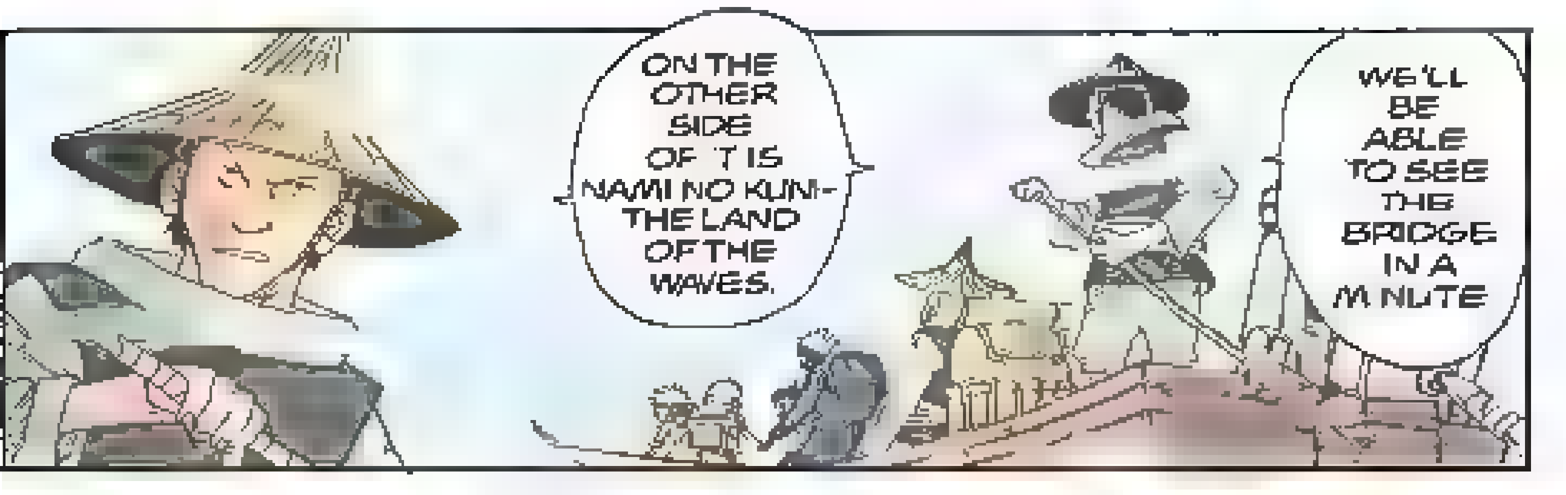


11：上陸…!!

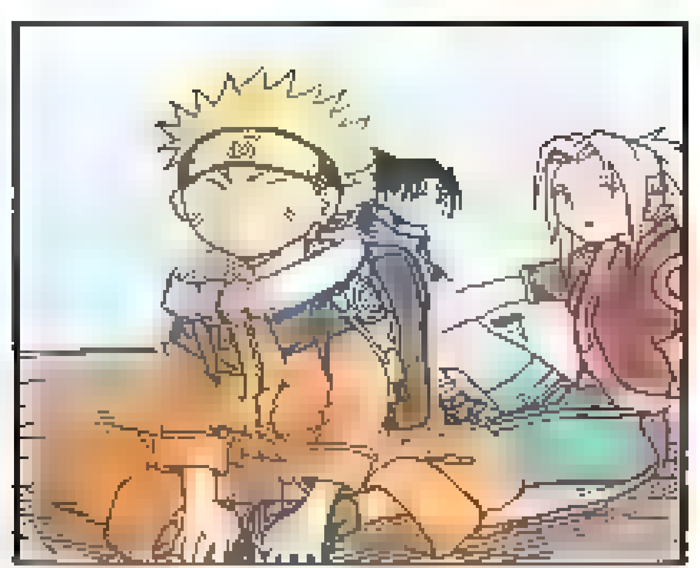



WOW, TH S IS SOME FOG. I CAN BARELY SEE A TH NG



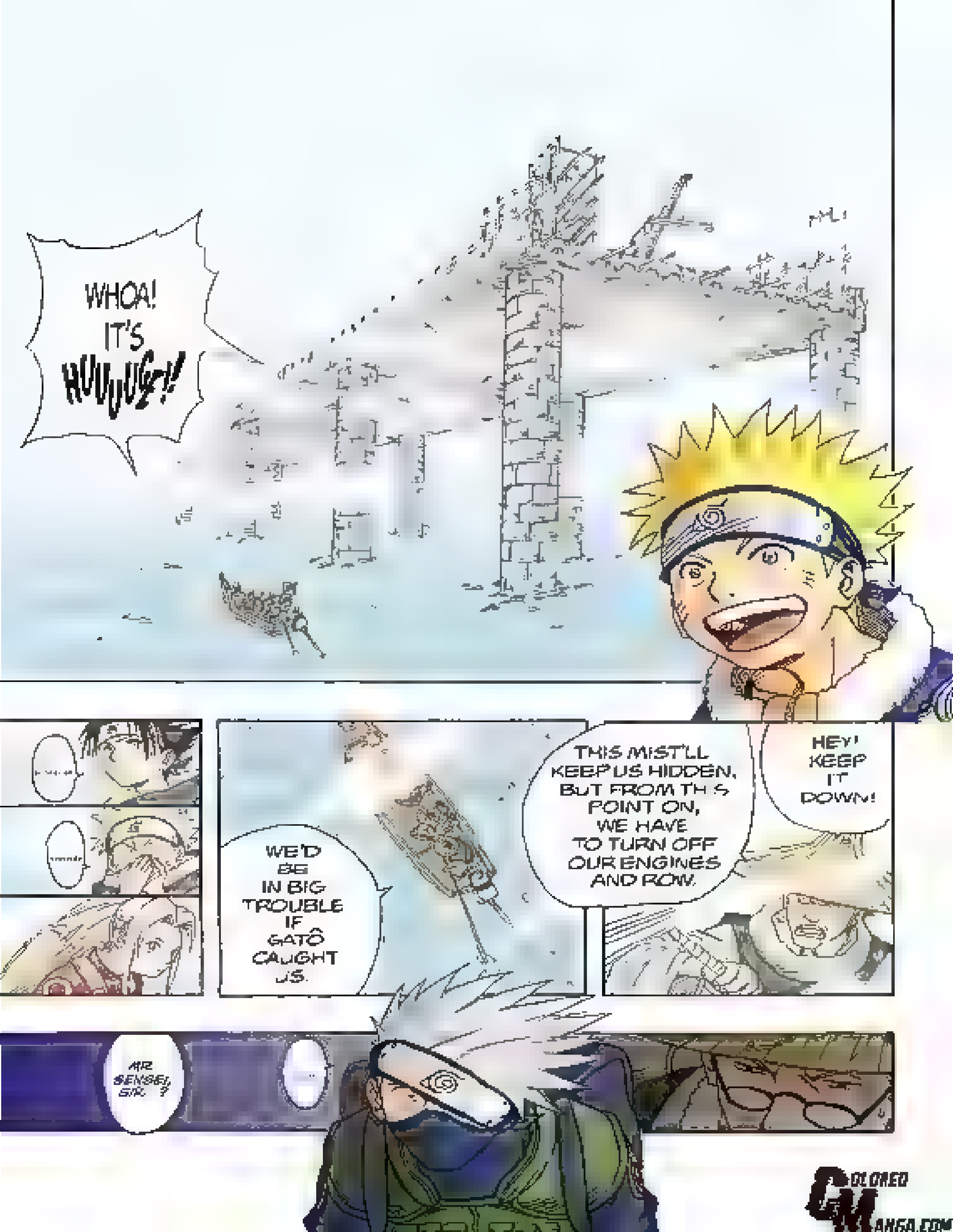

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF T IS NAMI NO KUNI- THE LAND OF THE WAVES.
WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THE BRIDGE IN A M NUTE







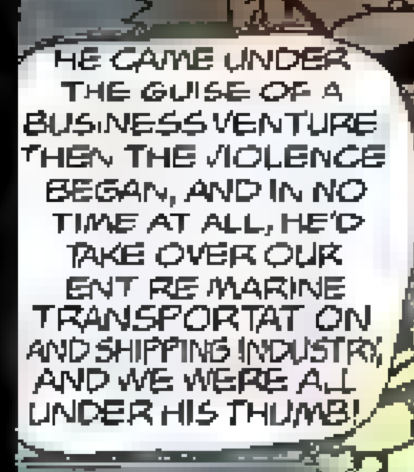



WHOA! IT'S HUUUUGE!!
HEY! KEEP IT DOWN!
THIS MIST'LL KEEP US HIDDEN, BUT FROM THIS POINT ON, WE HAVE TO TURN OFF OUR ENGINES AND ROW.
WE'D BE IN BIG TROUBLE IF GATÔ CAUGHT US.
MR SENSEI, SIR ?

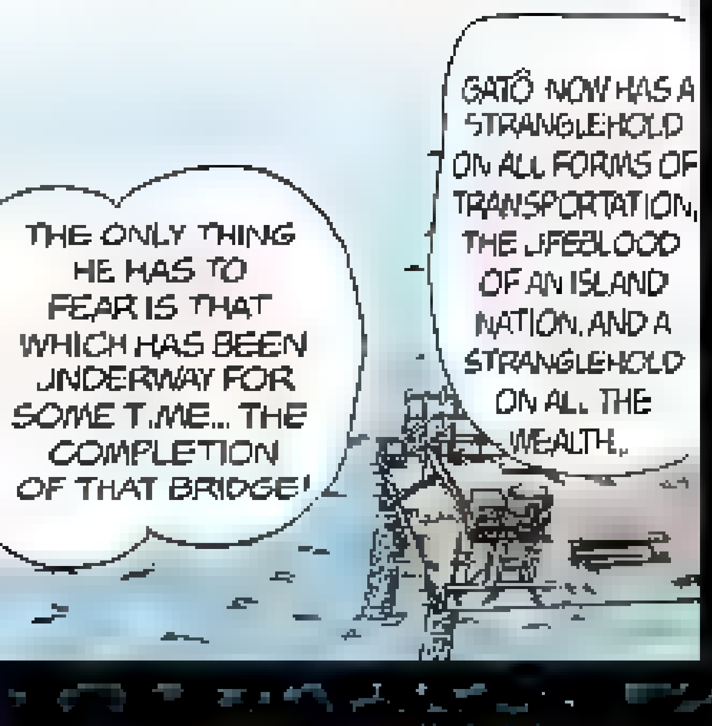


THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW...
UH—
THERE'S A REAL SCARY MAN WHO WANTS TO SEE ME DEAD.
AS YOU GUESSED, TH S JOB S MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS WERE LED TO BELIEVE.
A "REAL SCARY" MAN...?
.....ABOUT THE REQUEST FOR HELP I MADE TO YOUR VILLAGE
......
YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD OF HIM.
WHO IS HE?

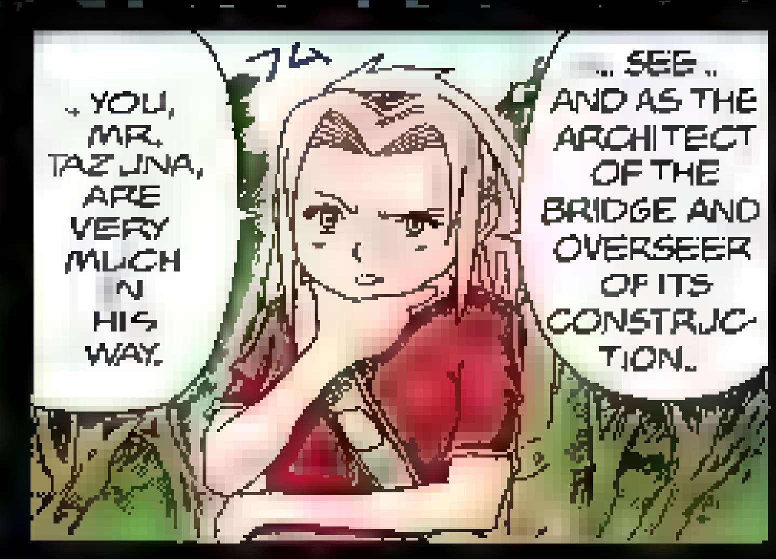
HE'S A BILLIONAIRE IN THE FIELD OF MARINE TRANSPORTATION.
HIS NAME IS GATÔ!
!
YOU MEAN... GATÔ...
...OF GATÔ SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT? THE GATÔ? THEY SAY HE'S THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD!
THAT'S THE ONE. ON THE SURFACE, HE LOOKS LIKE A LEGITIMATE BUSINESSMAN. THE TRUTH IS HE'S A RUTHLESS, MURDERING CRIMINAL WHO EMPLOYS GANGS AND TEAMS OF SHINOBI AND TRAFFICS IN DRUGS AND CONTRABAND.
HE STARTS OUT TAKING OVER COMPANIES... AND ENDS UP RUNNING ENTIRE COUNTRIES.
HE LIVES BY EVERY LOW AND VICIOUS TRADE KNOWN TO MAN.



IT WAS JUST ONE YEAR AGO... THAT HE SET HIS SIGHTS ON THE LAND OF THE WAVES...
HE CAME UNDER THE GUISE OF A BUSINESS VENTURE THEN THE VIOLENCE BEGAN, AND IN NO TIME AT ALL, HE'D TAKE OVER OUR ENTIRE MARINE TRANSPORTATION AND SHIPPING INDUSTRY, AND WE WERE ALL UNDER HIS THUMB!



GATÔ NOW HAS A STRANGLEHOLD ON ALL FORMS OF TRANSPORTATION, THE LIFEBLOOD OF AN ISLAND NATION, AND A STRANGLEHOLD ON ALL THE WEALTH...
THE ONLY THING HE HAS TO FEAR IS THAT WHICH HAS BEEN UNDERWAY FOR SOME TIME... THE COMPLETION OF THAT BRIDGE!



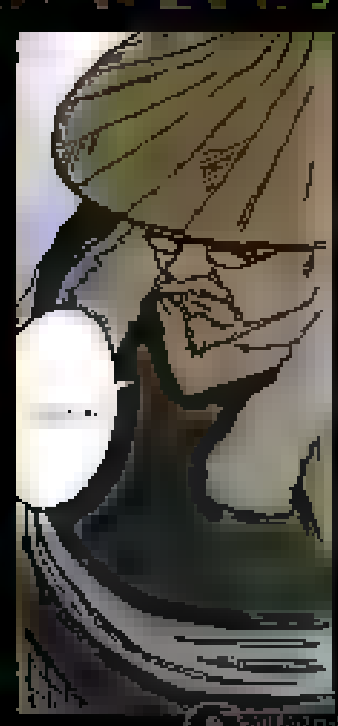
... SEE... AND AS THE ARCHITECT OF THE BRIDGE AND OVERSEER OF ITS CONSTRUCTION...
...YOU, MR. TAZUNA, ARE VERY MUCH IN HIS WAY.



THAT MEANS...
THAT THE NINJA WHO ATTACKED US WERE WORKING FOR GATÔ.

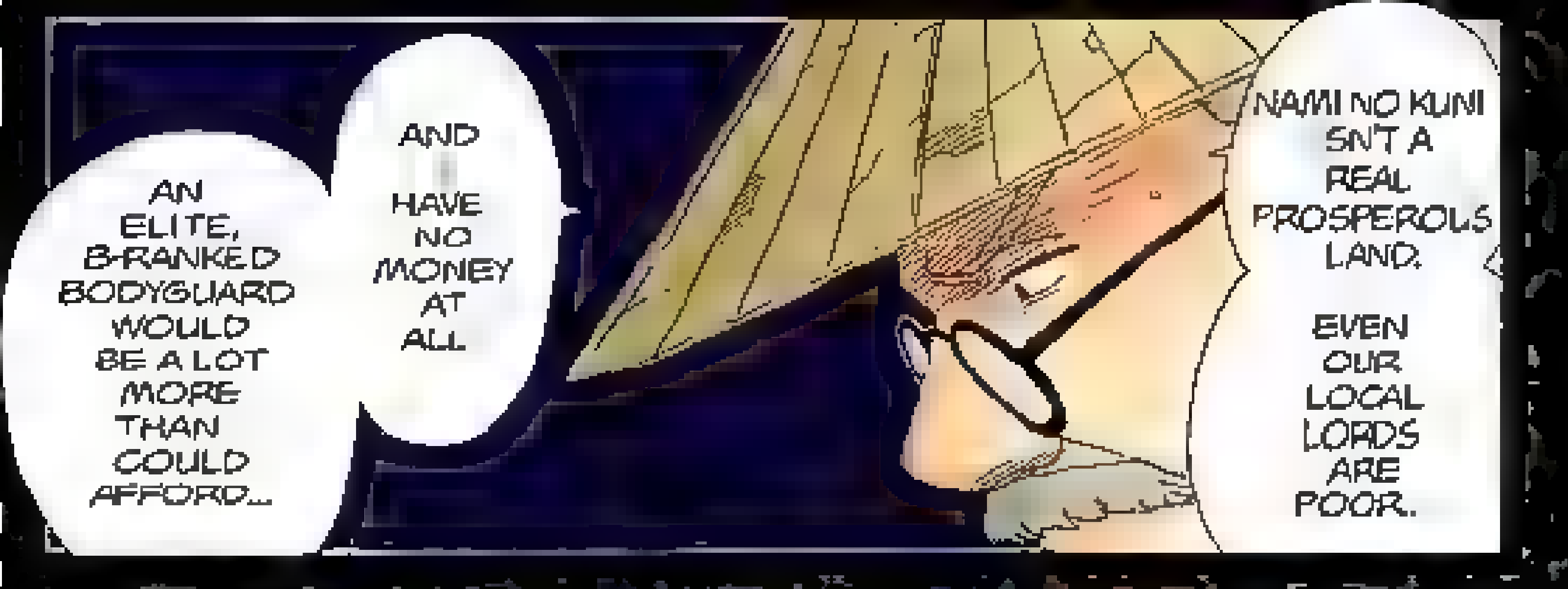


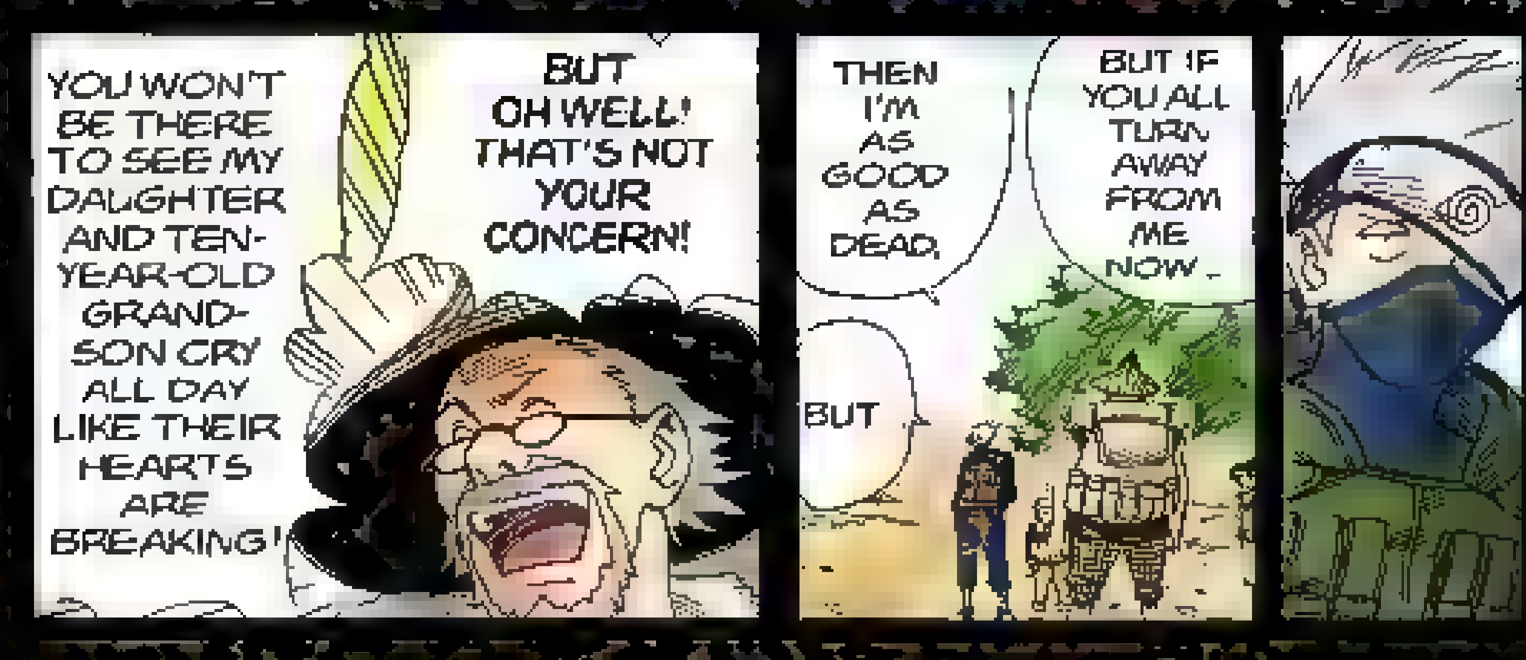
?
NARUTO'S DOING HIS BEST TO KEEP UP

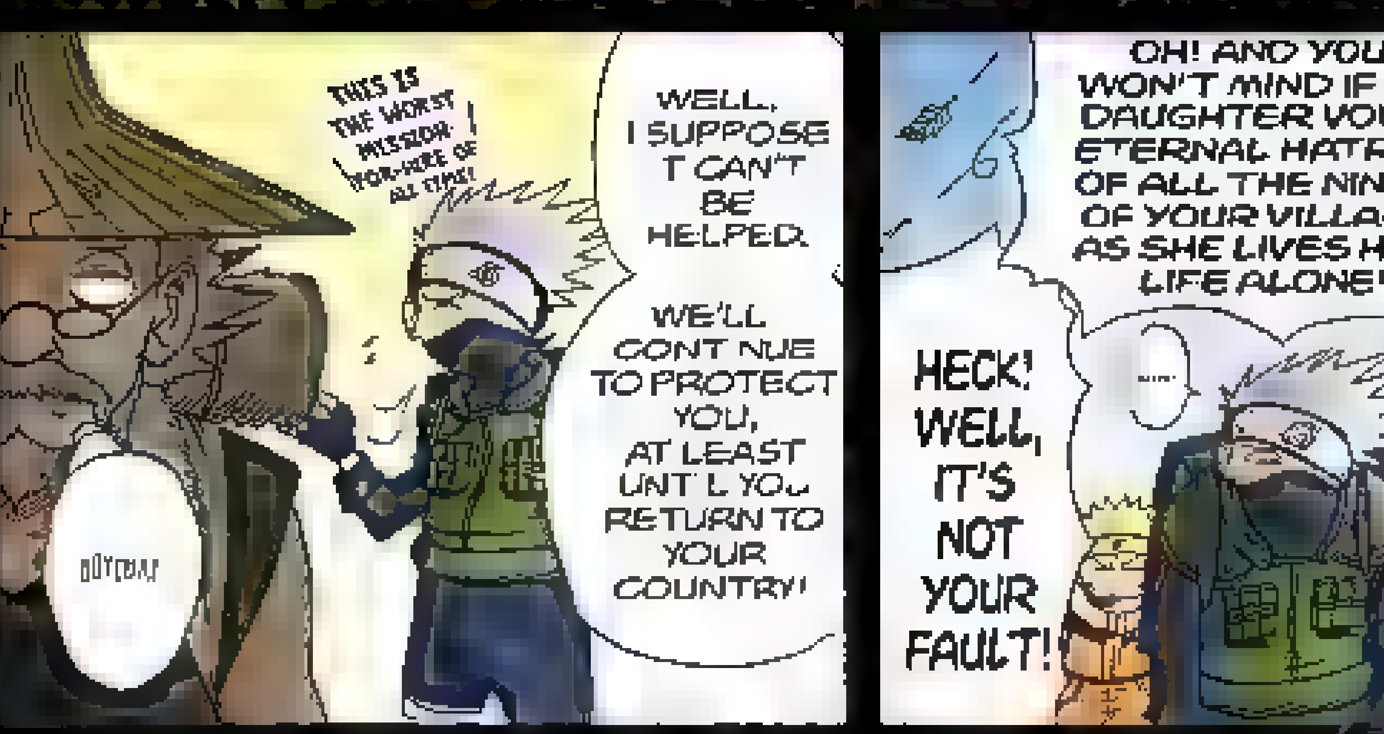


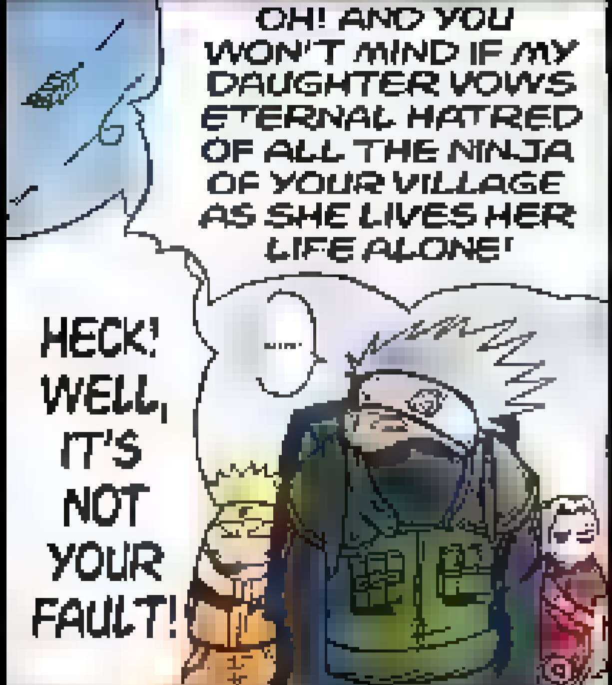


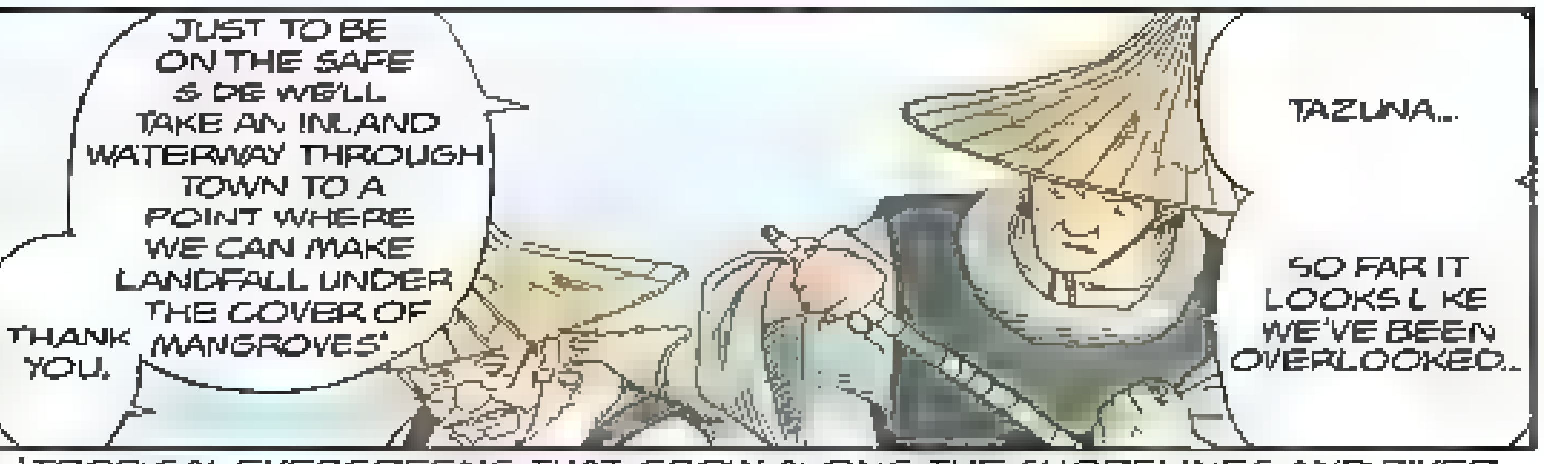
BUT... I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND... IF YOU KNEW YOU WERE THE TARGET OF A RUTHLESS THUG WITH NINJA AT HIS DISPOSAL...
...WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US WHEN YOU ASKED FOR OUR HELP?


NAMI NO KUNI ISN'T A REAL PROSPEROUS LAND. EVEN OUR LOCAL LORDS ARE POOR.
AND I HAVE NO MONEY AT ALL.
AN ELITE, B-RANKED BODYGUARD WOULD BE A LOT MORE THAN I COULD AFFORD...

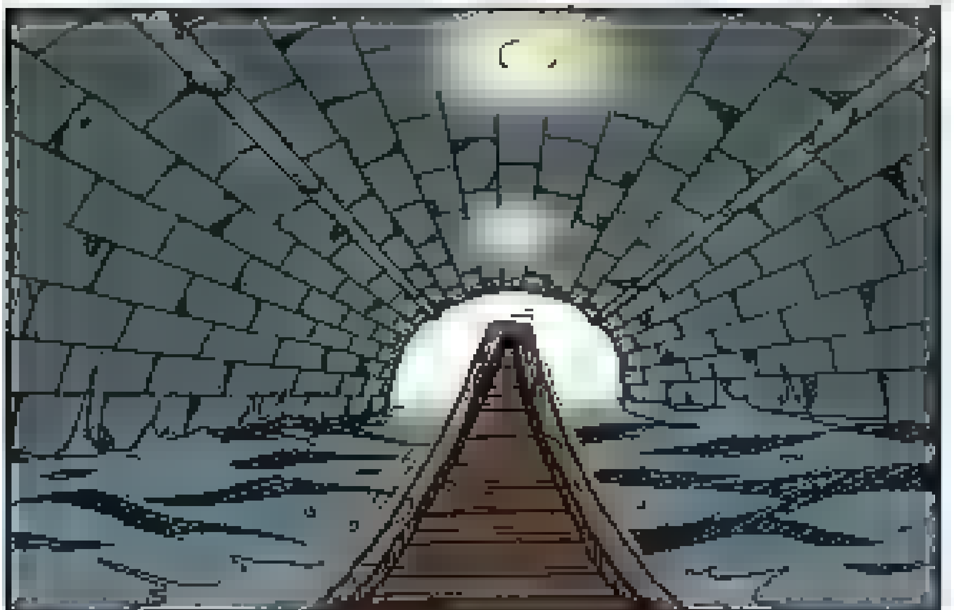

BUT IF YOU ALL TURN AWAY FROM ME NOW...
THEN I'M AS GOOD AS DEAD.
BUT
BUT OH WELL! THAT'S NOT YOUR CONCERN!
YOU WON'T BE THERE TO SEE MY DAUGHTER AND TEN-YEAR-OLD GRANDSON CRY ALL DAY LIKE THEIR HEARTS ARE BREAKING!

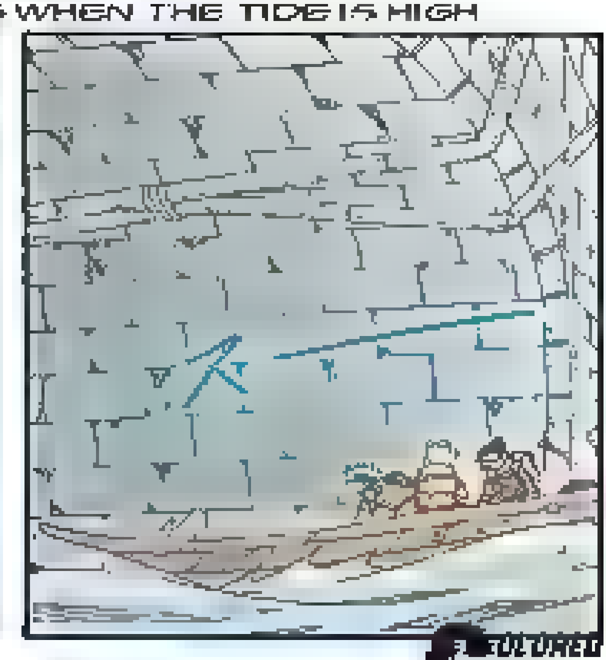

WELL, I SUPPOSE I CAN'T BE HELPED. WE'LL CONTINUE TO PROTECT YOU, AT LEAST UNTIL YOU RETURN TO YOUR COUNTRY!
THIS IS THE WORST MISSION-FOR-HIRE OF ALL TIME!

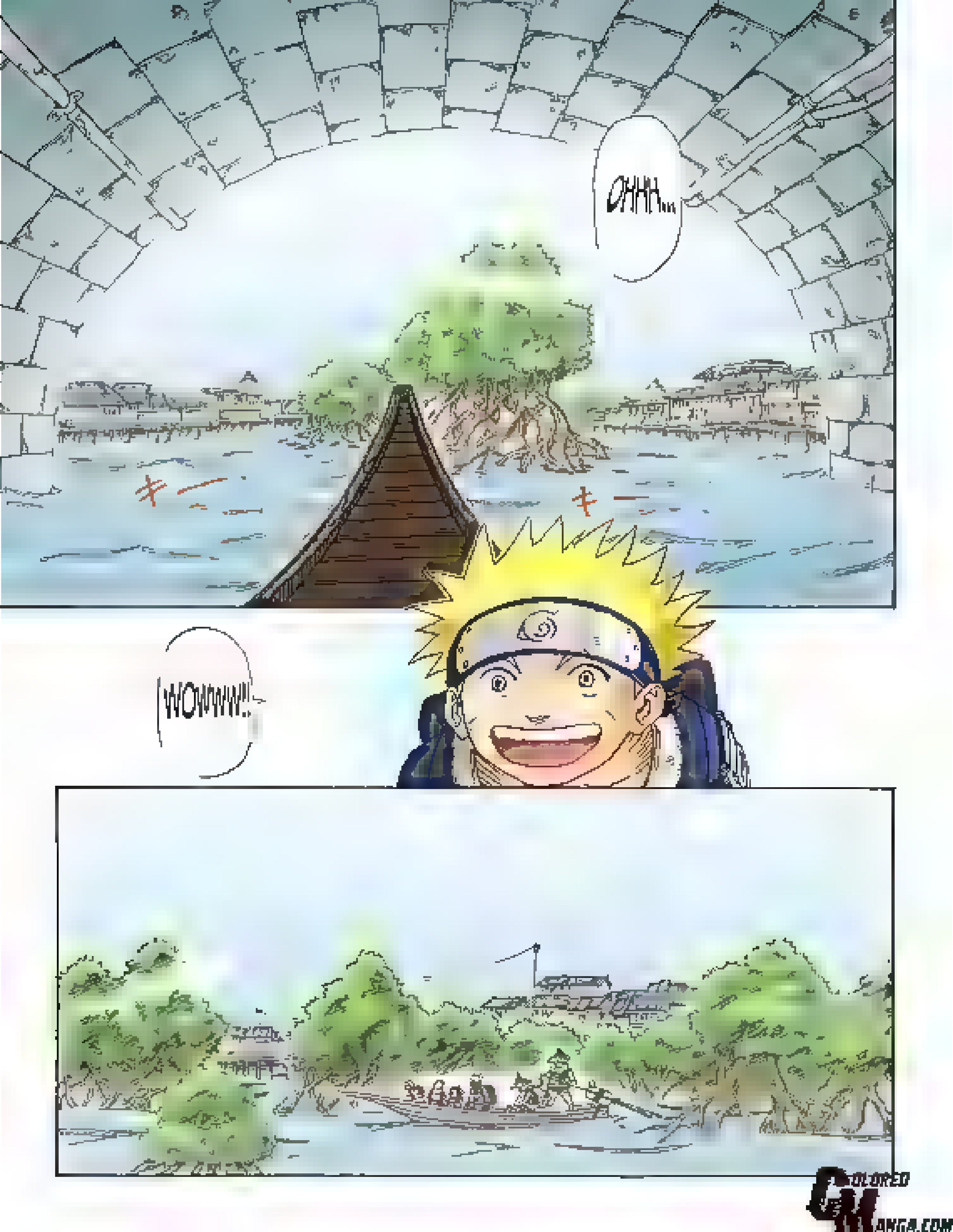

OH! AND YOU WON'T MIND IF MY DAUGHTER VOWS ETERNAL HATRED OF ALL THE NINJA OF YOUR VILLAGE AS SHE LIVES HER LIFE ALONE!
HECK! WELL, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT!

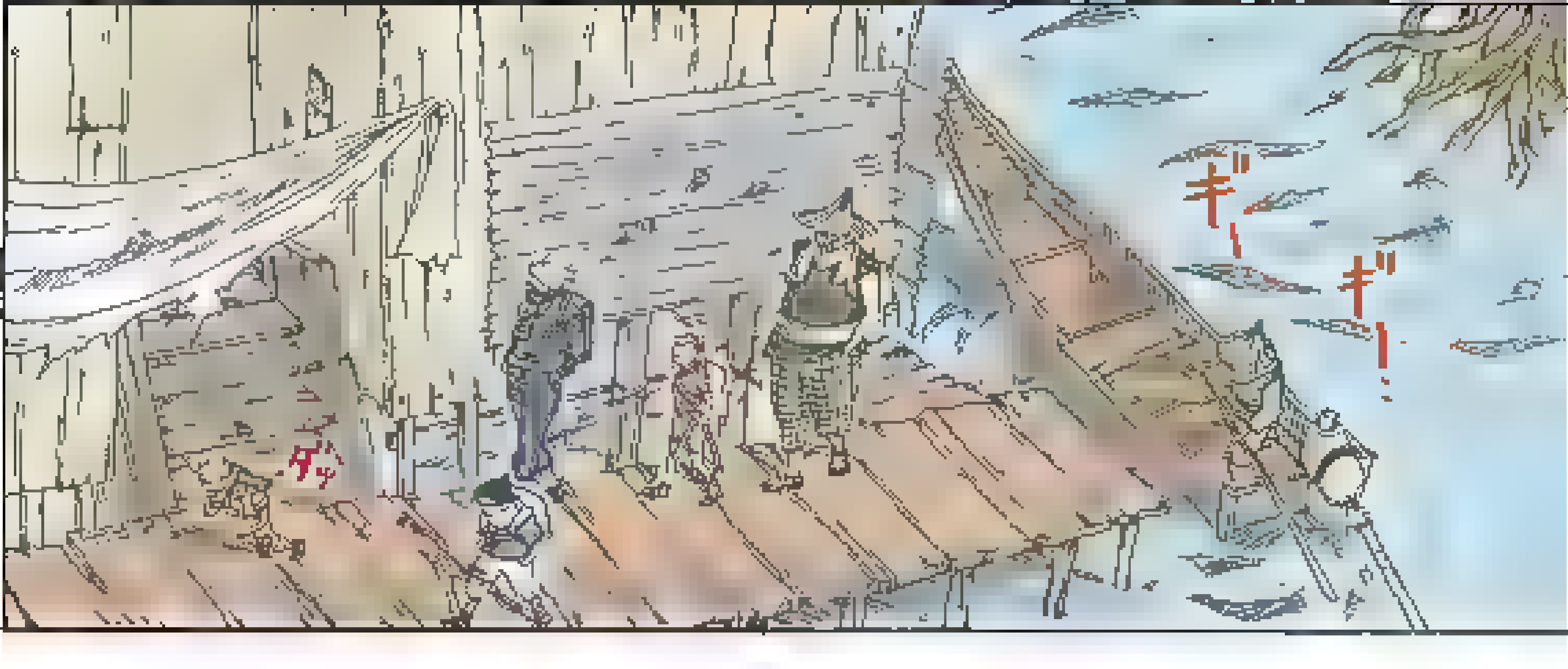


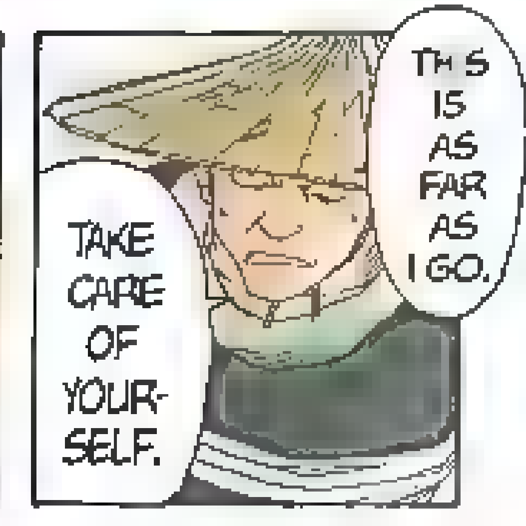
*TROPICAL EVERGREENS THAT GROW ALONG THE SHORELINES AND RIVER BANKS AND LOOK LIKE FLOATING FORESTS WHEN THE TIDE IS HIGH

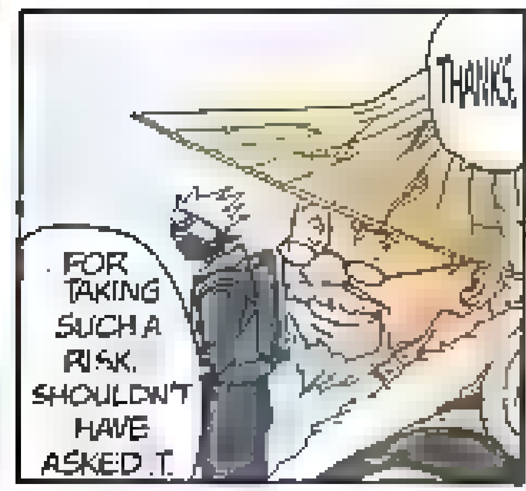


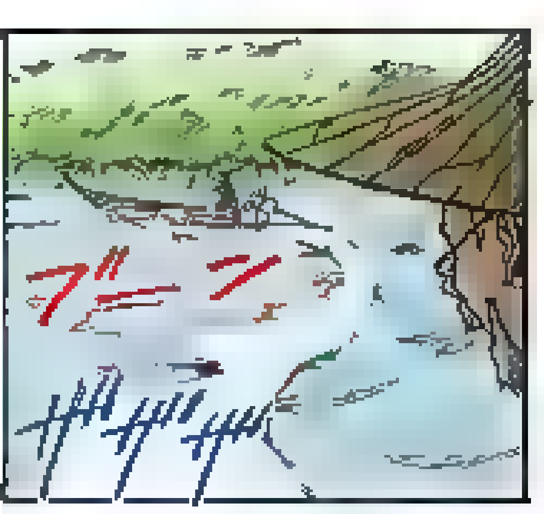


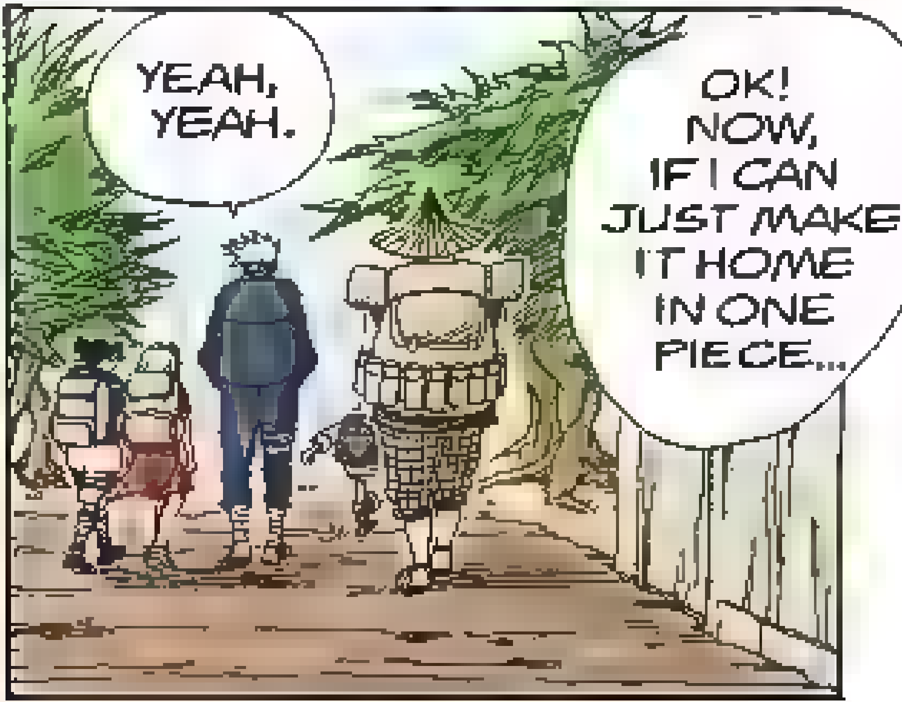

OHHH...
キー
キー
WOWWW!!

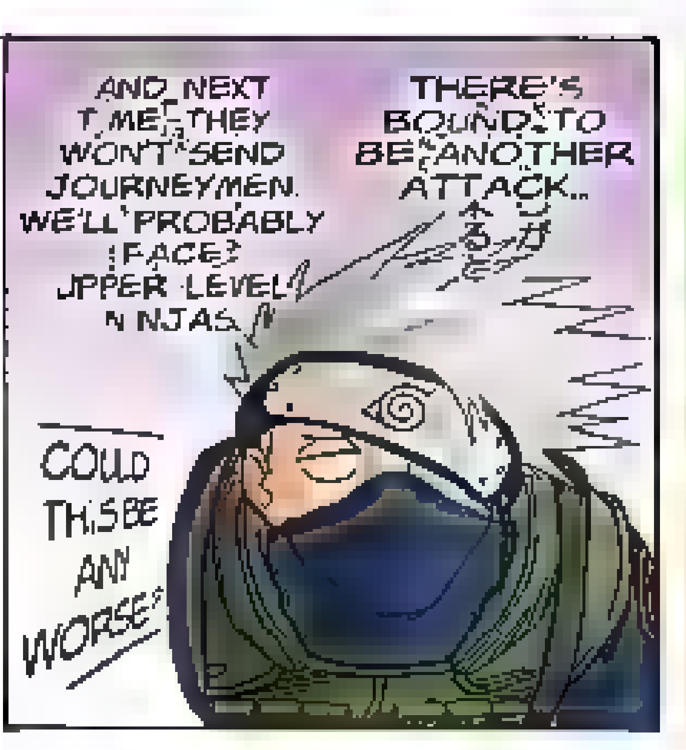



THIS IS AS FAR AS I GO.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.


THANKS.
FOR TAKING SUCH A RISK. SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED IT.




OK! NOW, IF I CAN JUST MAKE IT HOME IN ONE PIECE...
YEAH, YEAH.

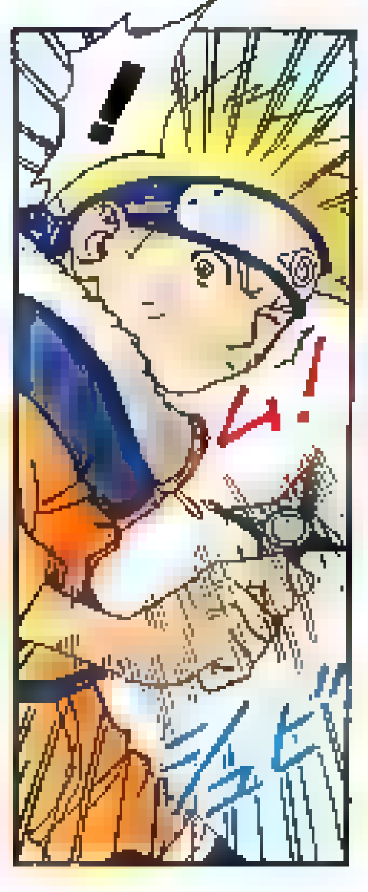

THERE'S BOUND TO BE ANOTHER ATTACK...
AND NEXT TIME, THEY WON'T SEND JOURNEYMEN. WE'LL PROBABLY FACE UPPER-LEVEL NINJAS.
COULD THIS BE ANY WORSE?





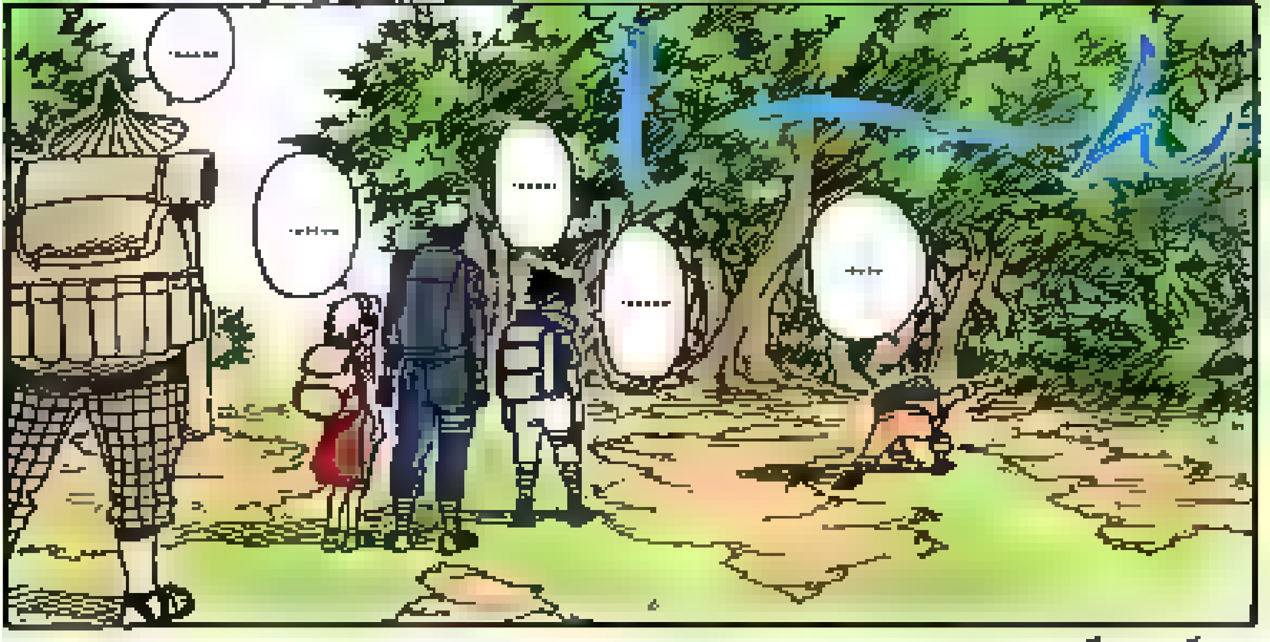

THIS IS IT!
I'M NOT GOING TO LET HIM MAKE ME LOOK BAD AGAIN!

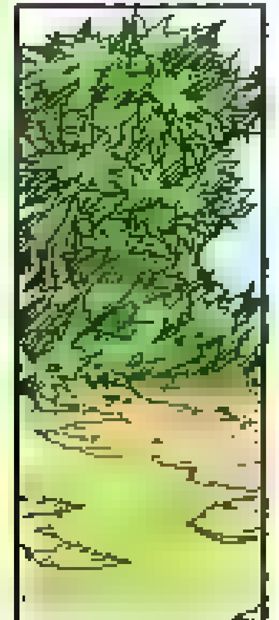

キョロ キョロ


!
ム!


OVER THERE!!



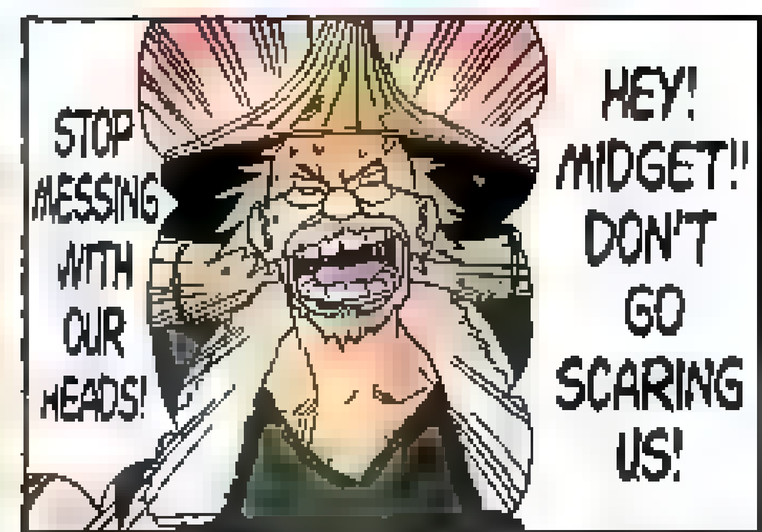


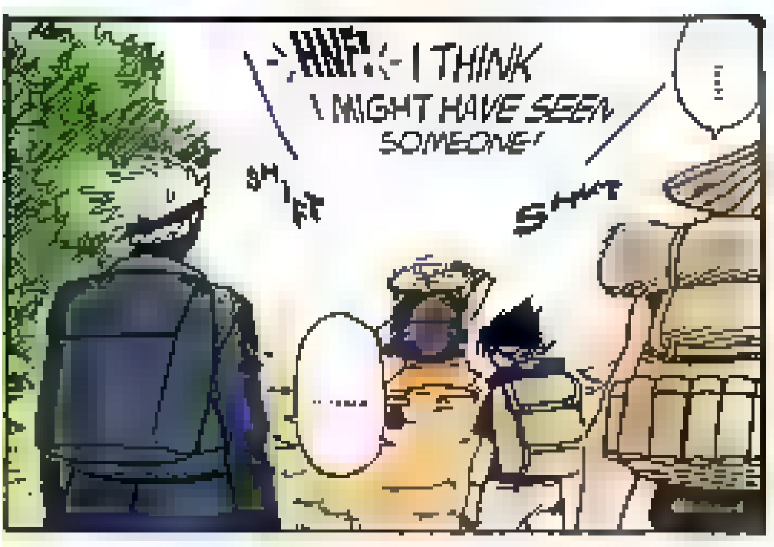


UH, GUESS IT WAS ONLY A MOUSE.

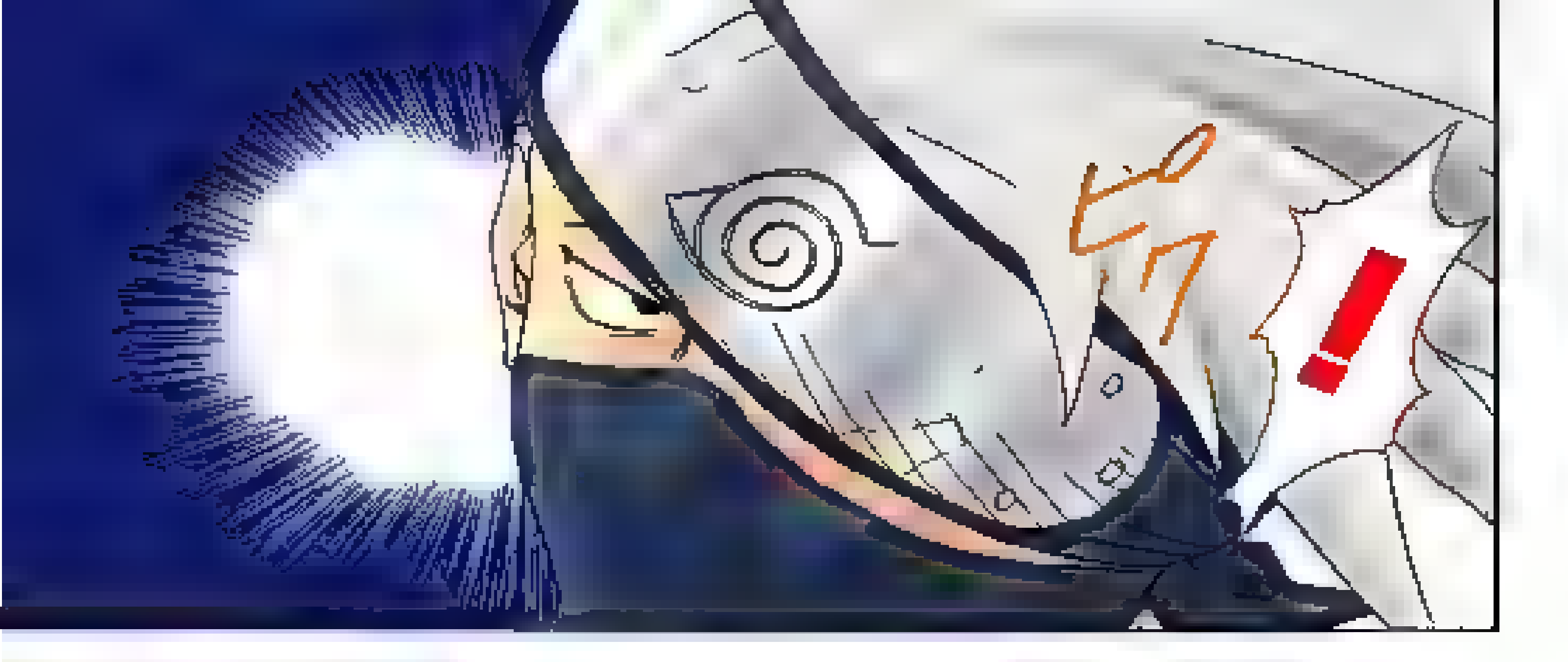
WHAT MOUSE? ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND? THERE WAS NOTHING THERE, YOU MORON!

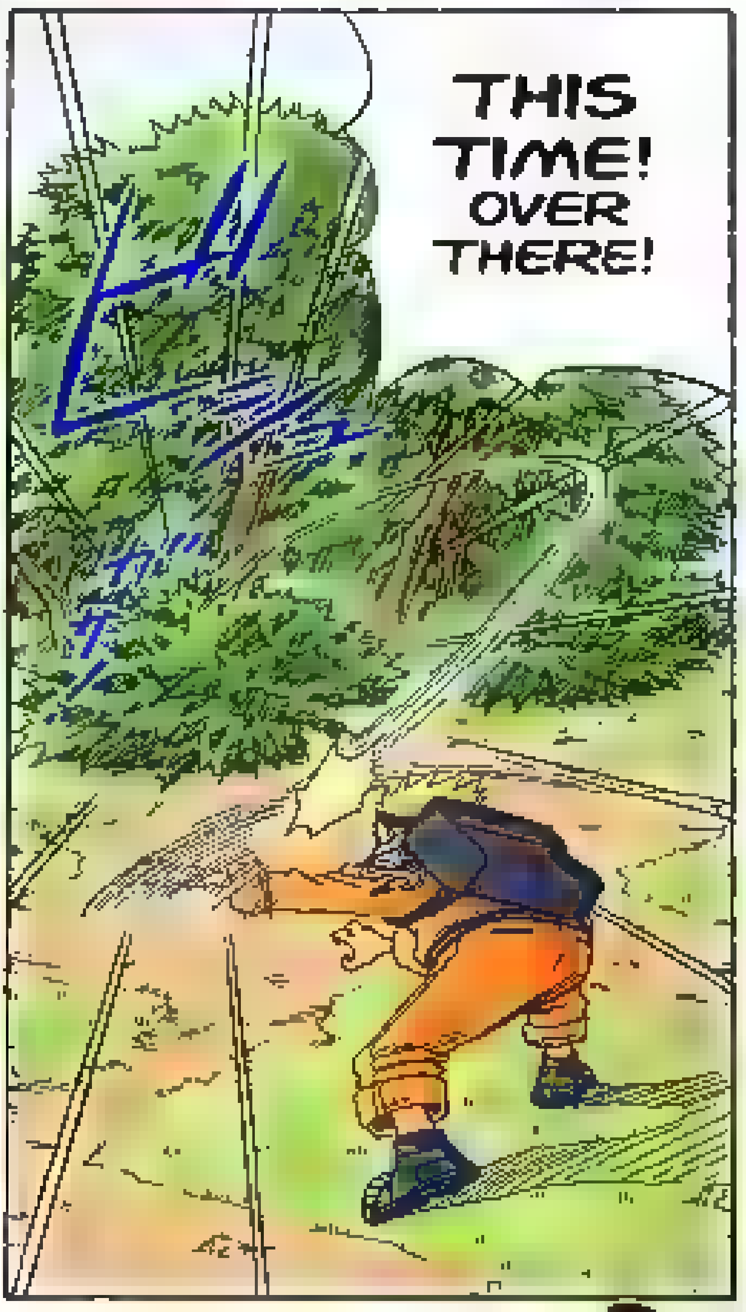
PLEASE .. PLEASE DON'T PLAY AROUND WITH YOUR SHURIKEN. THEY CAN BE JUST A TEENSY BIT DANGEROUS!









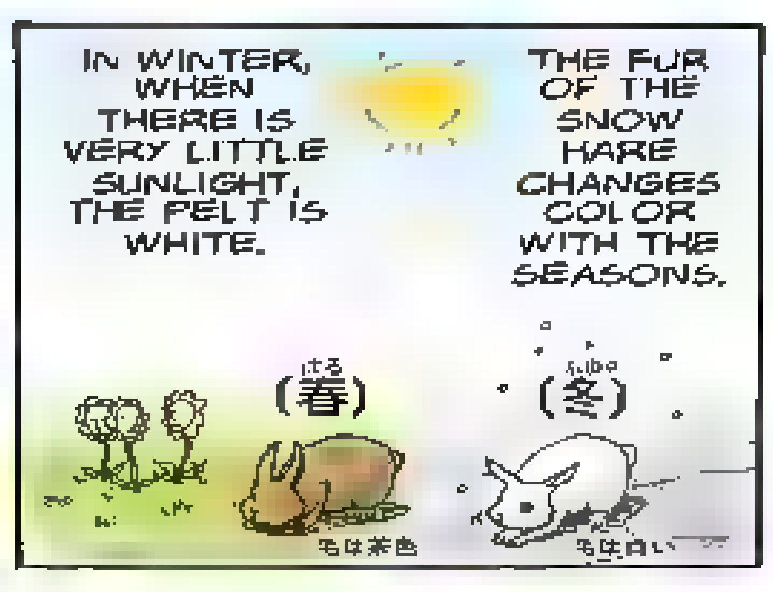

THIS TIME! OVER THERE!

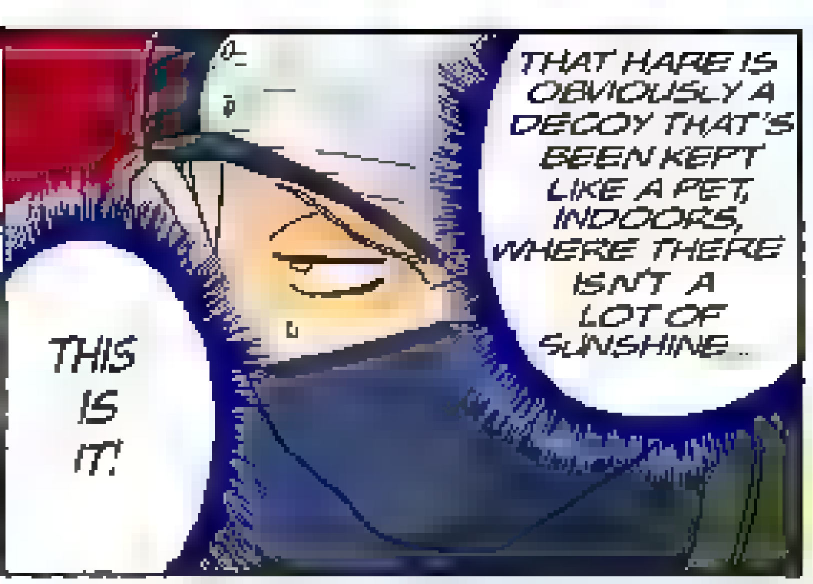

I TOLD YOU TO QUIT IT!
OWW!!

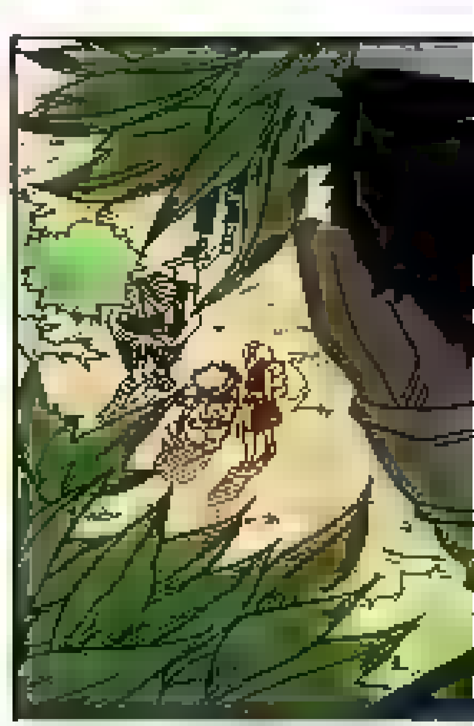

I SWEAR-- THERE WAS SOMEONE IN THERE AFTER US!
YOU ARE SUCH A LIAR.
OHH--!

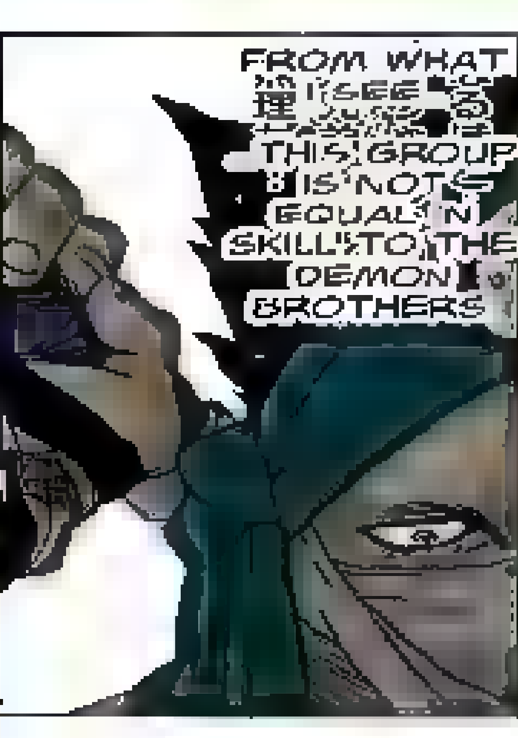



NARUTO! LOOK WHAT YOU DID!
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT SNAP OUT OF IT, BUNNY! PLEASE
JUST A RABBIT?!
THAT'S A SNOW HARE.....
IT'S SPRINGTIME.. SO WHY IS IT STILL WEARING ITS WINTER PELT?


THE FUR OF THE SNOW HARE CHANGES COLOR WITH THE SEASONS.
IN WINTER, WHEN THERE IS VERY LITTLE SUNLIGHT, THE PELT IS WHITE.
(冬)
(春)
毛は白い
毛は茶色

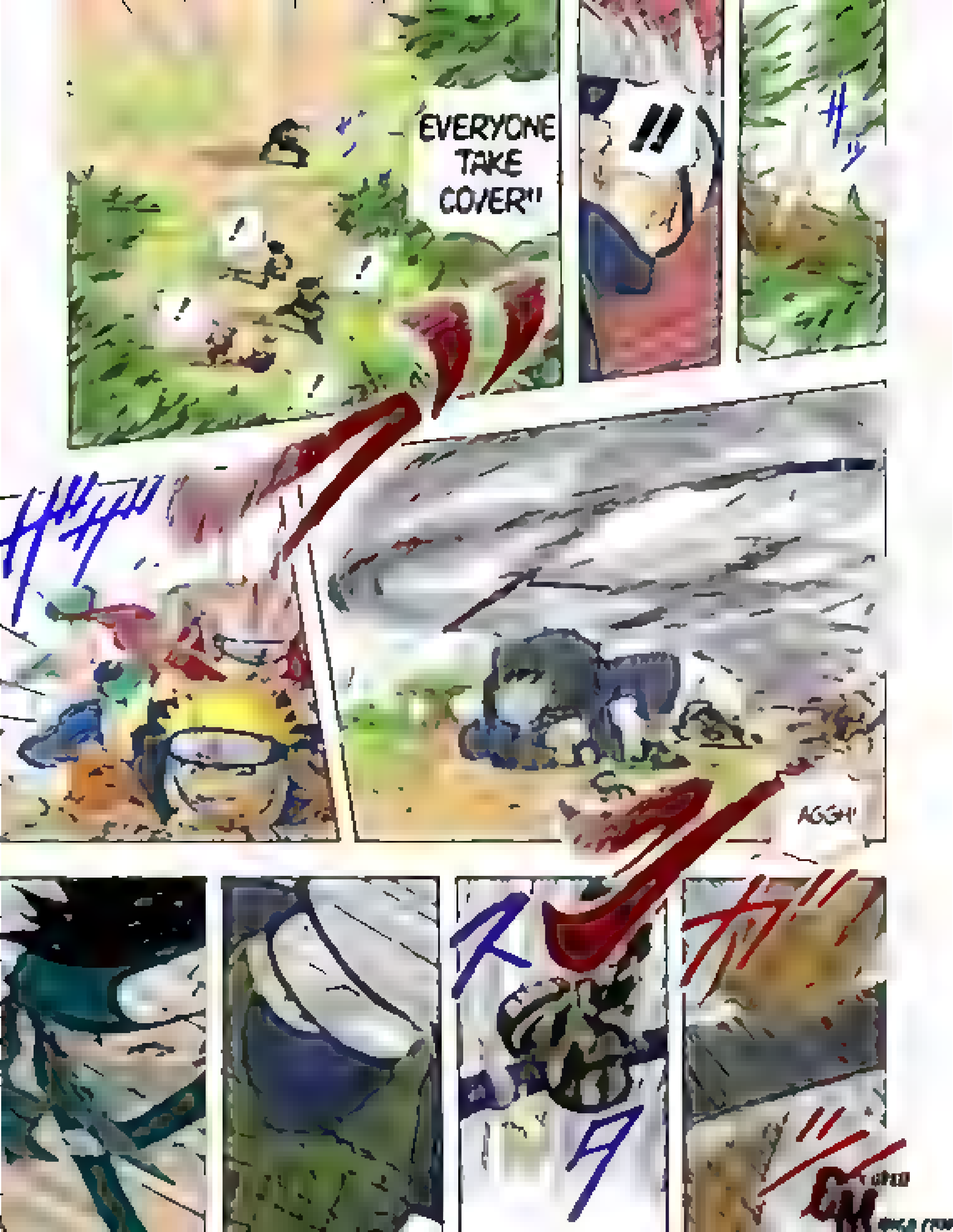

THAT HARE IS OBVIOUSLY A DECOY THAT'S BEEN KEPT LIKE A PET, INDOORS, WHERE THERE ISN'T A LOT OF SUNSHINE..
THIS IS IT!




FROM WHAT I SEE THIS GROUP IS NOT EQUAL IN SKILL TO THE DEMON BROTHERS


YET, THEIR LEADER IS A SHINOBI OF KONOHAGAKURE VILLAGE, AND NOT JUST ANY SHINOBI!
IT'S KAKASHI THE MIRROR NINJA-- KAKASHI OF THE SHARINGAN EYE!


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EVERYONE TAKE COVER!!
AGGH!

THIS LOOKS LIKE...

......

YESS! IT'S HERE! MY BIG CHANCE

THIS TIME SASUKE'S NOT GONNA OUTDO ME!!

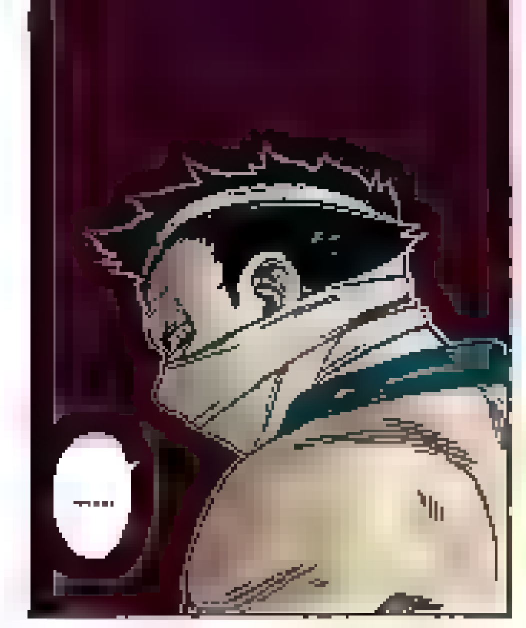
WELL, WELL... IF IT ISN'T MOMOCHI ZABUZA, THE KID WHO RAN OFF AND LEFT THE LAND OF THE MISTS!

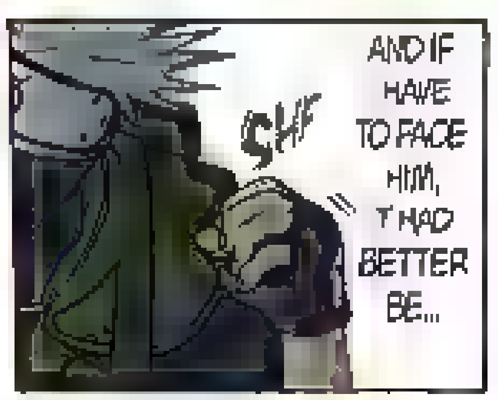
READY... STEADY...

...GO!!

SHF













ガッ

...LIKE THIS...

THIS MAY BE A LITTLE ROUGH.

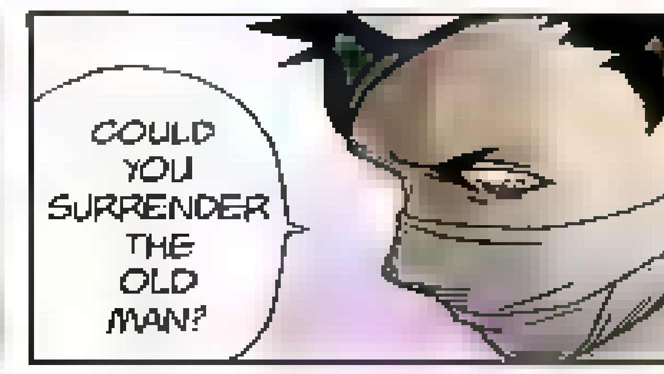




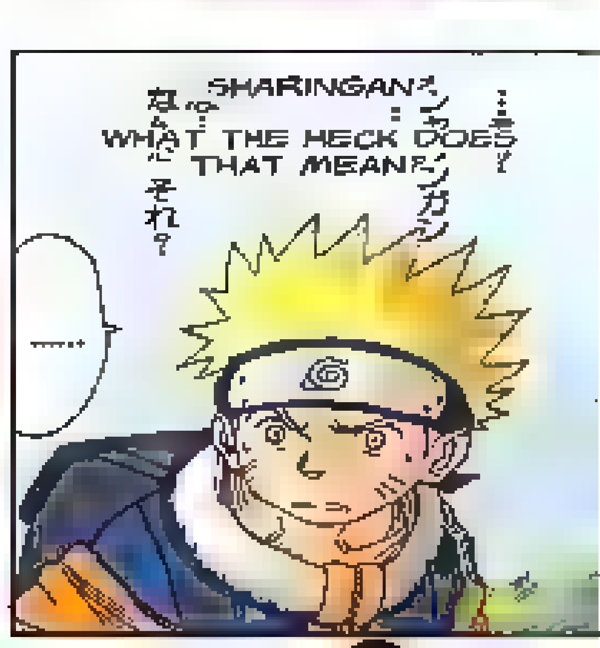
GAME OVER!!!

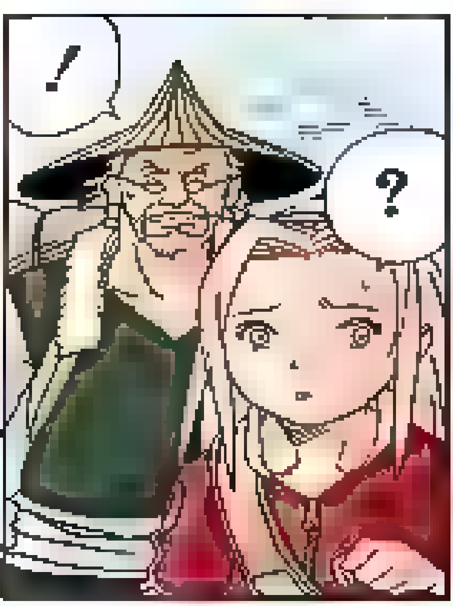
12：終わりだ!!

KAKASHI OF THE SHARINGAN EYE, I PRESUME?
IF IT WOULDN'T BE TOO MUCH TROUBLE

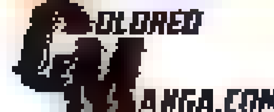






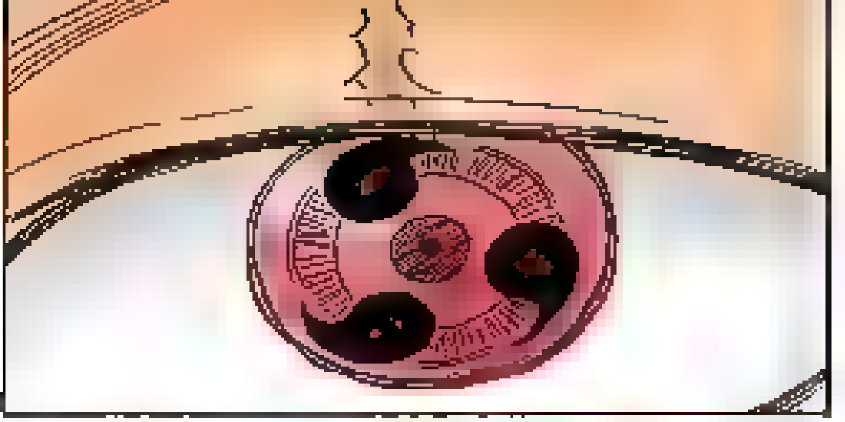




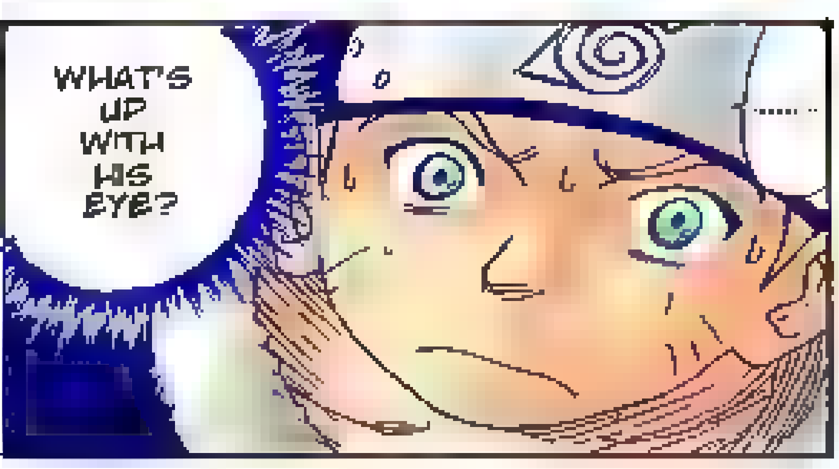


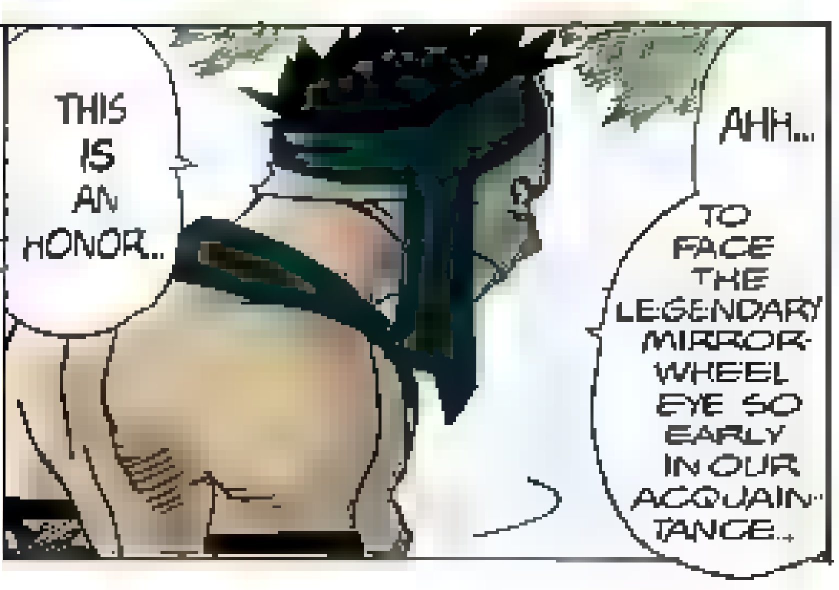


ASSUME THE MANJI BATTLE FORMATION!
PROTECT MR. TAZUNA...
ALL OF YOU, STAY OUT OF THE FIGHT.
...
THAT'S THE KIND OF TEAMWORK THIS SITUATION DEMANDS.
AND NOW...
ZABUZA.
!!!
OH...



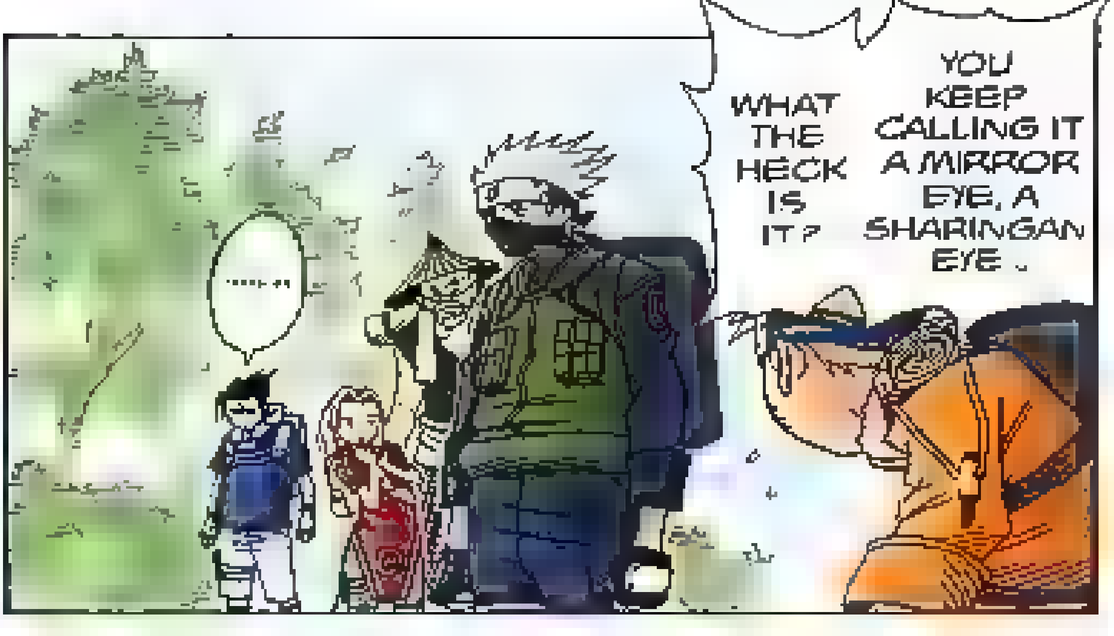


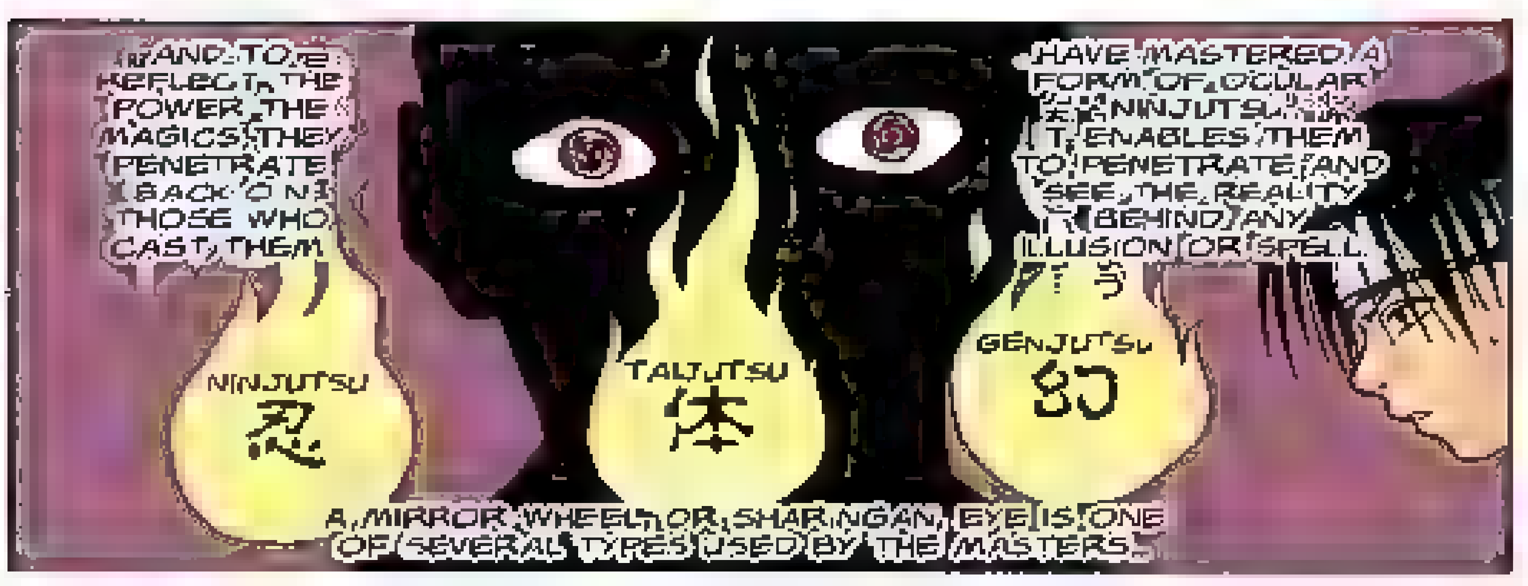

......
WHAT'S UP WITH HIS EYE?

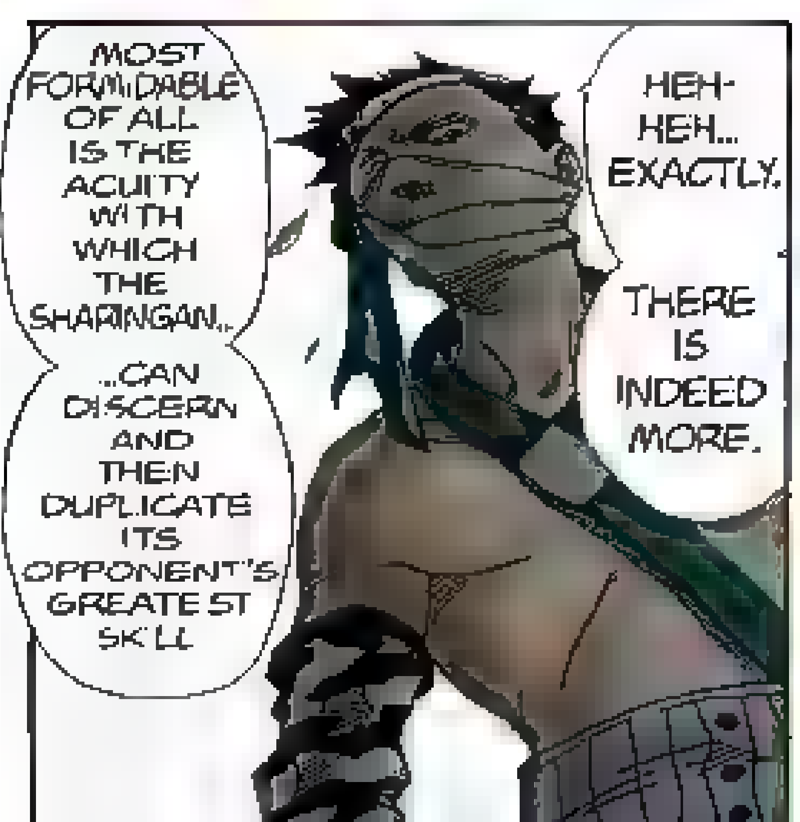

AHH...
THIS IS AN HONOR...
TO FACE THE LEGENDARY MIRROR-WHEEL EYE SO EARLY IN OUR ACQUAINTANCE...

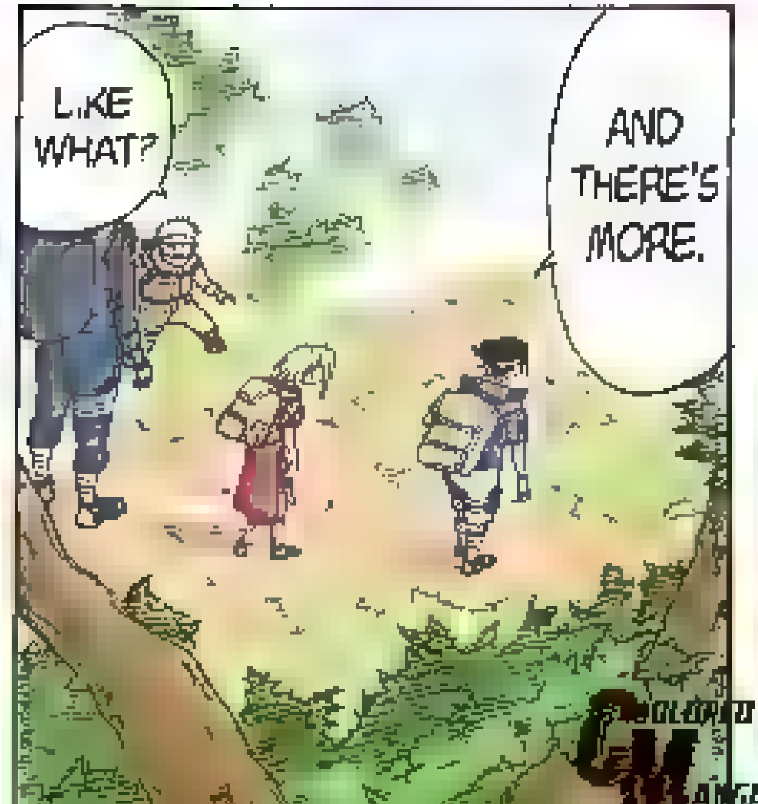
SHALL WE?!


SHINOBI WHO HAVE THE SHARINGAN EYE...


YOU KEEP CALLING IT A MIRROR EYE, A SHARINGAN EYE.
WHAT THE HECK IS IT?


HAVE MASTERED A FORM OF OCULAR NINJUTSU. IT ENABLES THEM TO PENETRATE AND SEE THE REALITY BEHIND ANY ILLUSION OR SPELL.
AND TO REFLECT THE POWER THE MAGICS THEY PENETRATE BACK ON THOSE WHO CAST THEM.
NINJUTSU
忍
TAIJUTSU
体
GENJUTSU
幻
A MIRROR WHEEL OR SHARINGAN EYE IS ONE OF SEVERAL TYPES USED BY THE MASTERS.

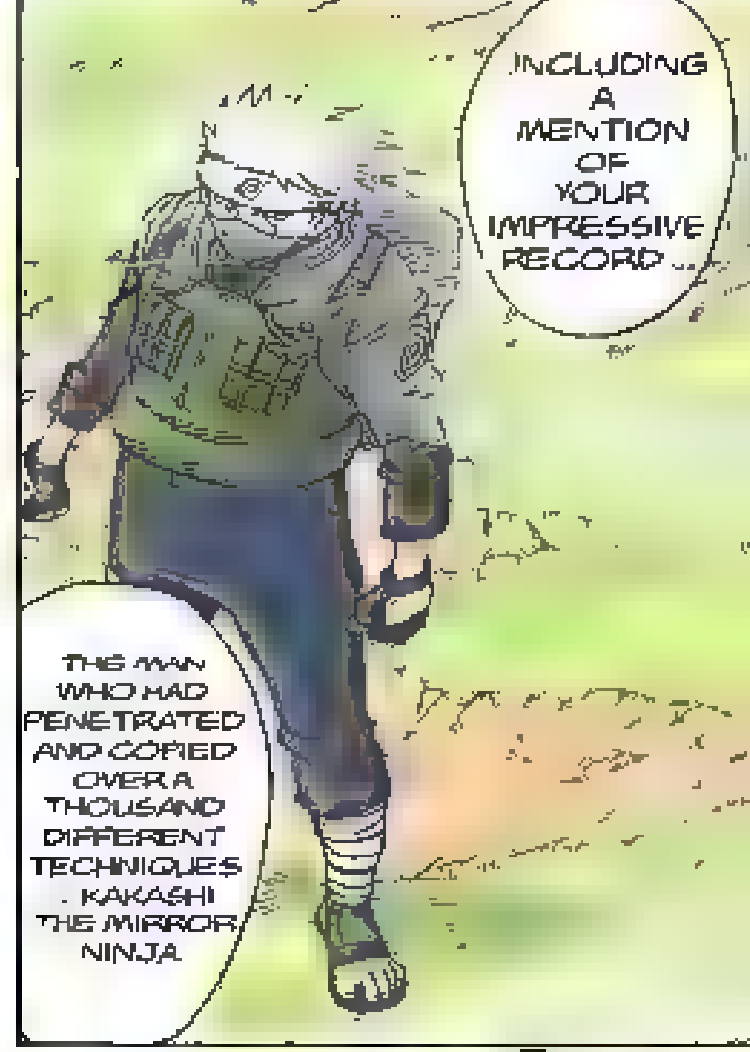

HEH-HEH... EXACTLY.
THERE IS INDEED MORE.
MOST FORMIDABLE OF ALL IS THE ACUITY WITH WHICH THE SHARINGAN...
...CAN DISCERN AND THEN DUPLICATE ITS OPPONENT'S GREATEST SKILL


AND THERE'S MORE.
LIKE WHAT?

WHEN WAS AN ASSASSIN FOR THE KIRIGAKURE

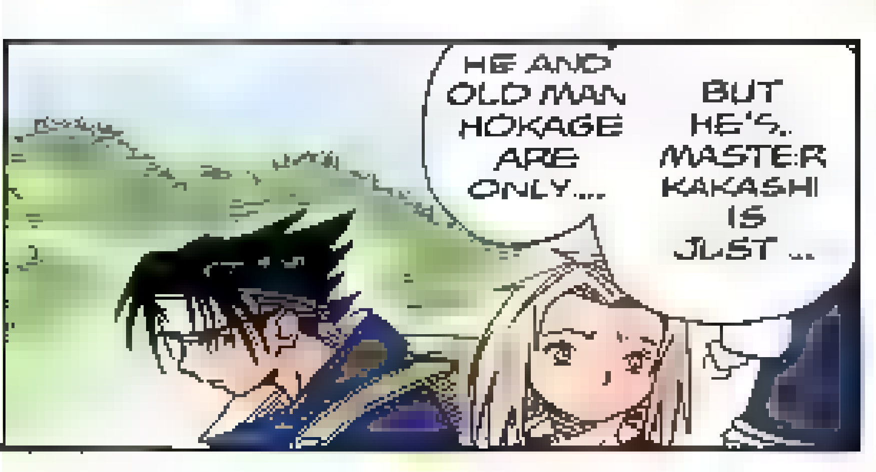
POSSESSED THE JSUAL BINGO BOOK A KIND OF WHO'S WHO OF OUR ENEMIES

IT HAD QUITE THE EXTENSIVE WRITE-UP ON YOU...

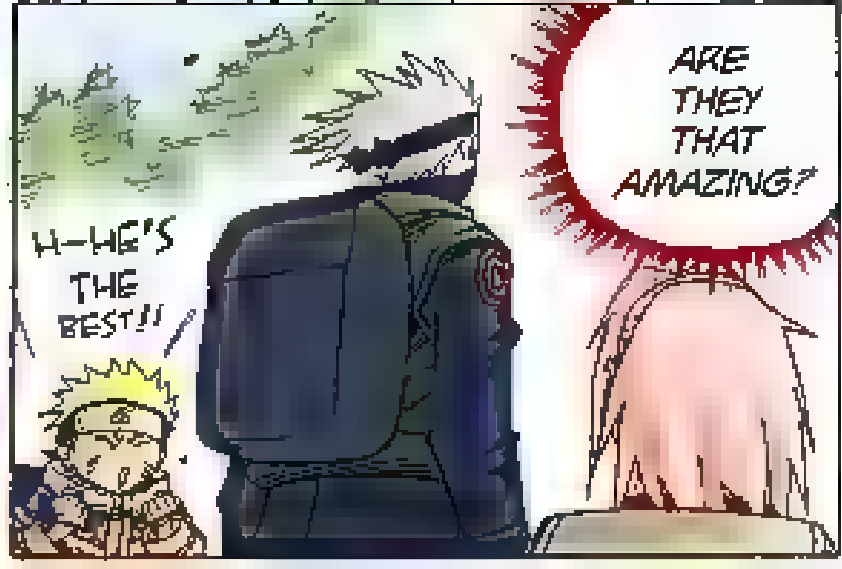


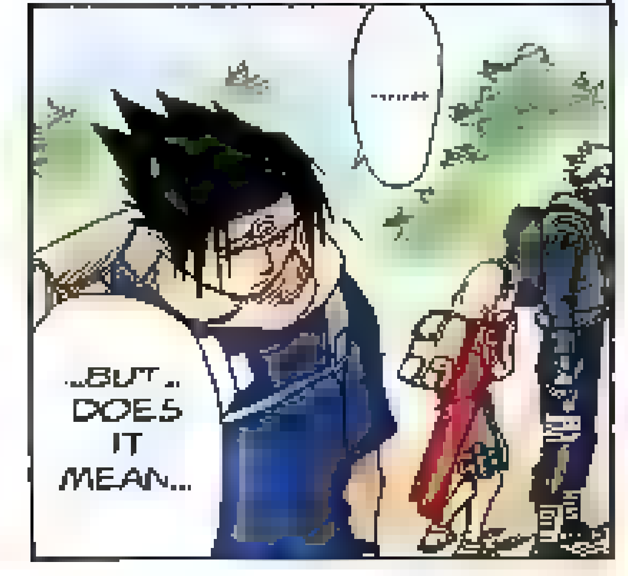


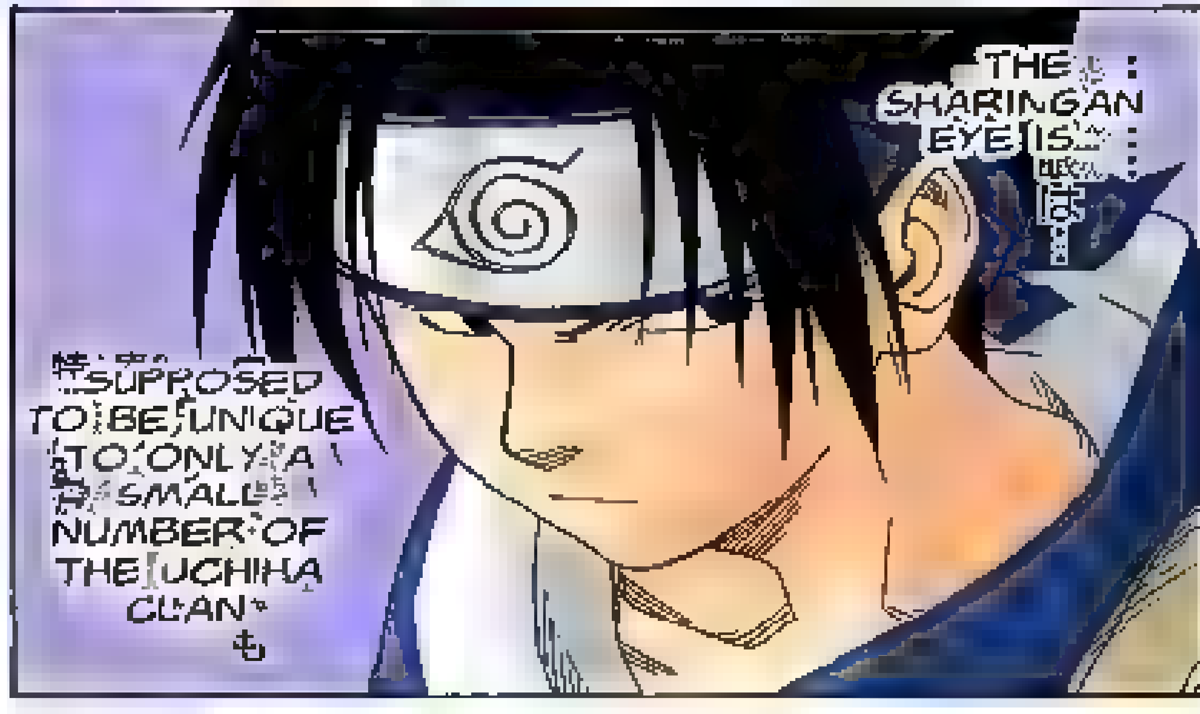


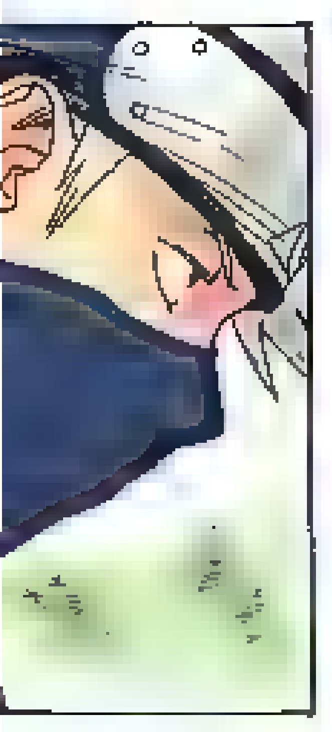




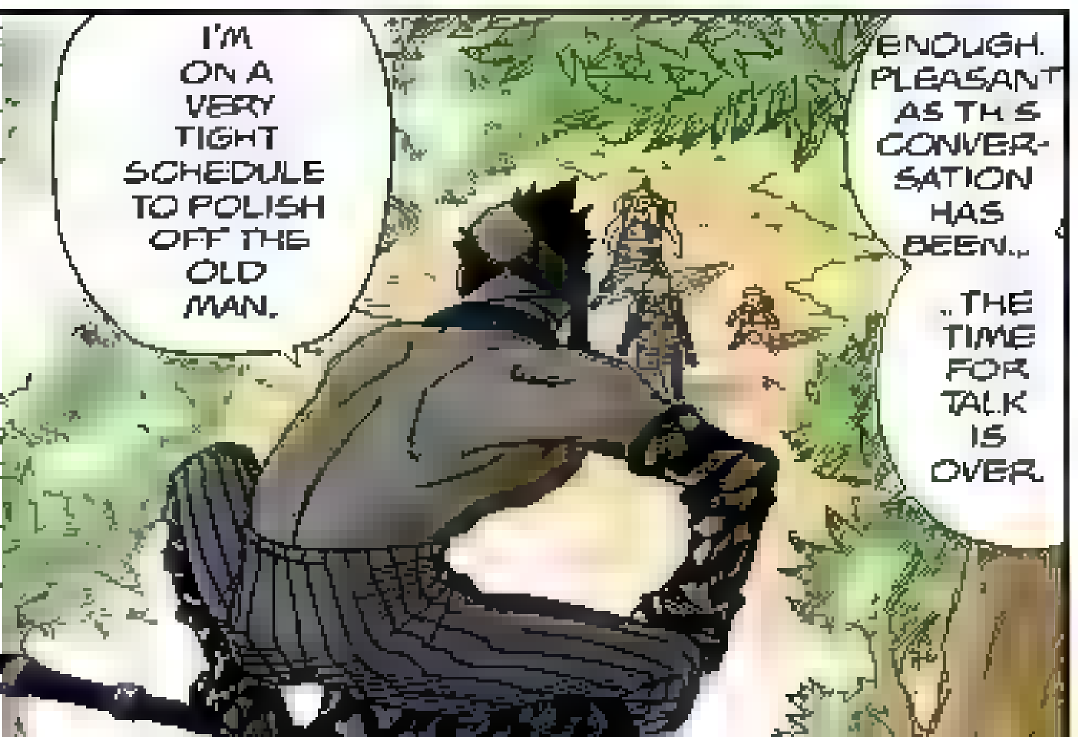

ARE THEY THAT AMAZING?
H-HE'S THE BEST!!

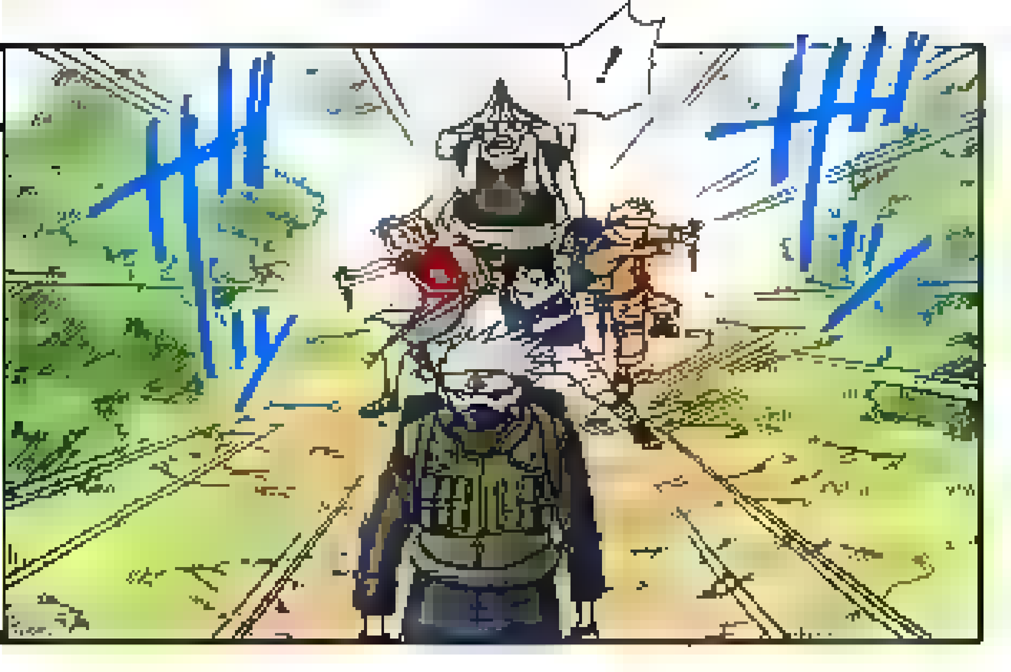

……
...BUT... DOES IT MEAN...

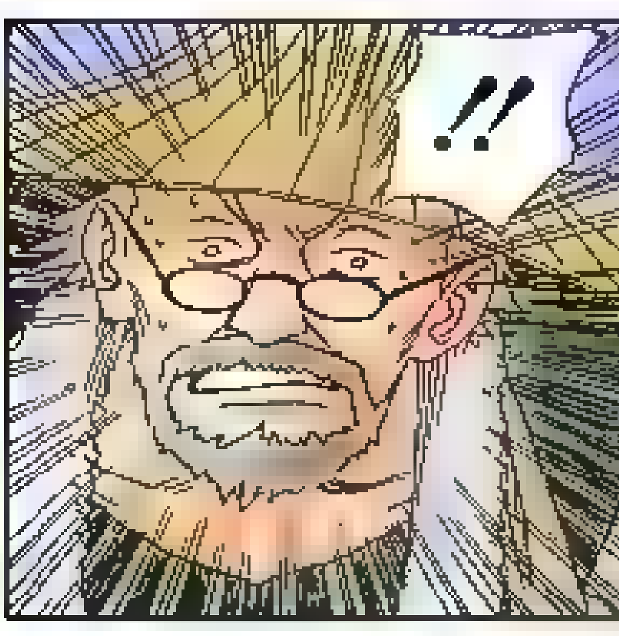

THE SHARINGAN EYE IS...
...SUPPROSED TO BE UNIQUE TO ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF THE UCHIHA CLAN




COULD HE BE...?


ENOUGH. PLEASANT AS TH S CONVERSATION HAS BEEN...
...THE TIME FOR TALK IS OVER.
I'M ON A VERY TIGHT SCHEDULE TO POLISH OFF THE OLD MAN.


!


!!

FWWT

!

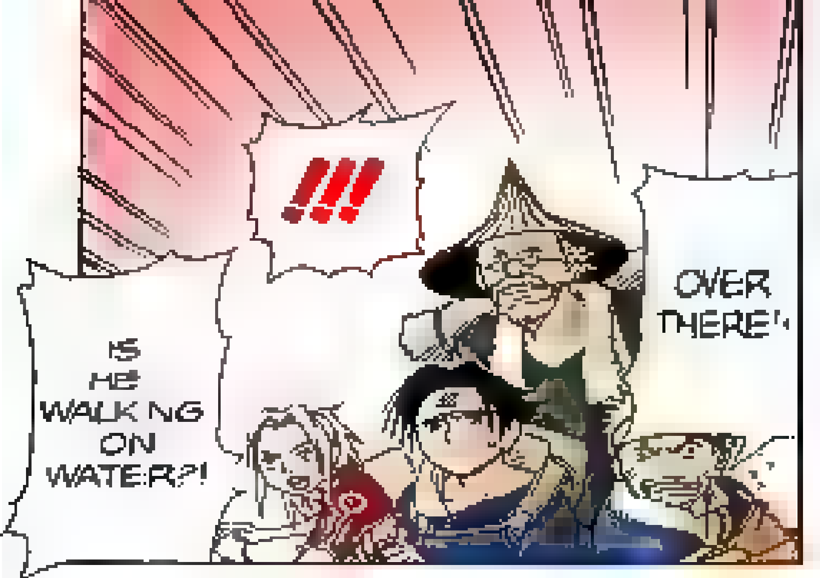
!!!


BUT... KAKASH
T LOOKS LIKE...
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO KILL YOU FIRST



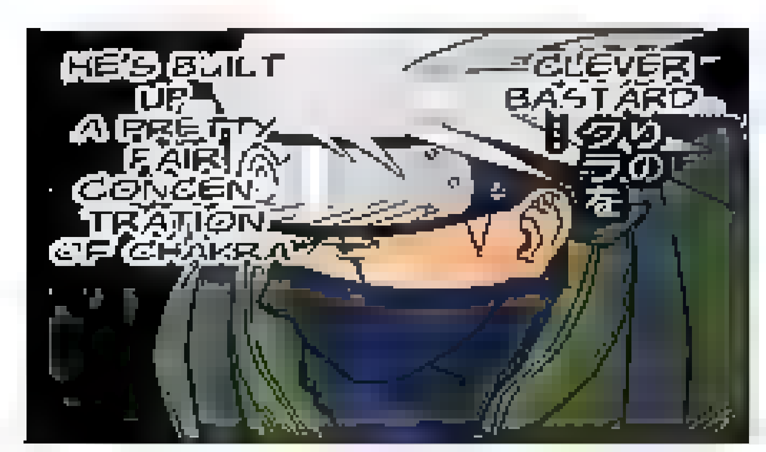


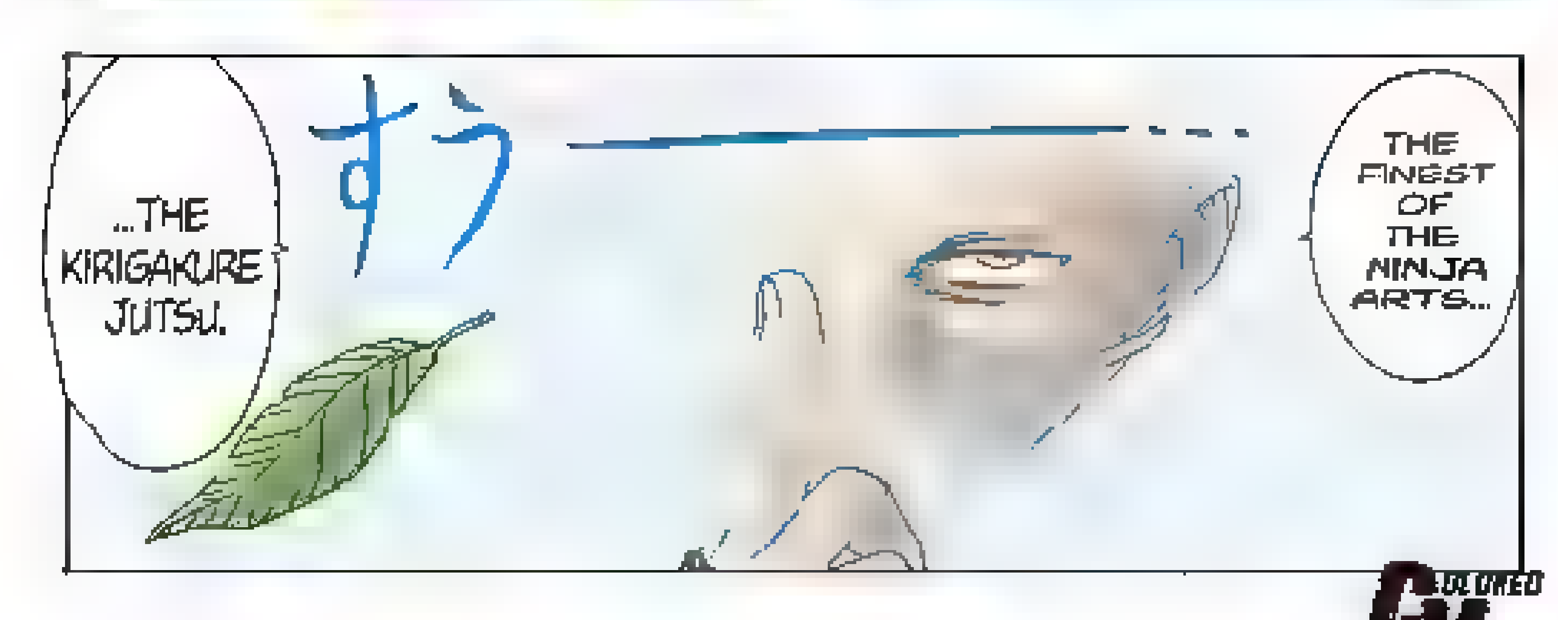

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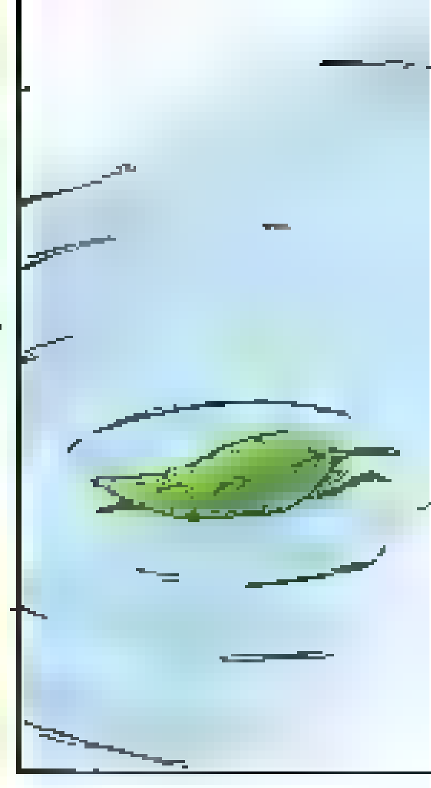

OVER THERE!
!!!
IS HE WALKING ON WATER?!

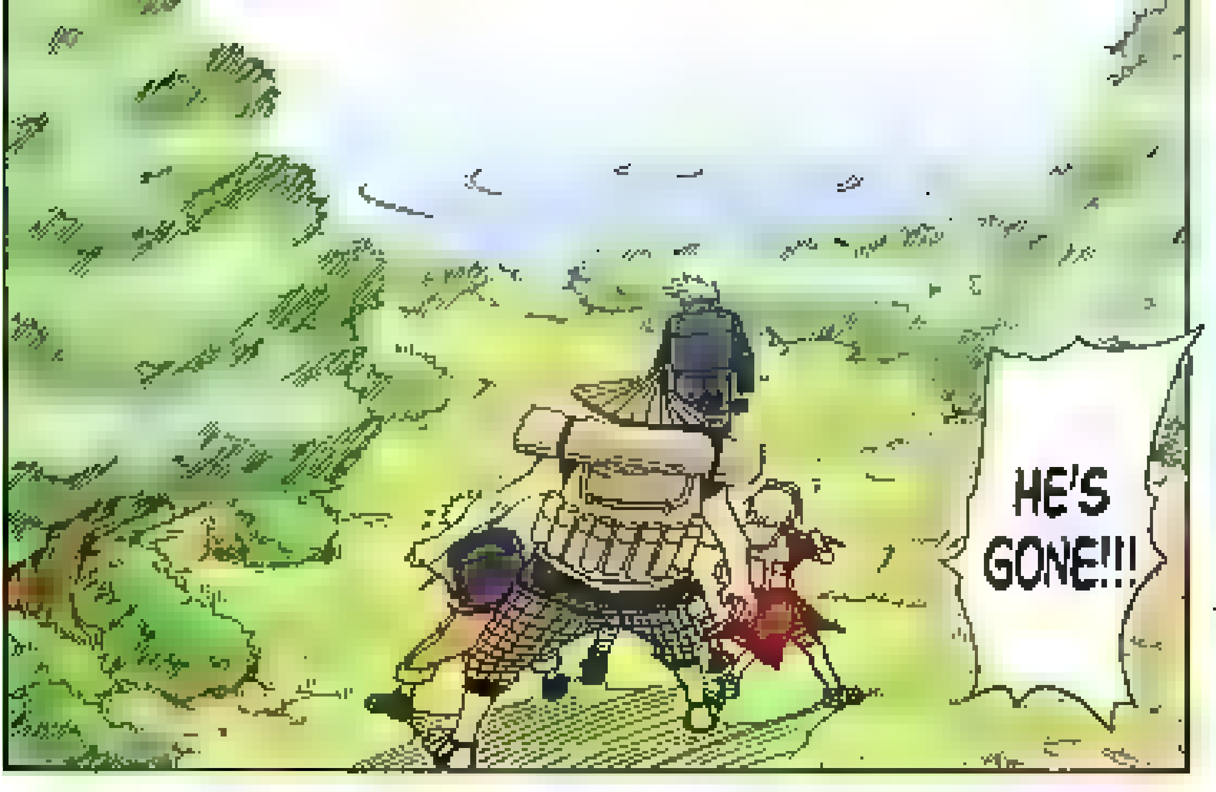

スゥ…

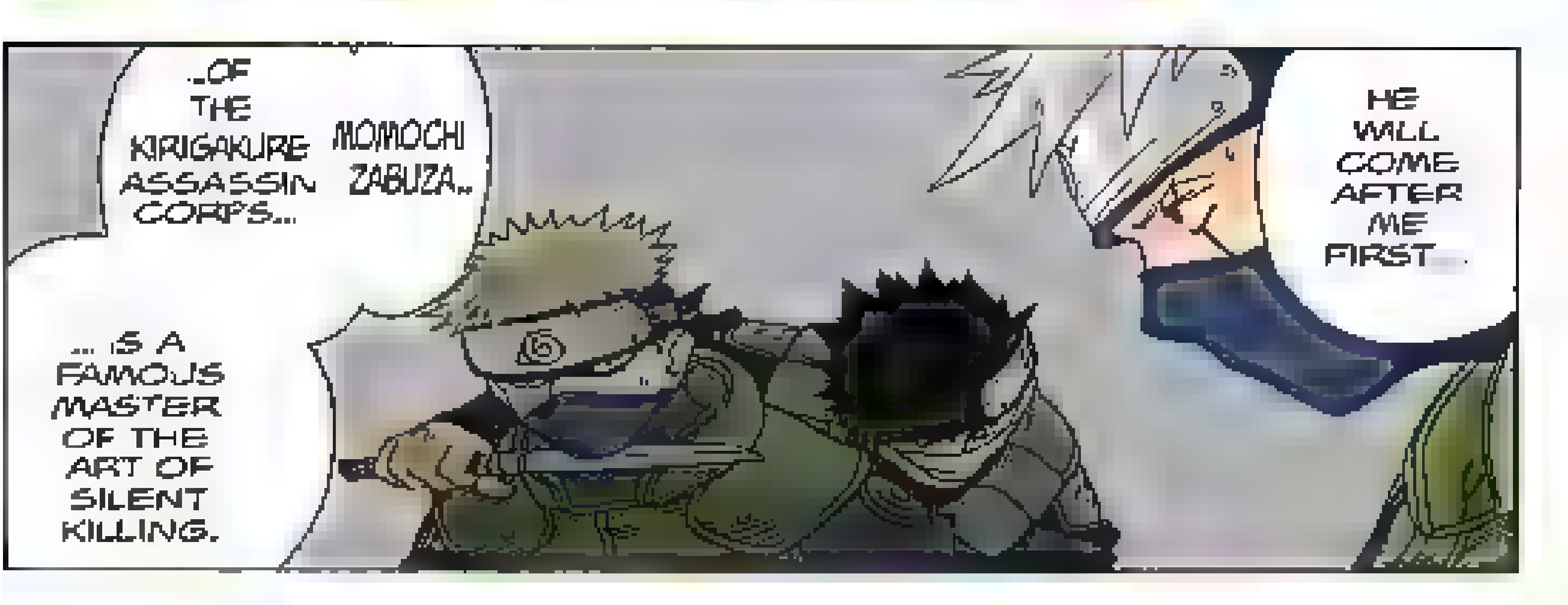



CLEVER BASTARD
HE'S BUILT UP A PRETTY FAIR CONCENTRATION OF CHAKRA


THE FINEST OF THE NINJA ARTS...
すう
...THE KIRIGAKURE JUTSU.

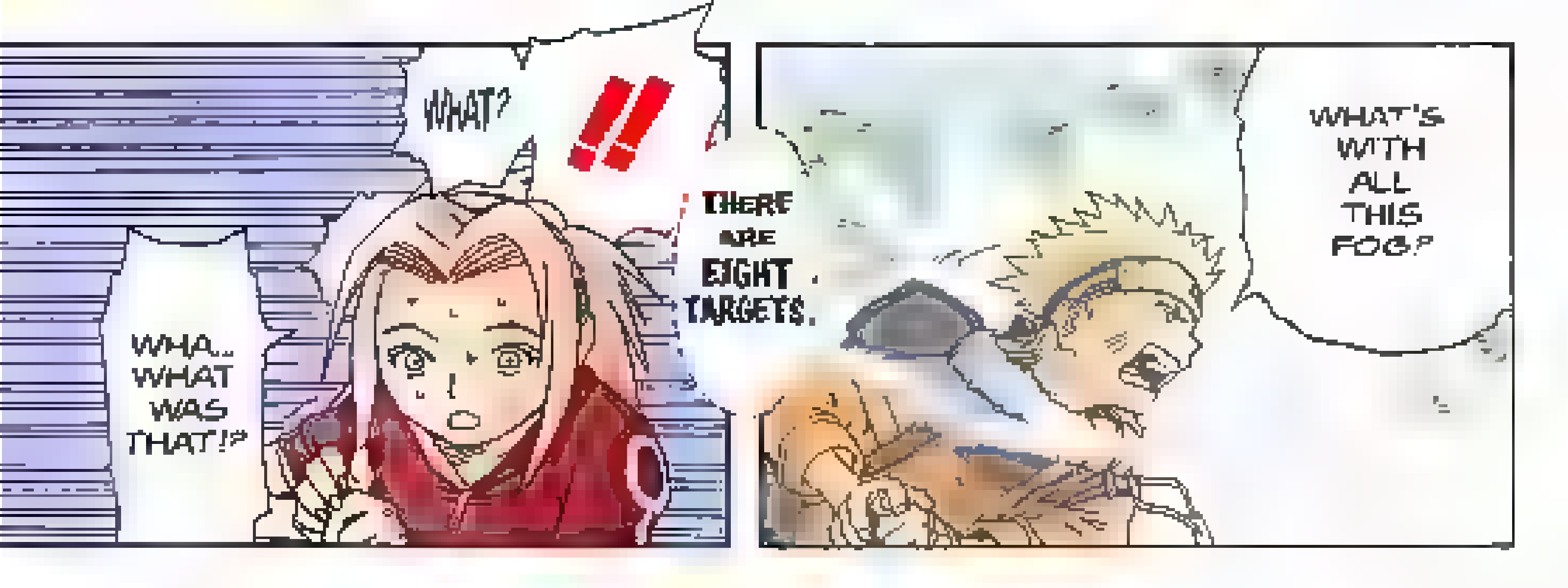



HE'S GONE!!!

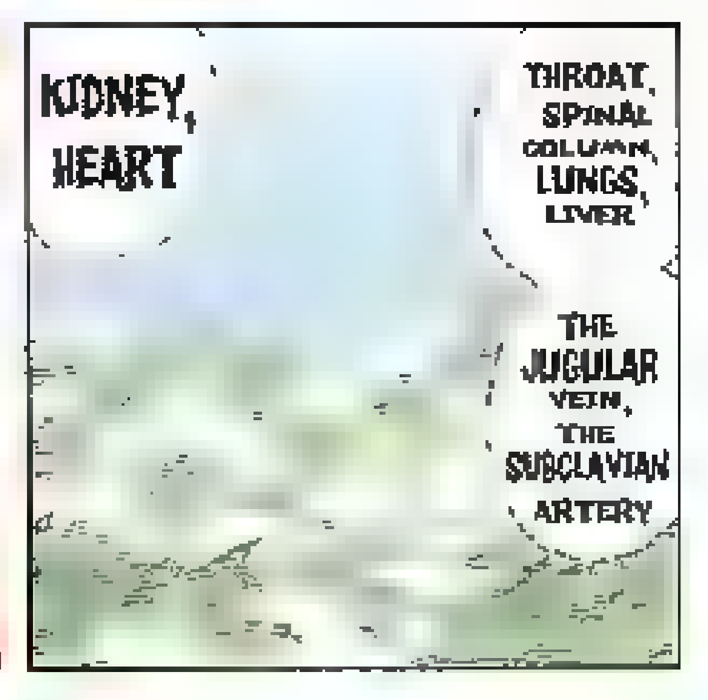

HE WILL COME AFTER ME FIRST...
MOMOCHI ZABUZA..
..OF THE KIRIGAKURE ASSASSIN CORPS...
... IS A FAMOUS MASTER OF THE ART OF SILENT KILLING.


LETTING YOUR GUARD DOWN AROUND HIM BUYS YOU A DIRECT TRIP TO HEAVEN.
I HAVEN'T NECESSARILY MASTERED EVERY ASPECT OF THE SHARINGAN EYE...
SO ALL OF YOU STAY ON YOUR TOES!
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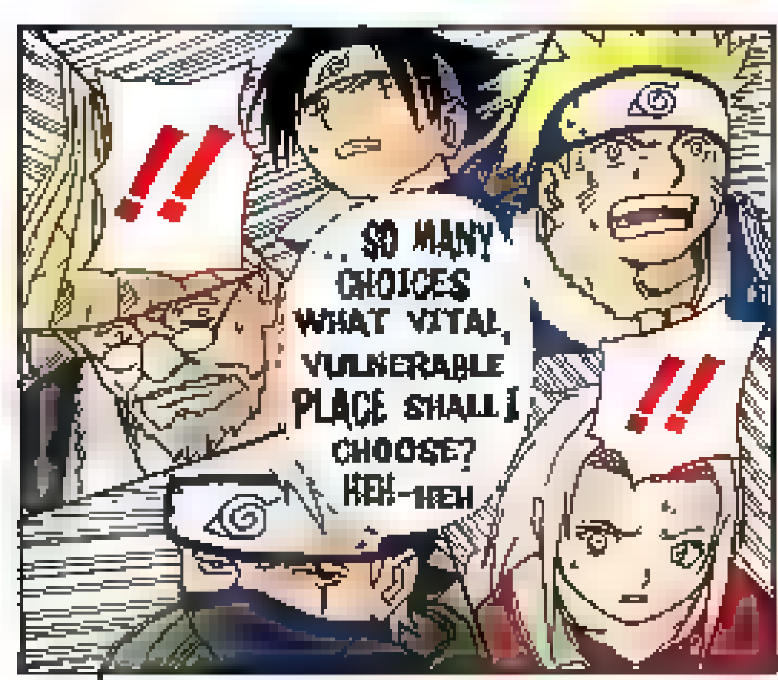




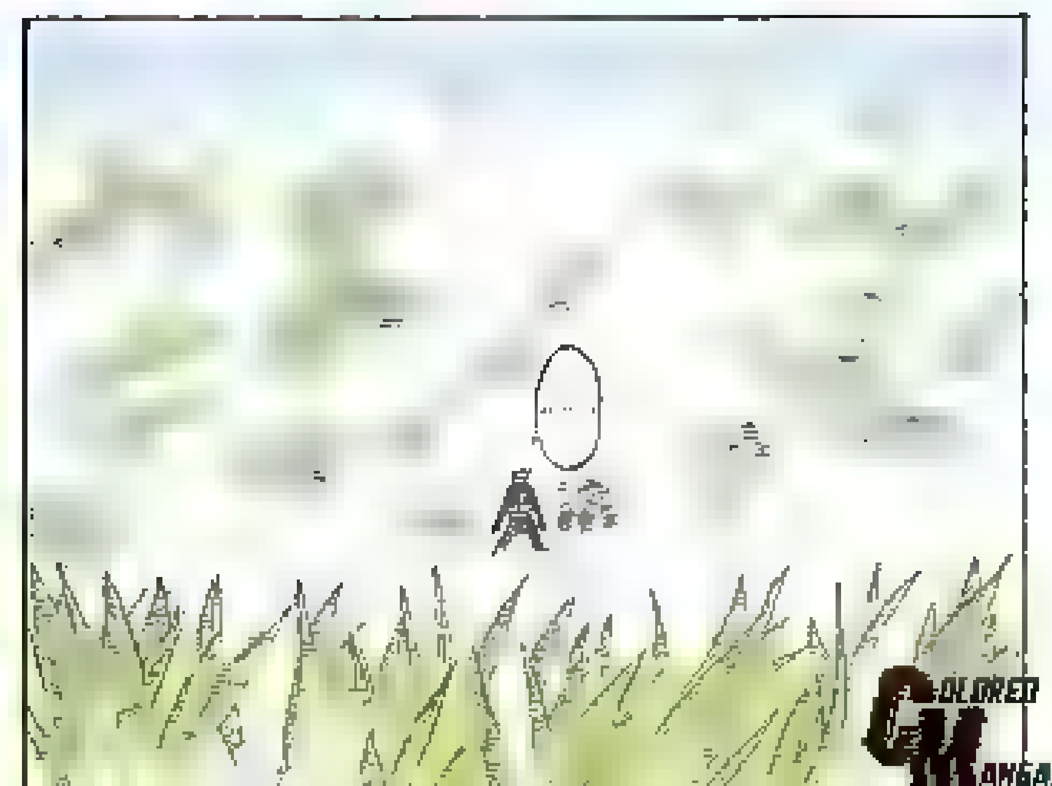
WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS FOG?
WHAT?
!!
THERE ARE EIGHT TARGETS.
WHA... WHAT WAS THAT!?



THROAT, SPINAL COLUMN, LUNGS, LIVER
KIDNEY, HEART
THE JUGULAR VEIN, THE SUBCLAVIAN ARTERY

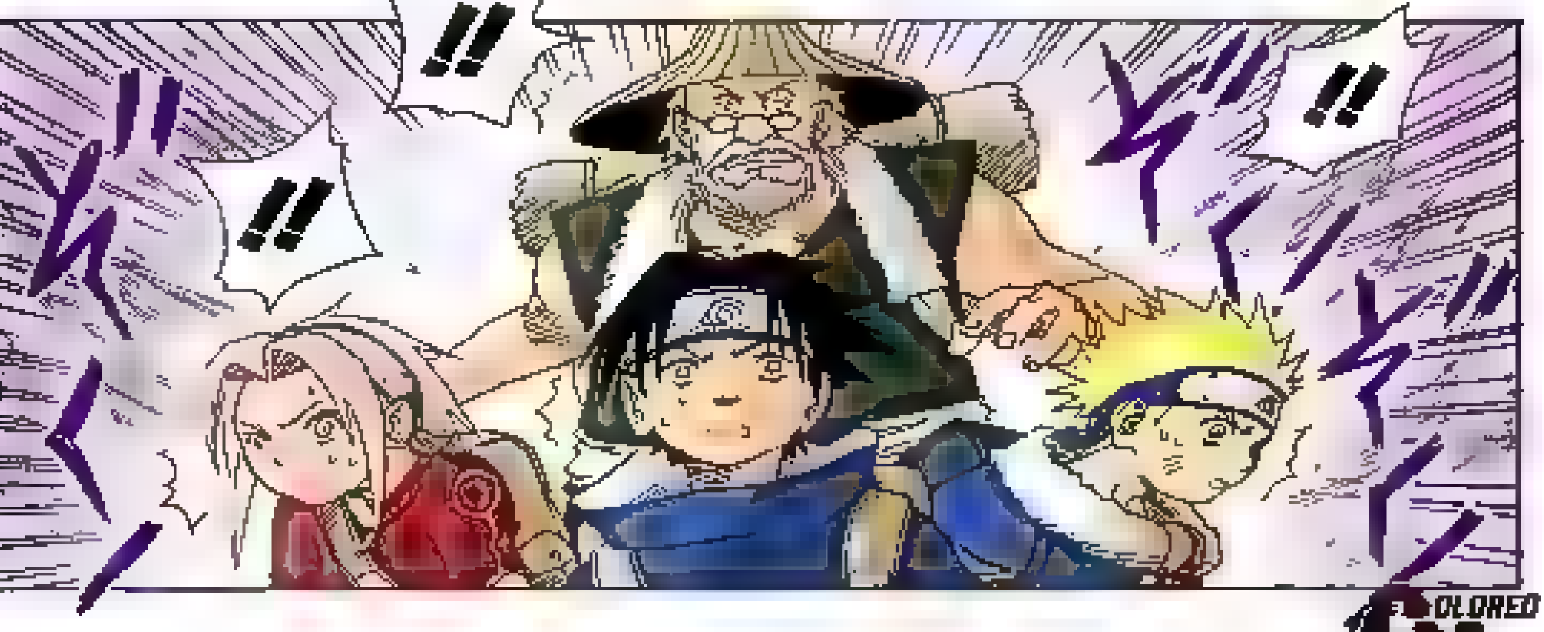


!!
...SO MANY CHOICES WHAT VITAL, VULNERABLE PLACE SHALL I CHOOSE? HEH-HEH
!!



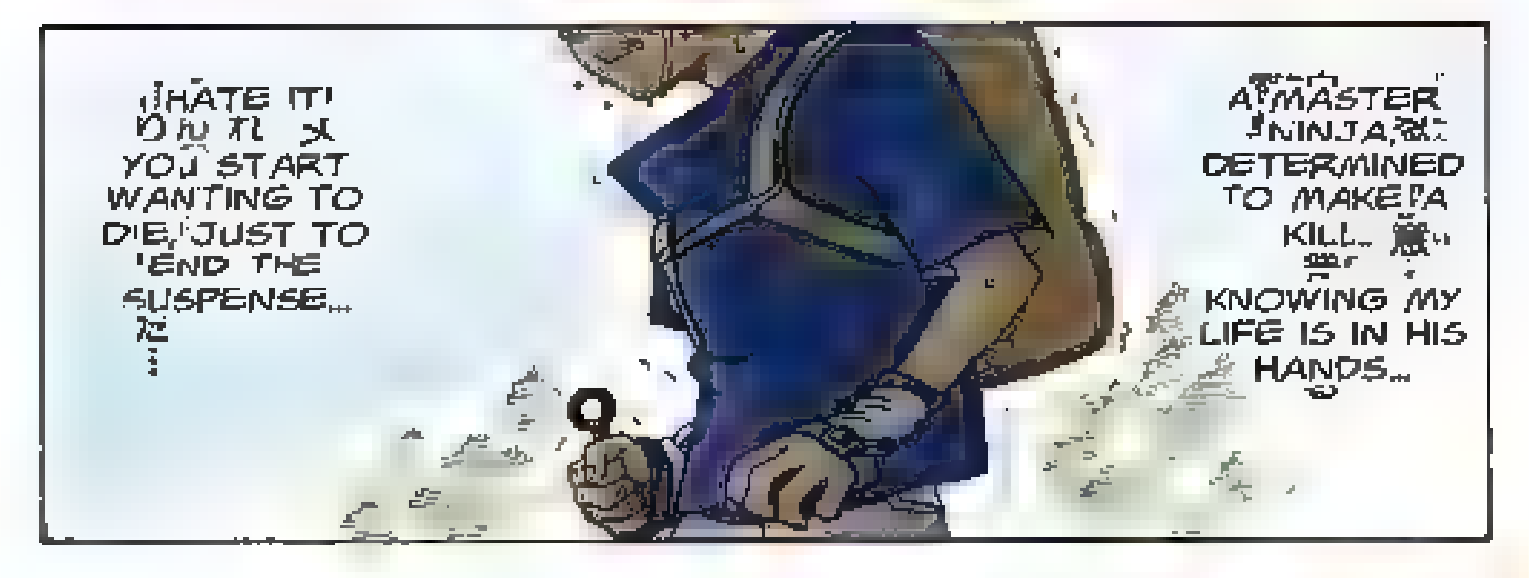
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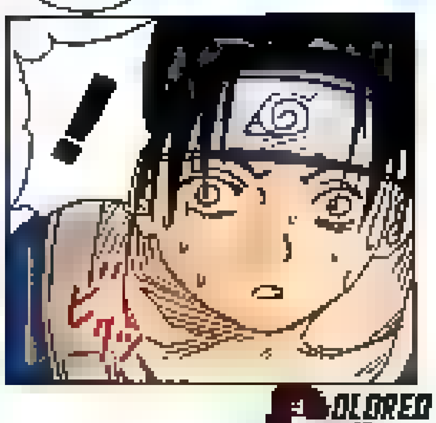


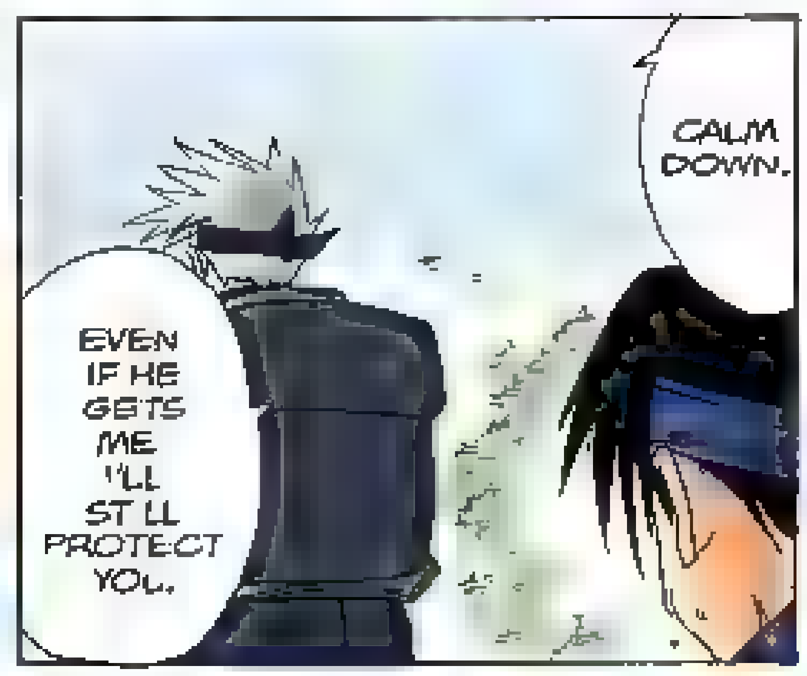

THIS TERRIBLE BLOOD THIRST


IF I DRAW HIS ATTENTION BY EVEN BLINKING, HE'LL KILL ME! I CAN FEEL IT.
I CAN'T STAY LIKE THIS FOR LONG! I'M GOING TO LOSE IT.


A MASTER NINJA, DETERMINED TO MAKE A KILL... KNOWING MY LIFE IS IN HIS HANDS...
I HATE IT! YOU START WANTING TO DIE, JUST TO END THE SUSPENSE...


SASUKE


!


CALM DOWN.
EVEN IF HE GETS ME I'LL STILL PROTECT YOU.

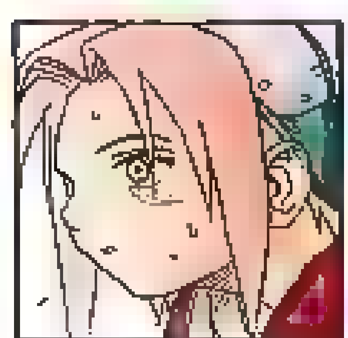


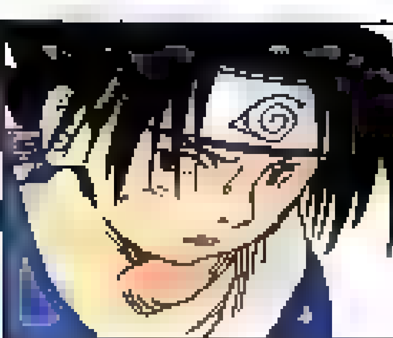
I WILL...

...NEVER LET MY COMRADES DIE!!









!!!

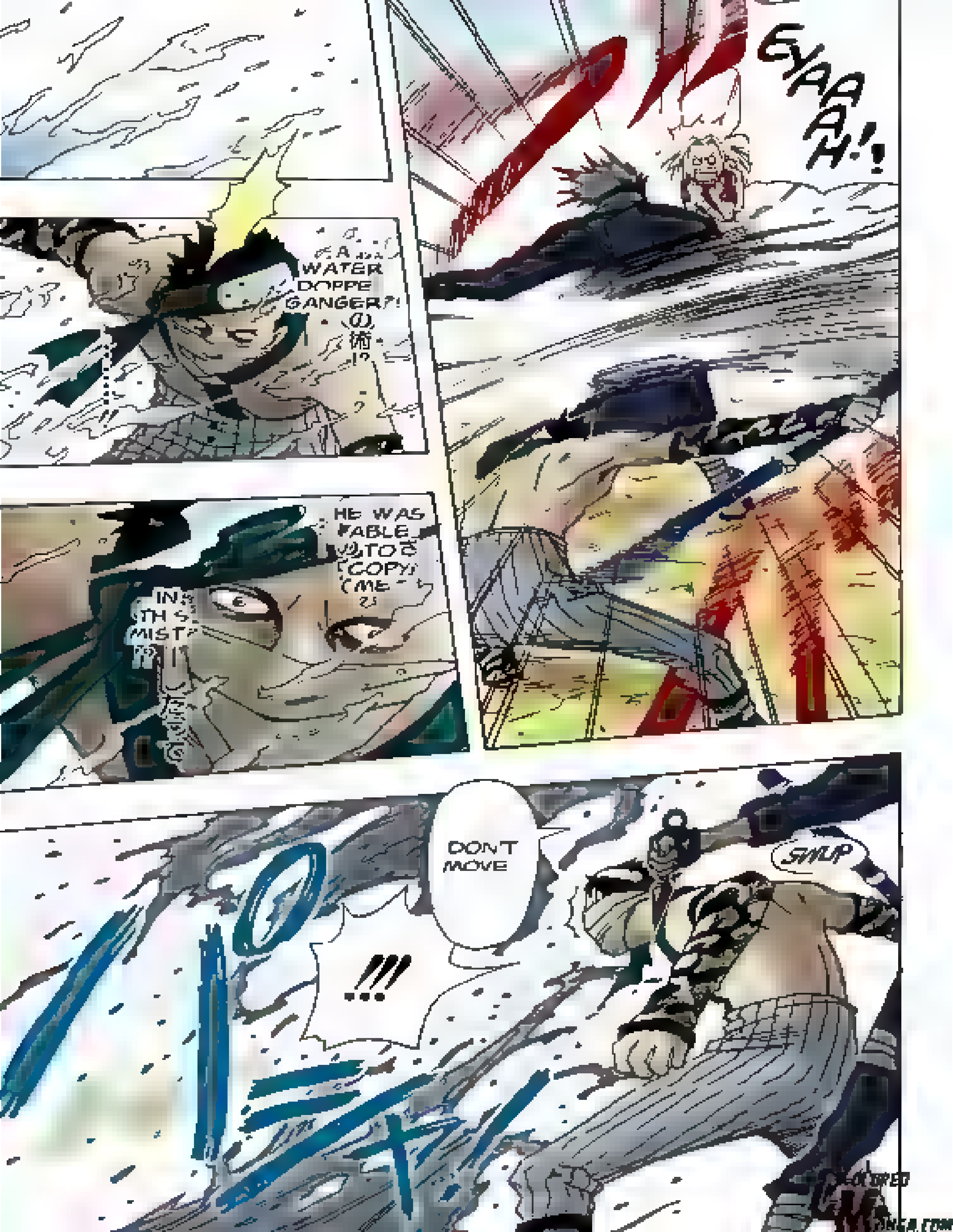
!!!

?

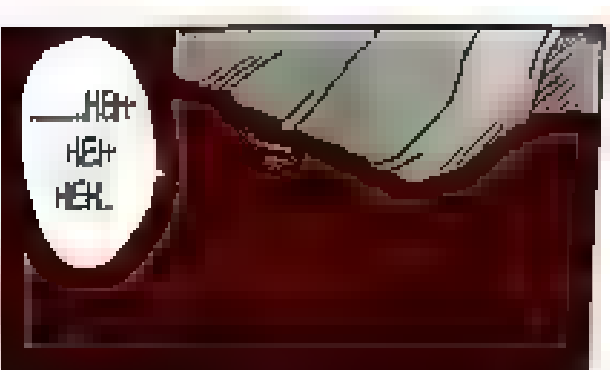
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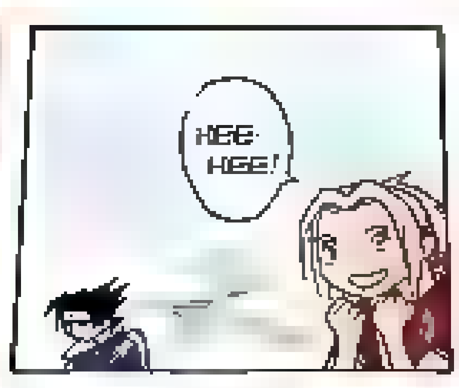

GAME OVER.
!!
!!!
!
!!
THOP
THUK
EH

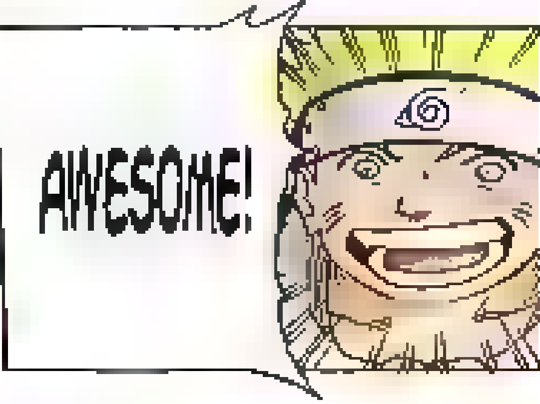

SH
MASTER!! BEHIND YOU!!
!

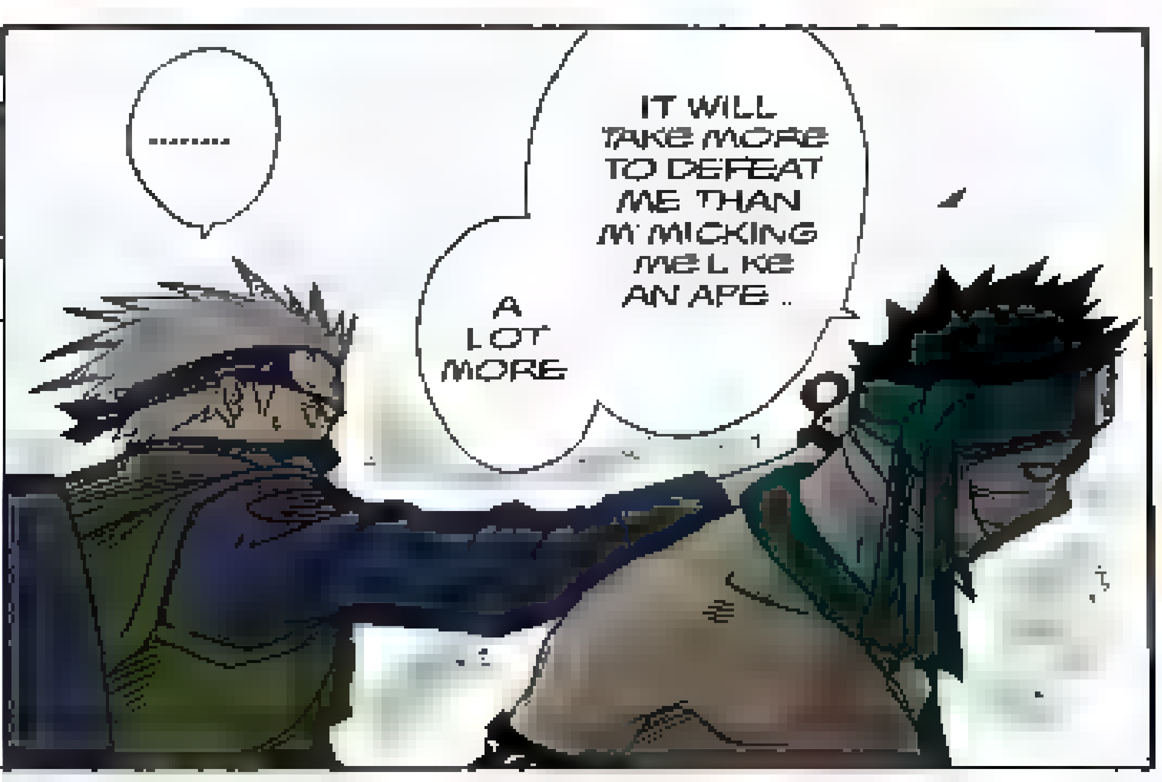

GYAAAH!!
A WATER DOPPEL GANGER?!
HE WAS ABLE TO COPY ME
IN THIS MIST?
DON'T MOVE
SWIP
!!!
COLORED
MANGA.COM

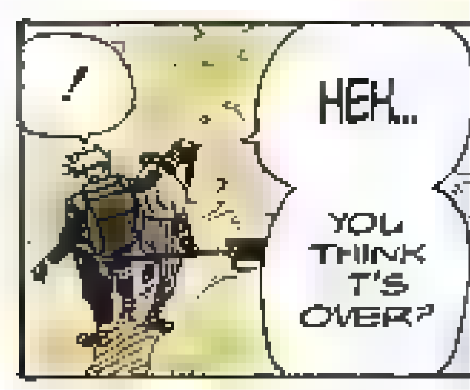
GAME OVER.


......HEH HEH HEH..


HEE HEE!


AWESOME!


....
IT WILL TAKE MORE TO DEFEAT ME THAN MIMICKING ME LIKE AN APE..
A LOT MORE


!
HEH..
YOU THINK IT'S OVER?

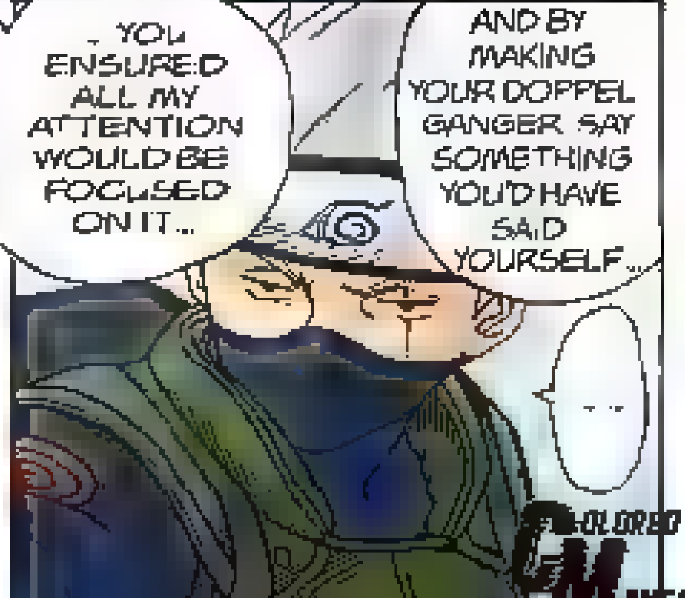

YOU JUST DON'T GET IT.

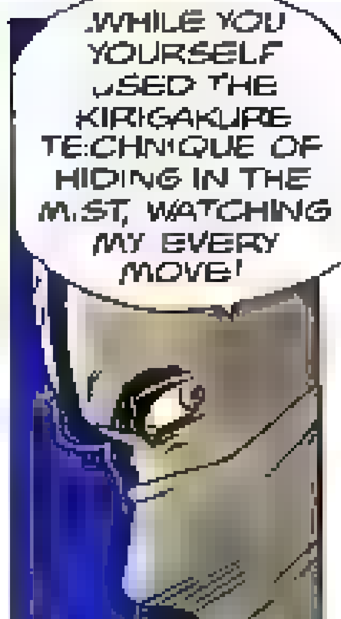
HEH HEH.

BUT YOU ARE GOOD

13 : 忍者だ!! NINJA!!










!!!
I AM NOT THAT EASY TO FOOL!
!
ZABUZA WAS A WATER DOPPEL-GANGER, TOO!!
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13：忍者だ!!



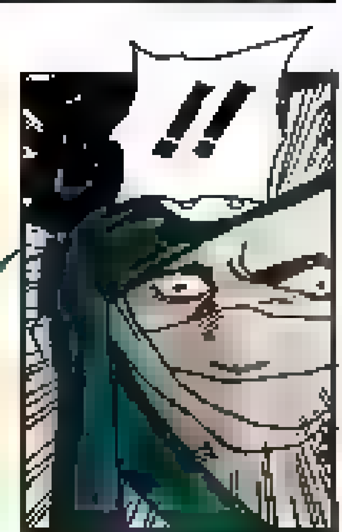
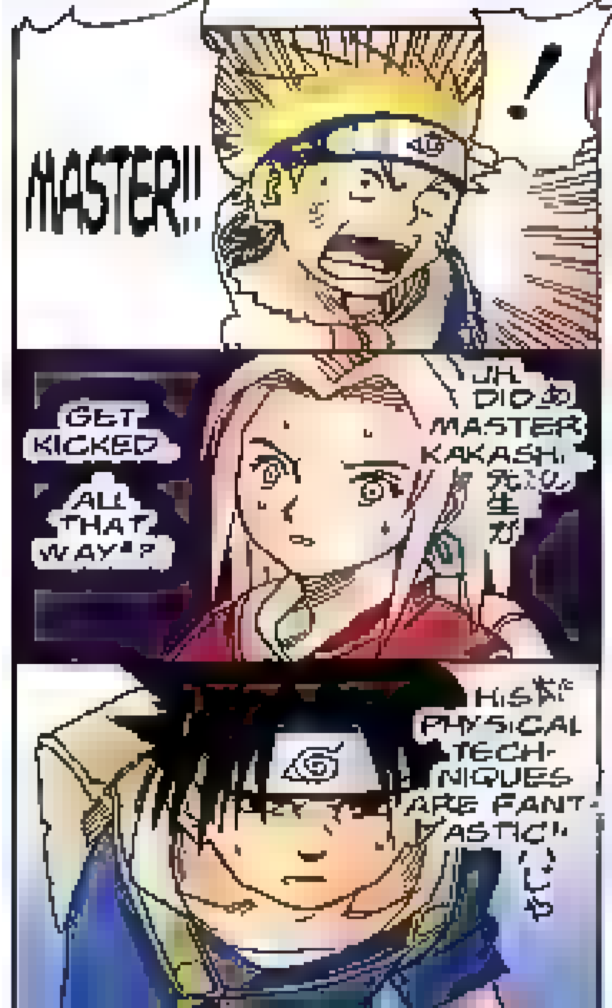
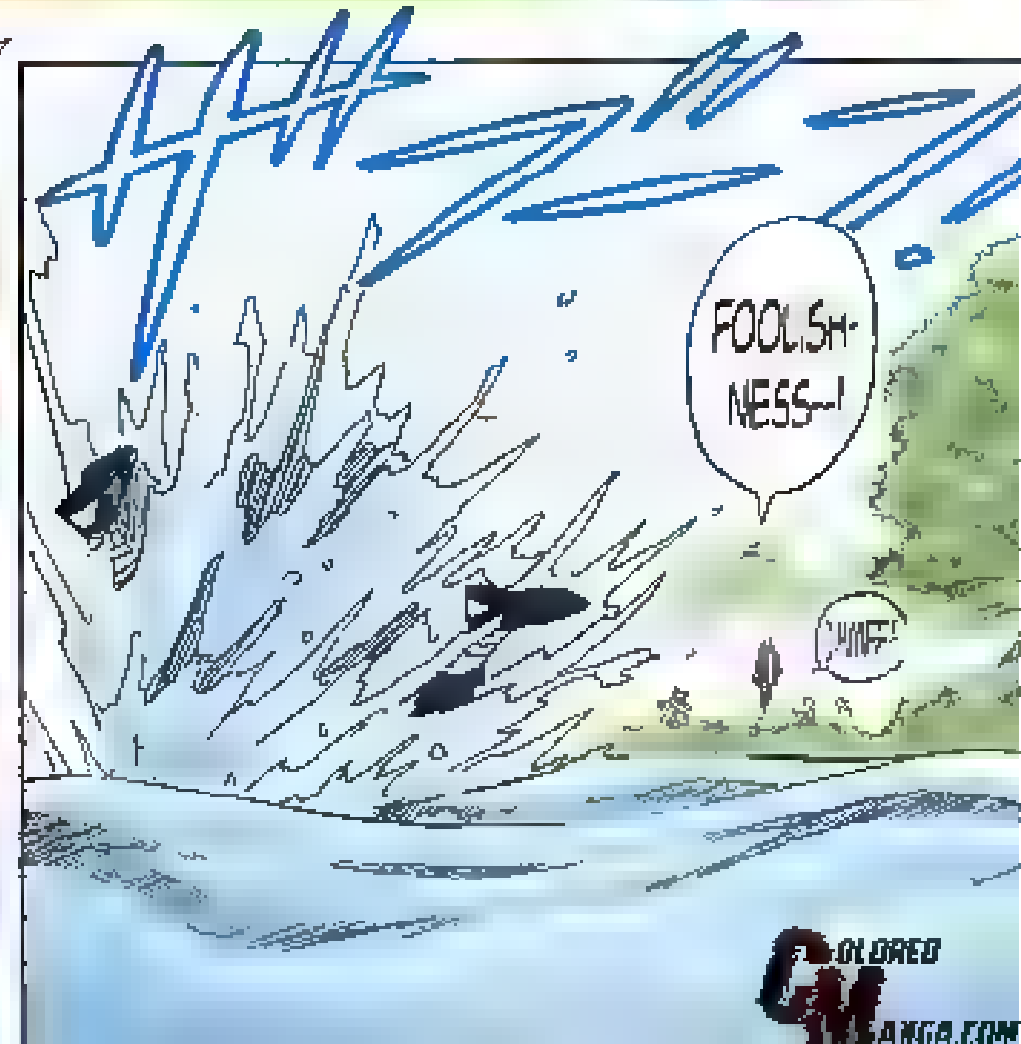


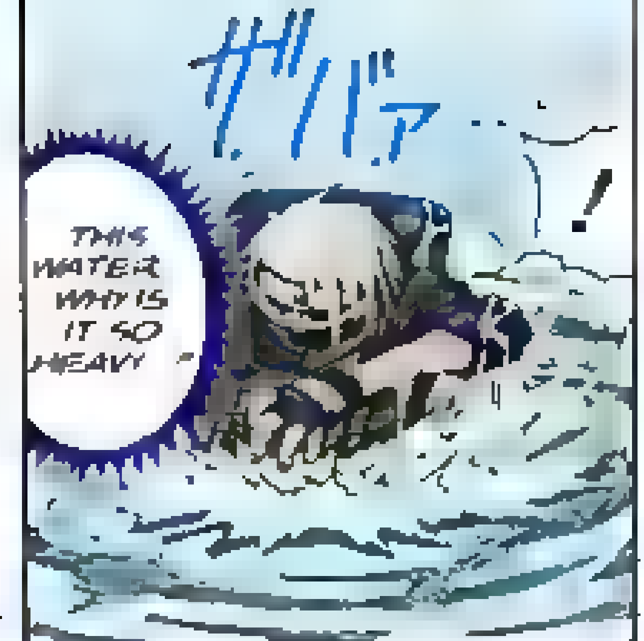

タッ

カッ

パッ

AND NOW...

CALTROPS...!
まきびし...!

!!

MASTER!!
!
UH, DID MASTER KAKASHI
GET KICKED ALL THAT WAY?!?
HIS PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES ARE FANTASTIC!!

FOOLISHNESS--!
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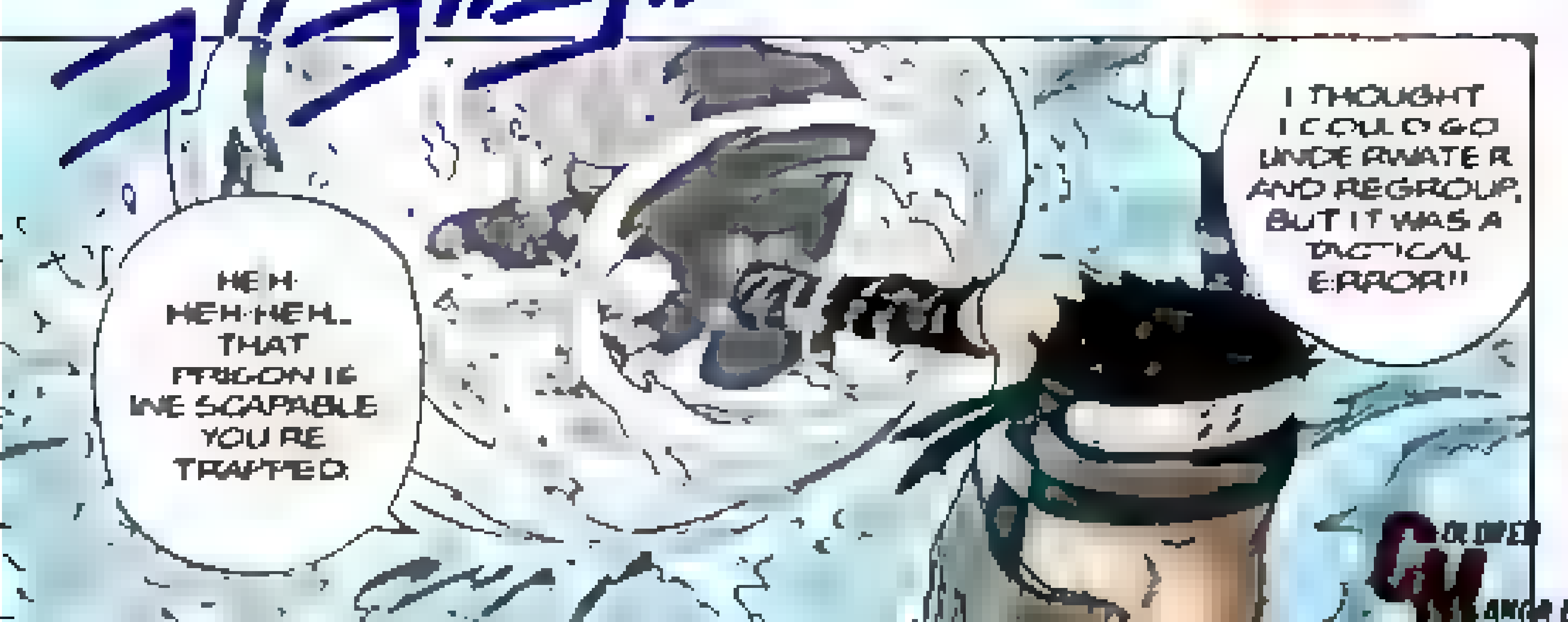


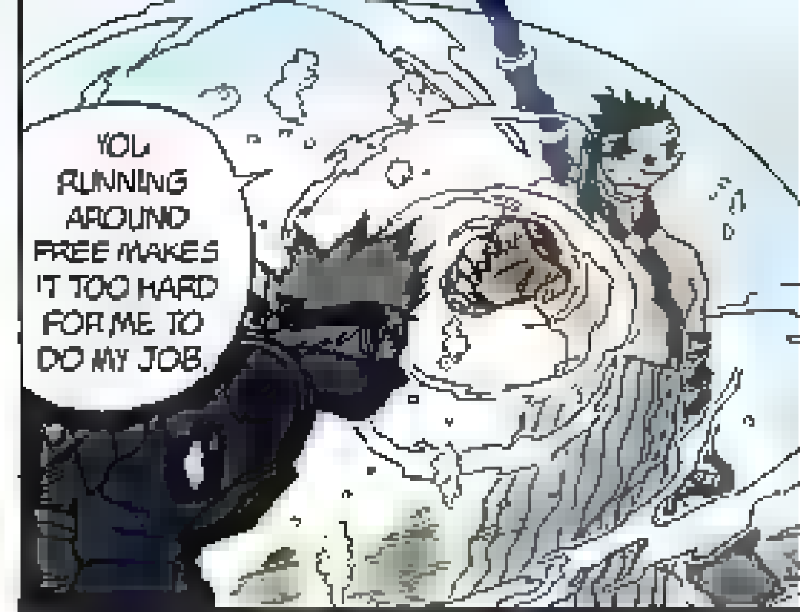
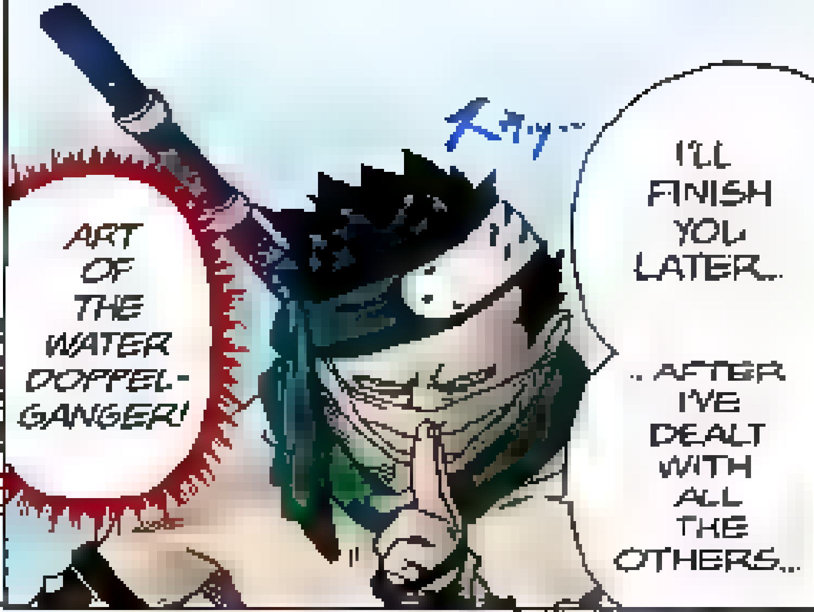
DAMN!! しまった!!

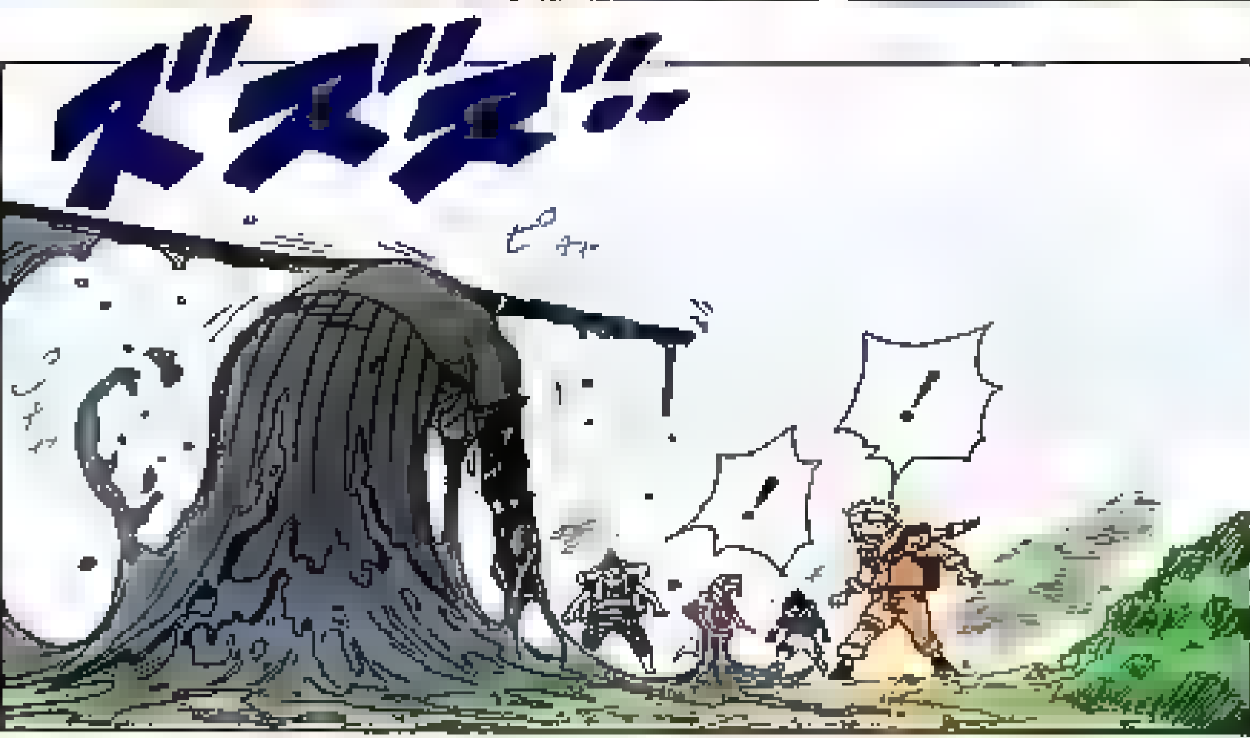
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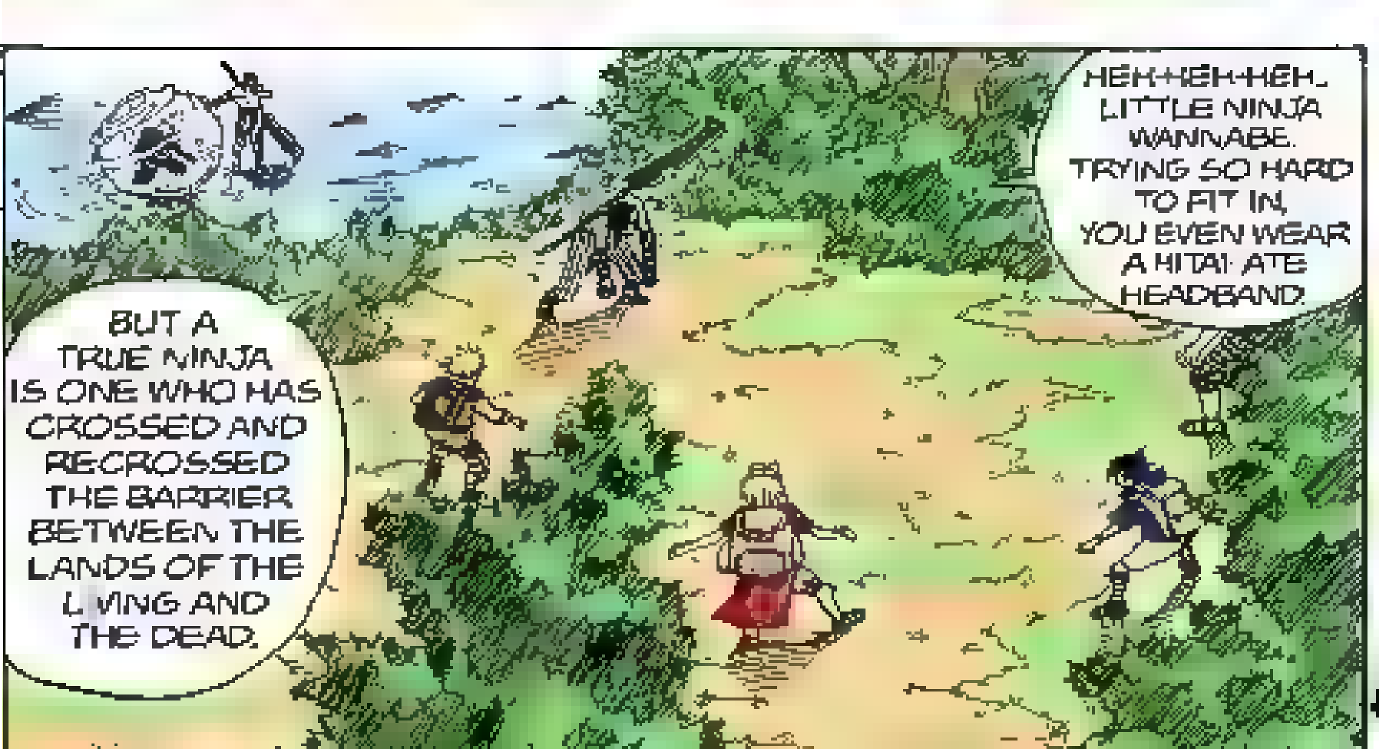
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WHAT!!

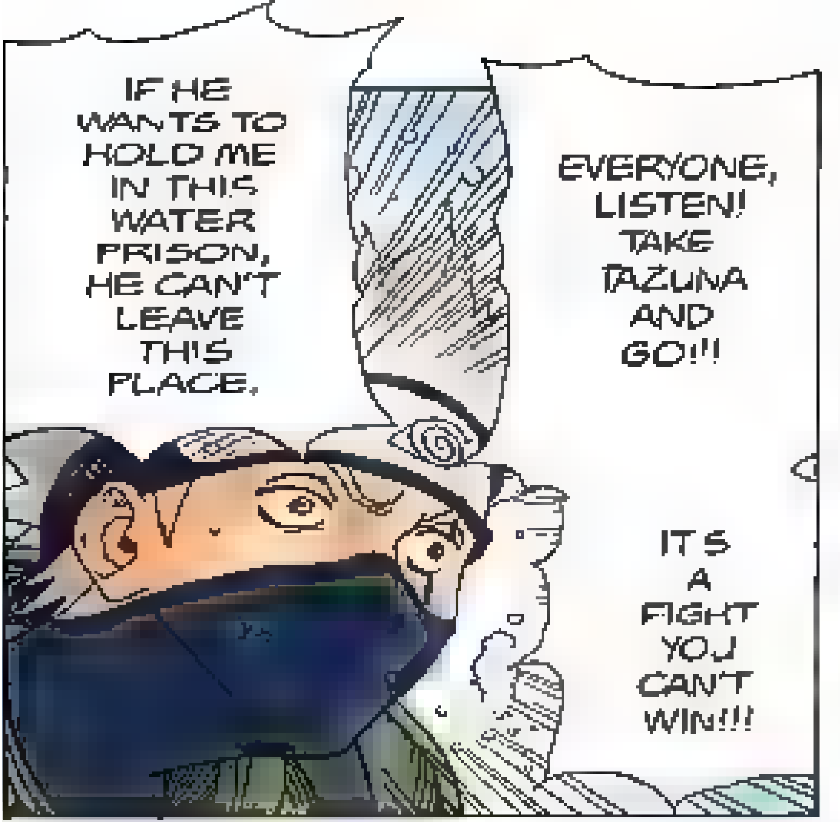
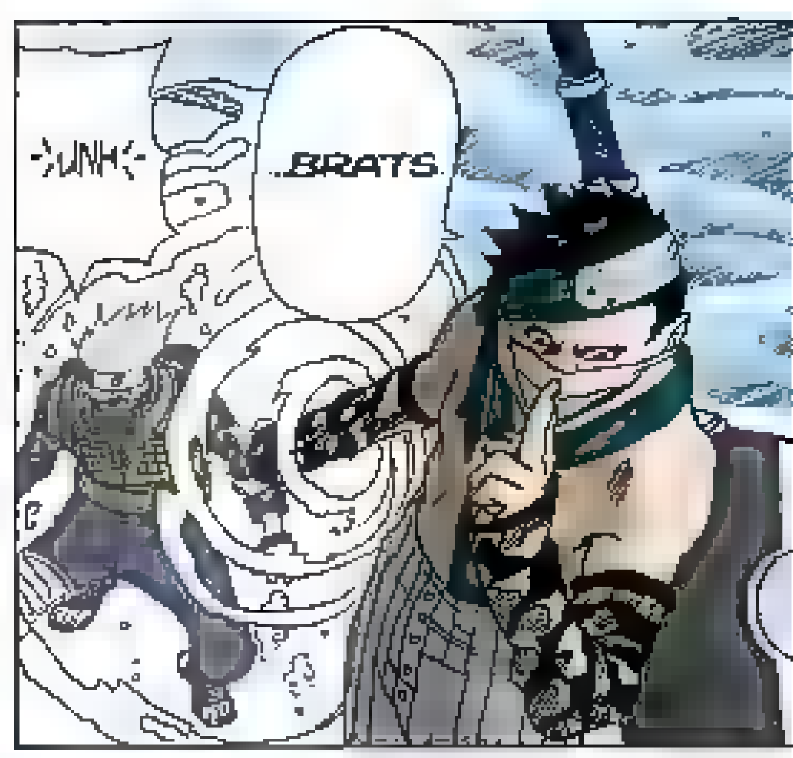
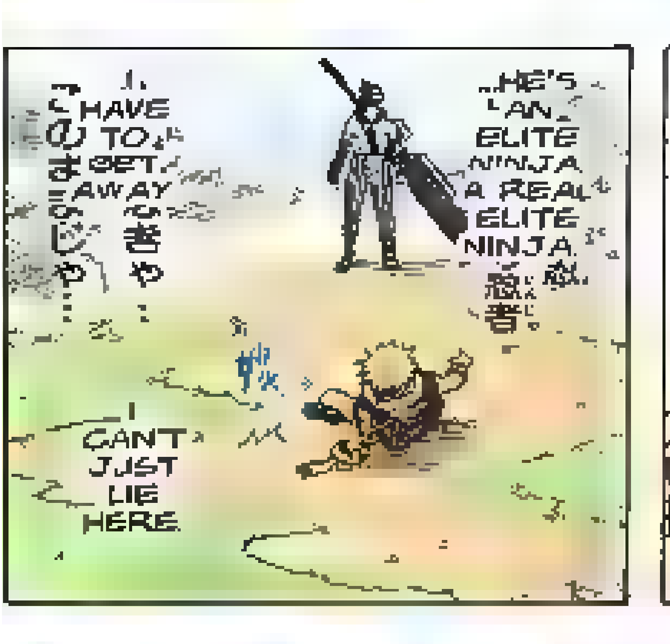
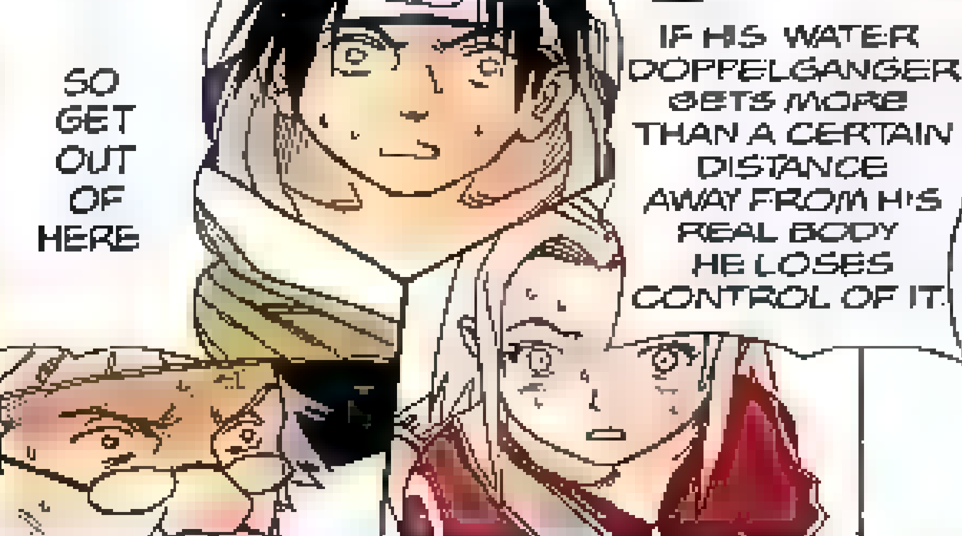
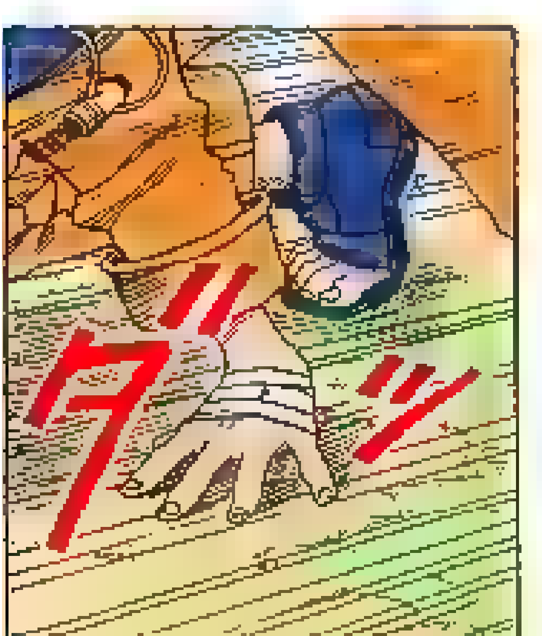
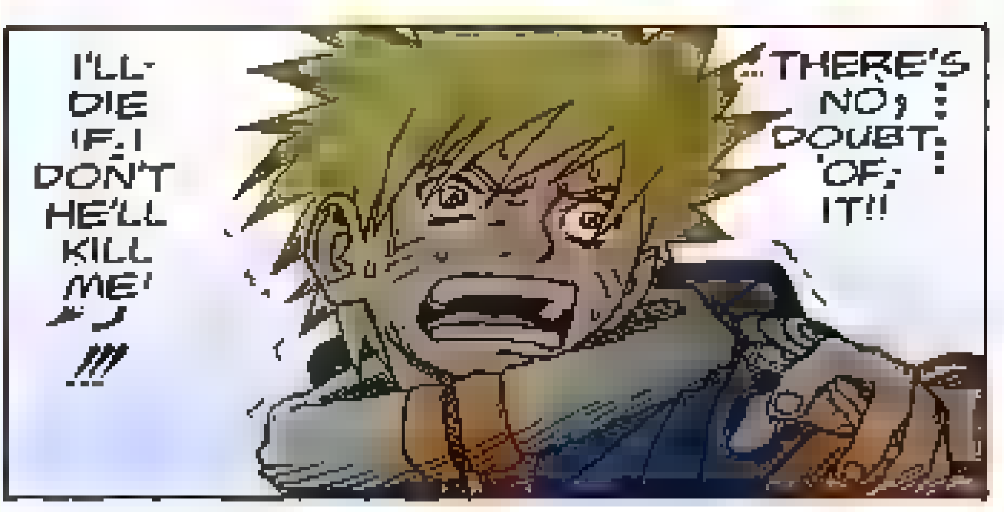



YOU RUNNING AROUND FREE MAKES IT TOO HARD FOR ME TO DO MY JOB.

I'LL FINISH YOU LATER...
...AFTER I'VE DEALT WITH ALL THE OTHERS...
ART OF THE WATER DOPPEL-GANGER!

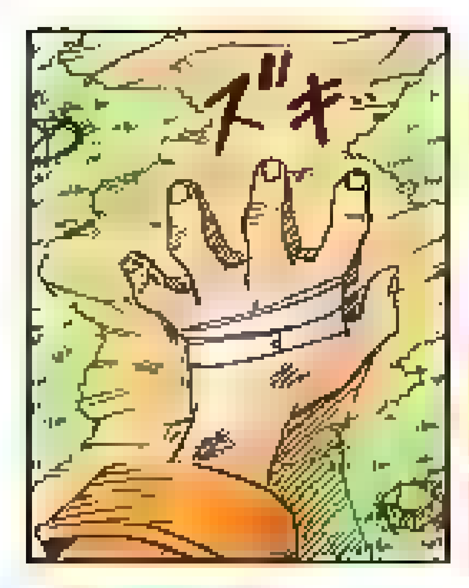
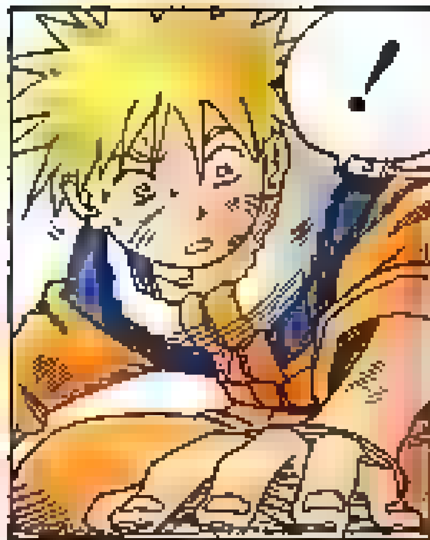
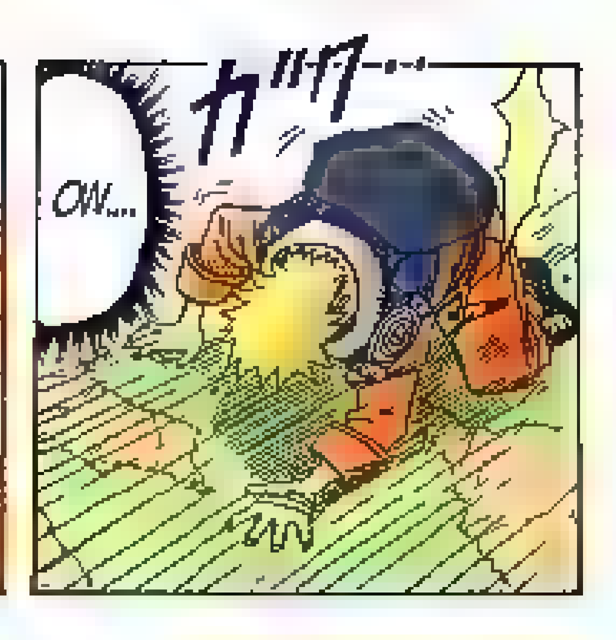
!
I KNEW HE WAS GOOD, BUT NOT THIS GOOD

!
!

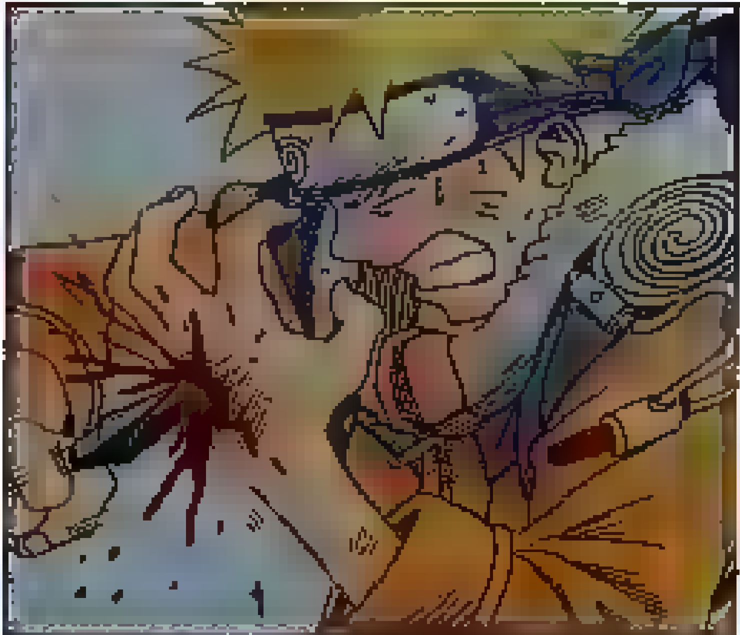

HEH-HEH-HEH. LITTLE NINJA WANNABE. TRYING SO HARD TO FIT IN, YOU EVEN WEAR A HITAI-ATE HEADBAND.
BUT A TRUE NINJA IS ONE WHO HAS CROSSED AND RECROSSED THE BARRIER BETWEEN THE LANDS OF THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.


CLOTHES DON'T MAKE A SHINOBI
...BEFORE YOU DESERVE TO BE CALLED NINJA
WE DON'T CALL YOUR KIND "NINJA." WE CALL THEM.
!!
HE VANISHED AGAIN!
!!!


EVERYONE, LISTEN! TAKE TAZUNA AND GO!!
IT'S A FIGHT YOU CAN'T WIN!!!
IF HE WANTS TO HOLD ME IN THIS WATER PRISON, HE CAN'T LEAVE THIS PLACE.

...BRATS.
UNH

...HE'S AN ELITE NINJA, A REAL ELITE NINJA.
I HAVE TO GET AWAY
I CAN'T JUST LIE HERE.

IF HIS WATER DOPPELGANGER GETS MORE THAN A CERTAIN DISTANCE AWAY FROM HIS REAL BODY HE LOSES CONTROL OF IT.
SO GET OUT OF HERE


...THERE'S NO DOUBT OF IT!!
I'LL DIE IF I DON'T HE'LL KILL ME!

COLORED MANGA.COM


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!

OW...

I SWEAR BY THE PAIN IN MY LEFT HAND...!


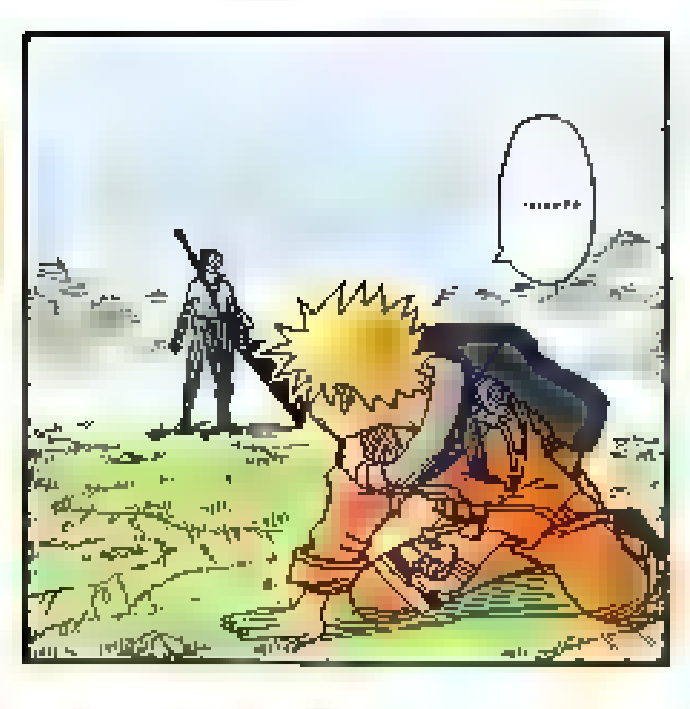

I'M NOT GOING TO BE THE ONE WHO HANGS BACK OR FREEZES UP...

I'LL NEVER RUN AWAY AGAIN.



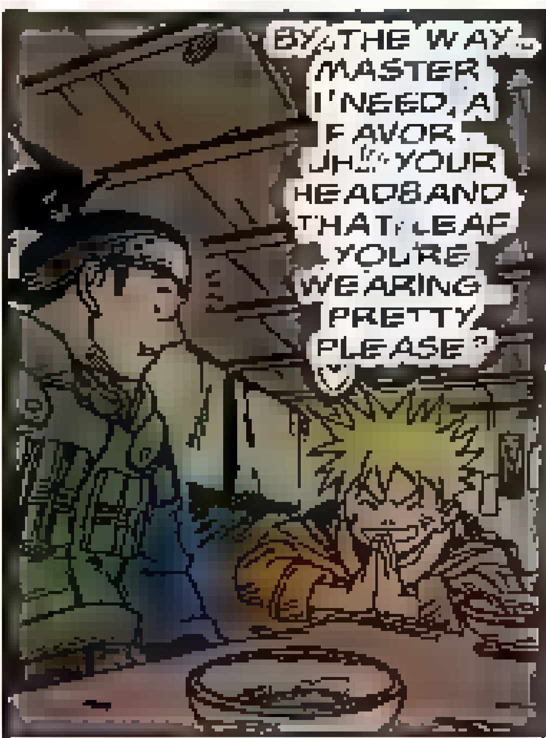
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY...
...YOU BIG CHICKEN?

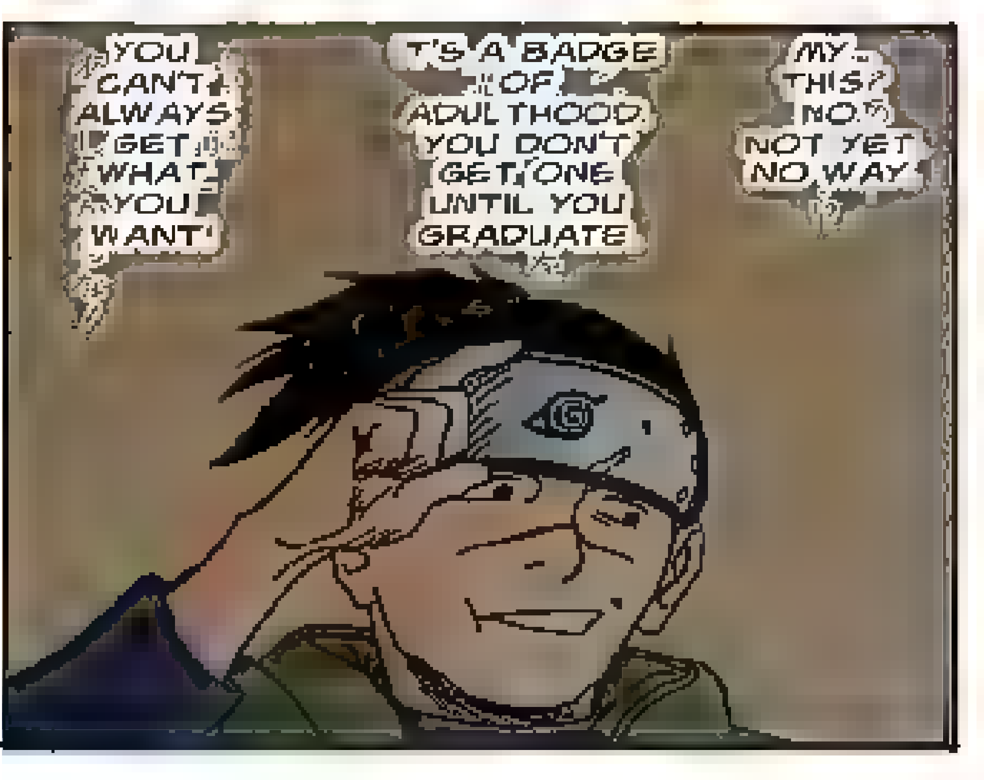

I AM NOT GOING TO LET SASUKE OUTDO ME!


.....!!

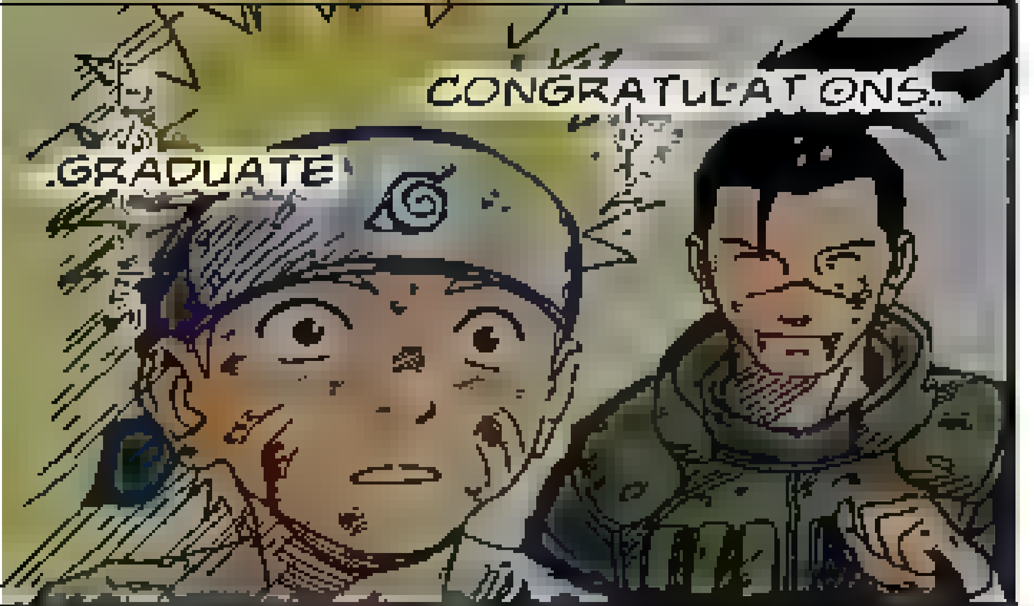




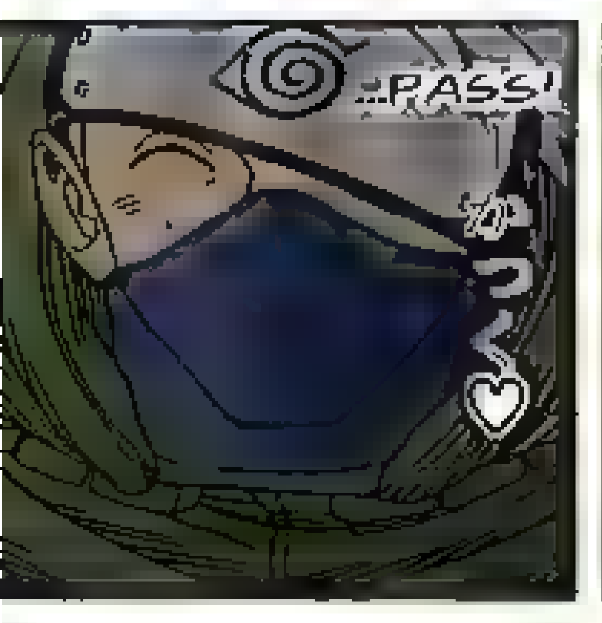

BY THE WAY... MASTER I NEED A FAVOR...
UH... YOUR HEADBAND THAT LEAF YOU'RE WEARING PRETTY PLEASE?


MY... THIS? NO... NOT YET NO WAY.
T'S A BADGE OF ADULTHOOD. YOU DON'T GET ONE UNTIL YOU GRADUATE.
YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU WANT.

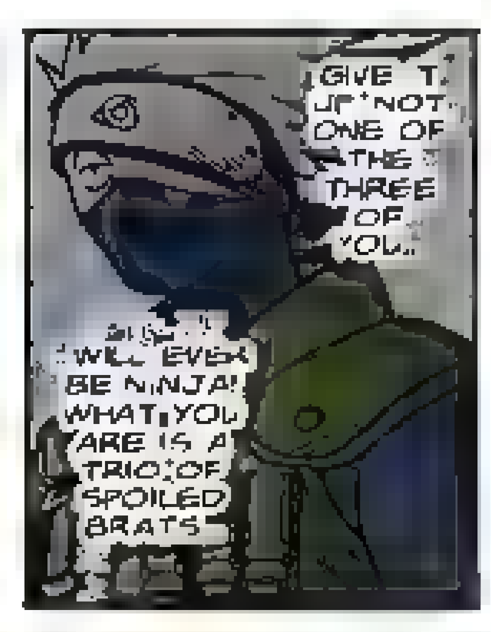


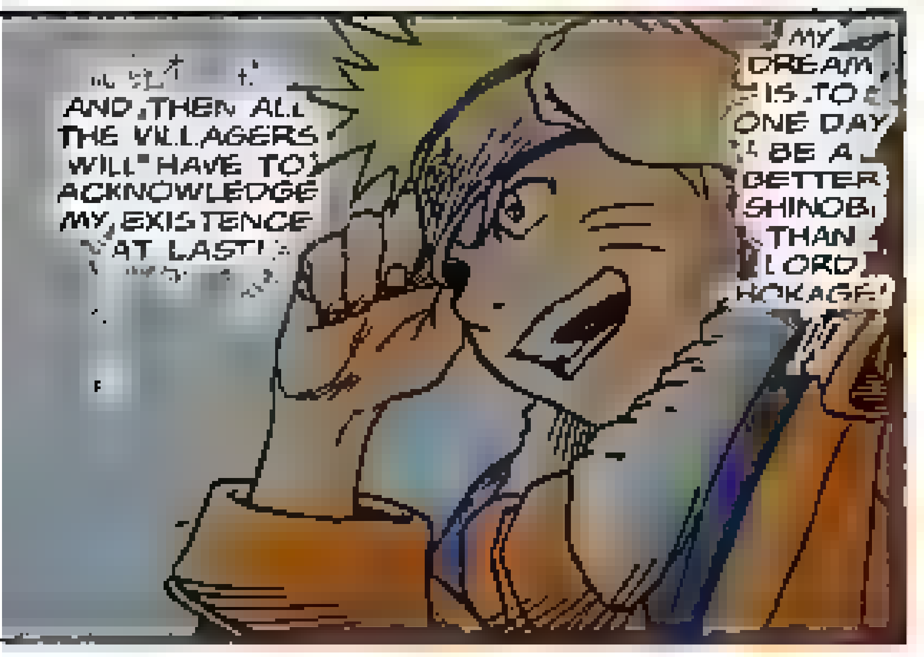

CONGRATULATIONS.
..GRADUATE


NARUTO COME HERE
I'VE GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU!


...PASS!

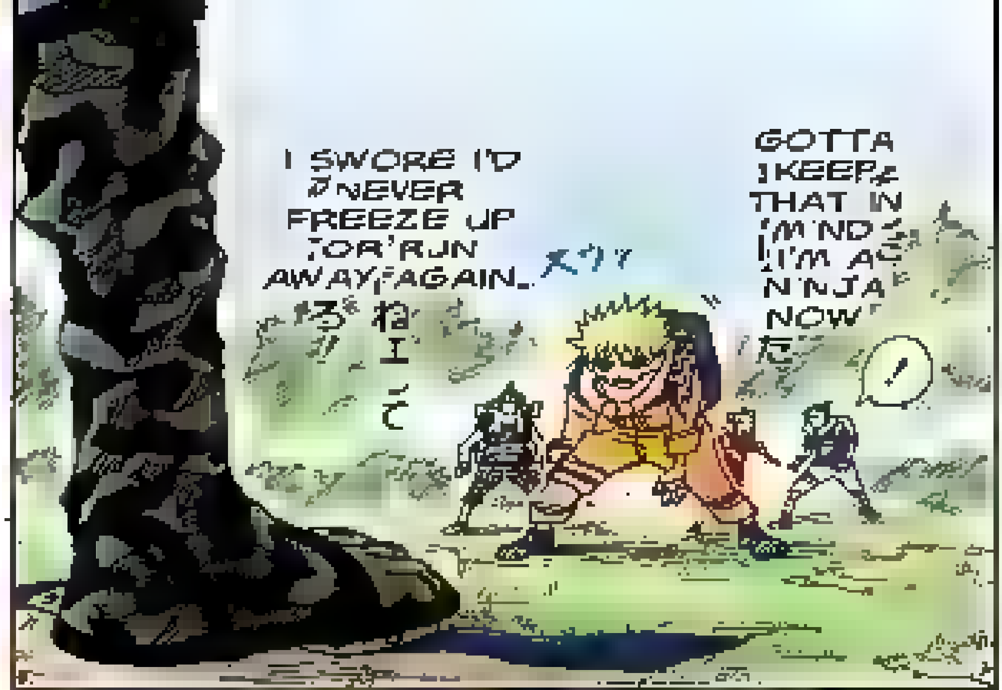

WHEN YOU ARE ON A MISSION, YOUR LIVES WILL ALWAYS BE ON THE LINE

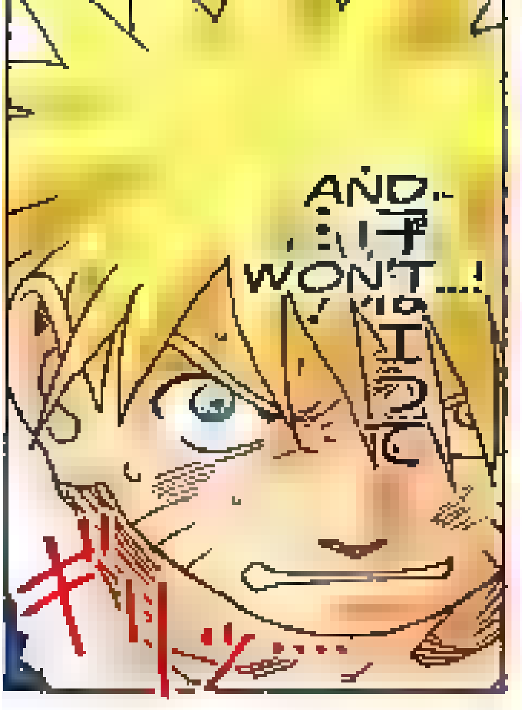

GIVE IT UP NOT ONE OF THE THREE OF YOU..
WILL EVER BE NINJA! WHAT YOU ARE IS A TRIO OF SPOILED BRATS

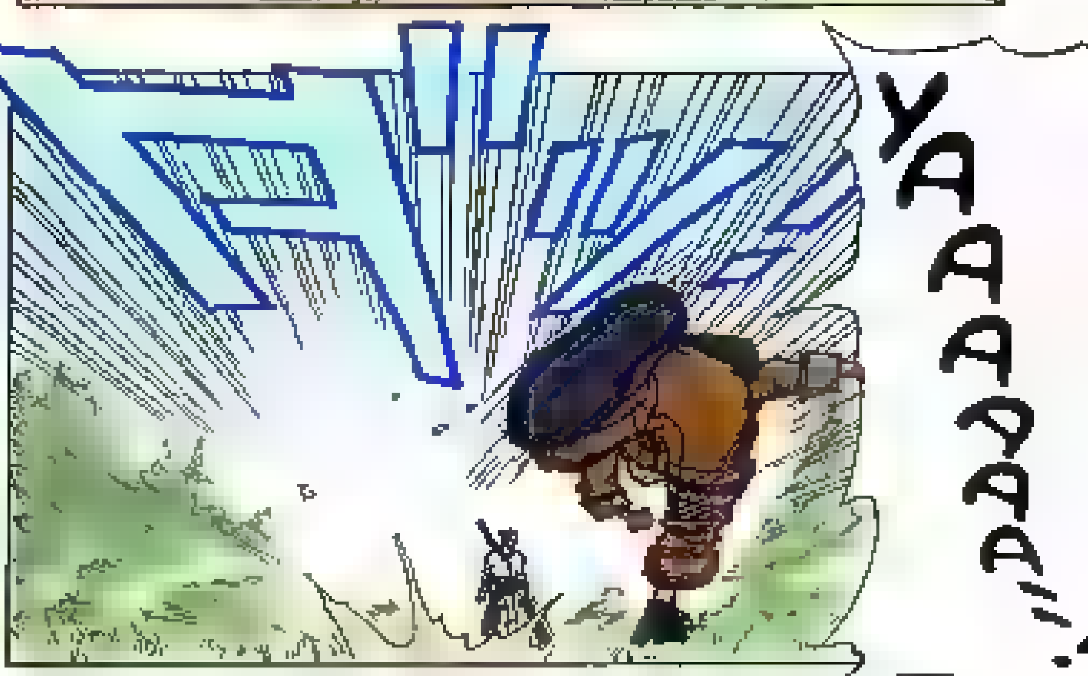

MY DREAM IS TO ONE DAY BE A BETTER SHINOBI THAN LORD HOKAGE!
AND THEN ALL THE VILLAGERS WILL HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY EXISTENCE AT LAST!


THERE'S MORE TO ME THAN THE TROUBLE MAKING SCREWUP
THE OLD MAN THINKS I AM

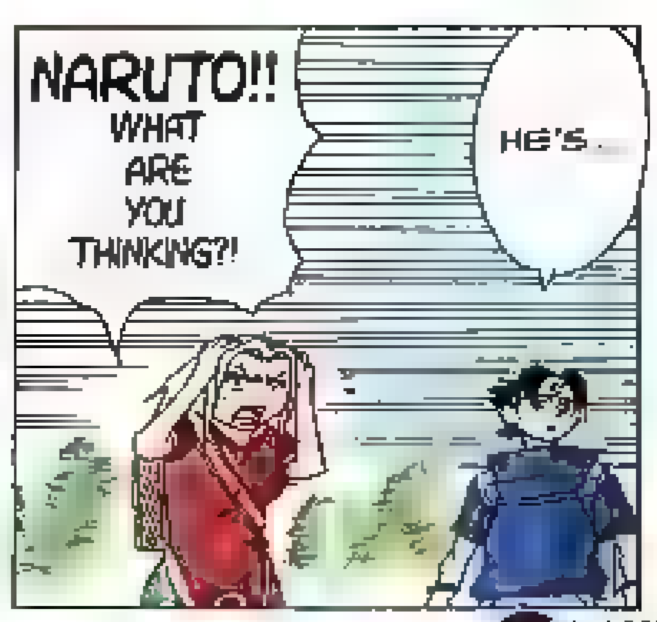



GOTTA KEEP THAT IN MIND... I'M A NINJA NOW!
I SWORE I'D NEVER FREEZE UP OR RUN AWAY AGAIN...
!


AND... I WON'T...!


YAAAAA...!!

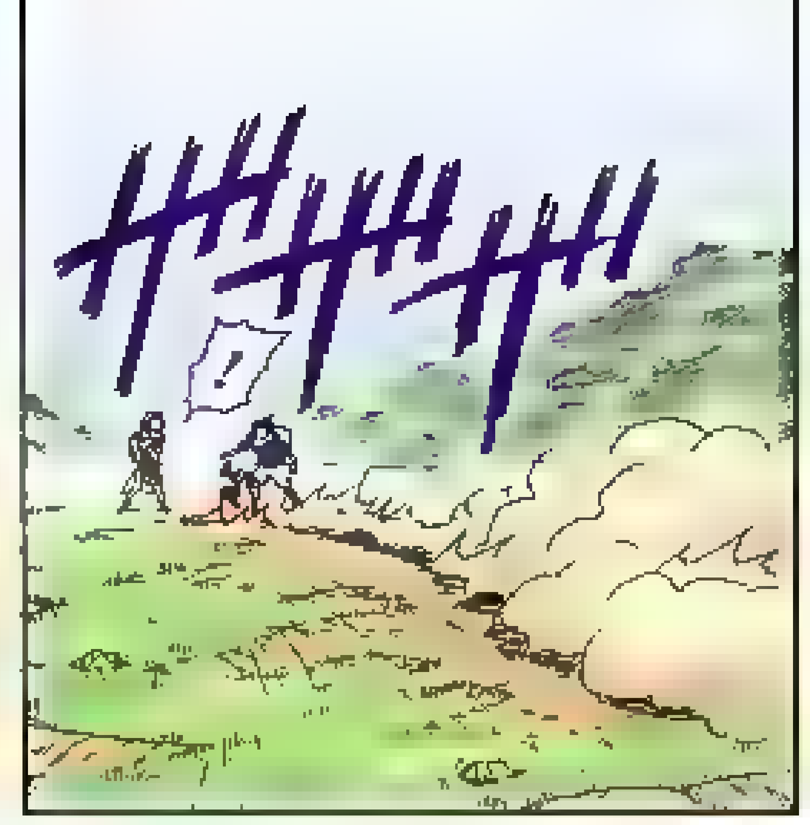

STOP, YOU FOOL!


NARUTO!! WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?!
HE'S...

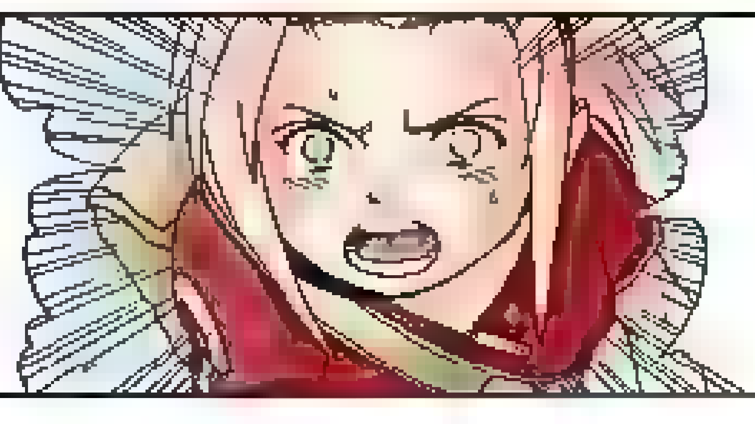

HAH! IMBECILE..

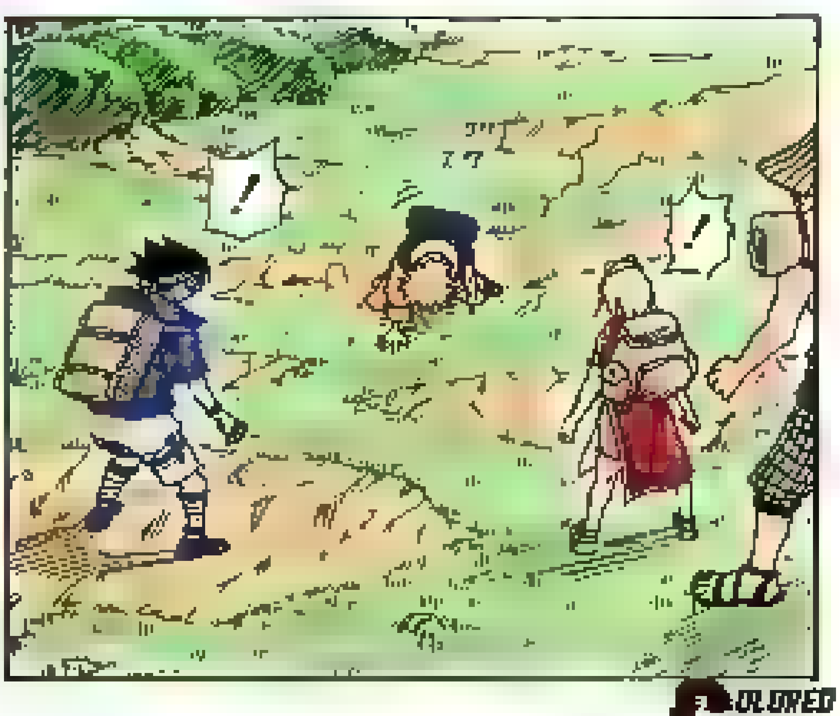


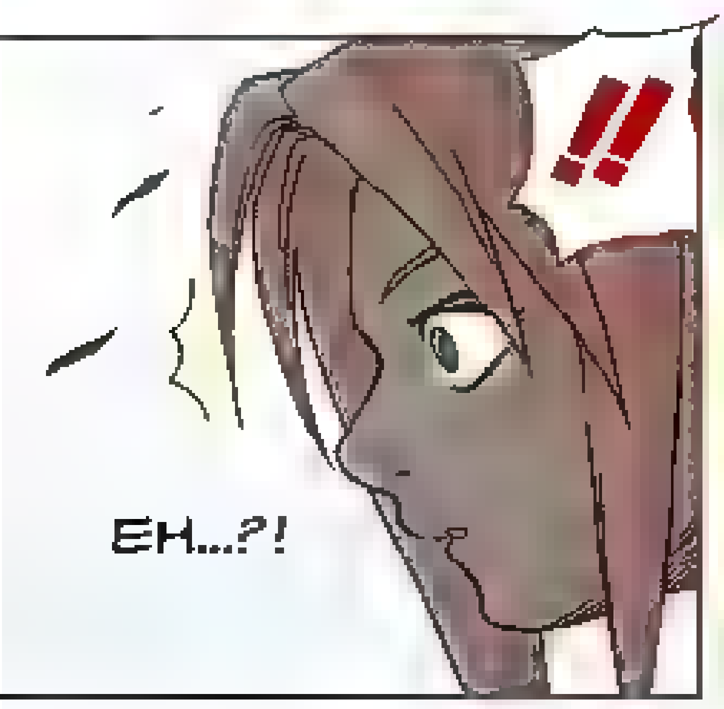

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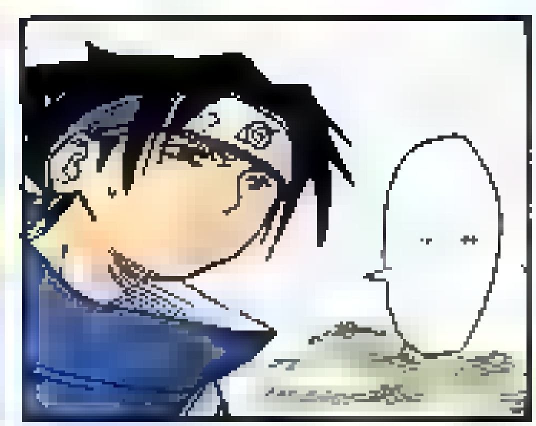

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING, TACKLING HIM BY YOURSELF!
YOU THINK YOU'RE SO COOL, BUT JUNIOR NINJA LIKE US CAN'T...

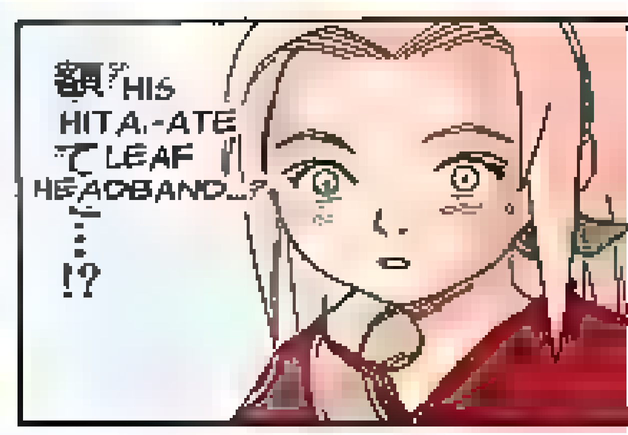

!
!


!!
EH...?!

A-AAAW...




...

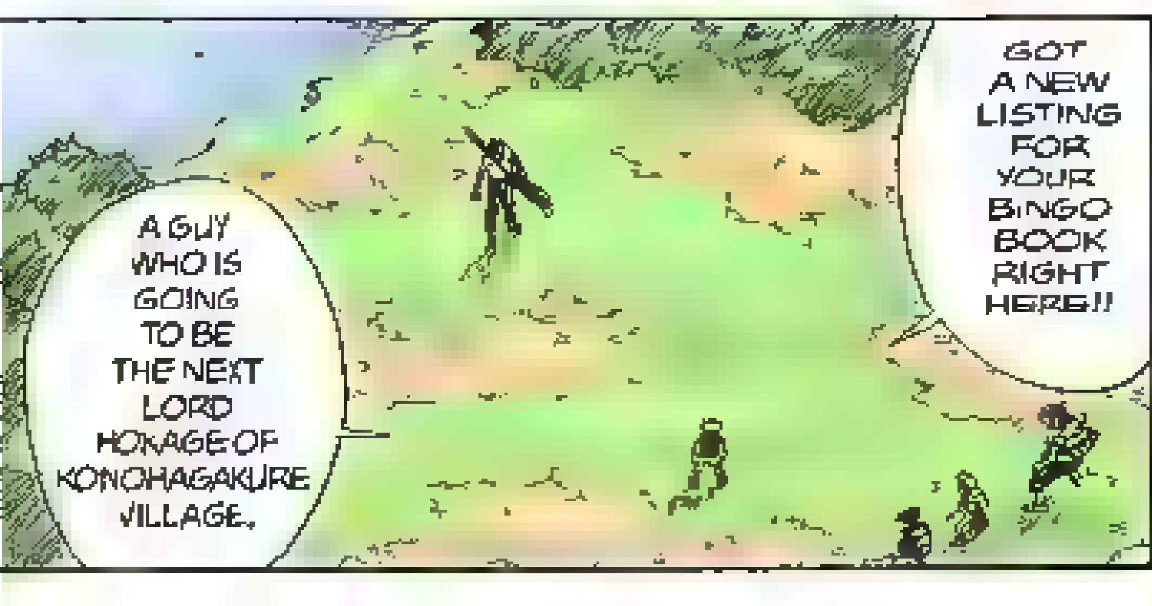

額当て HIS HITAI-ATE LEAF HEADBAND...?
...!?



HAH...

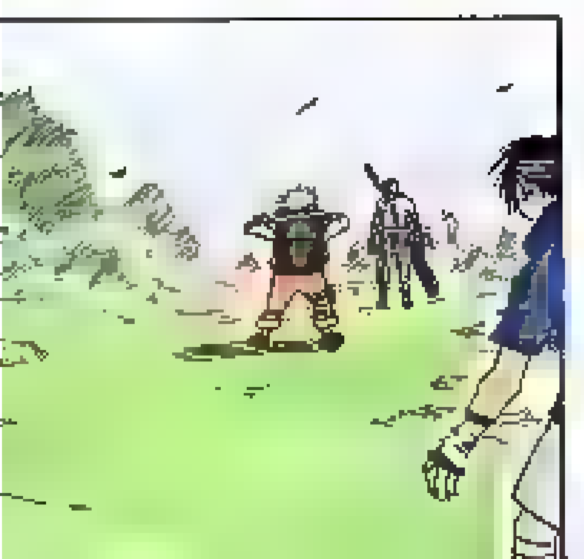
HEY... YOU... WHAT'S LIFE LIKE WITHOUT EYEBROWS, FREAK?



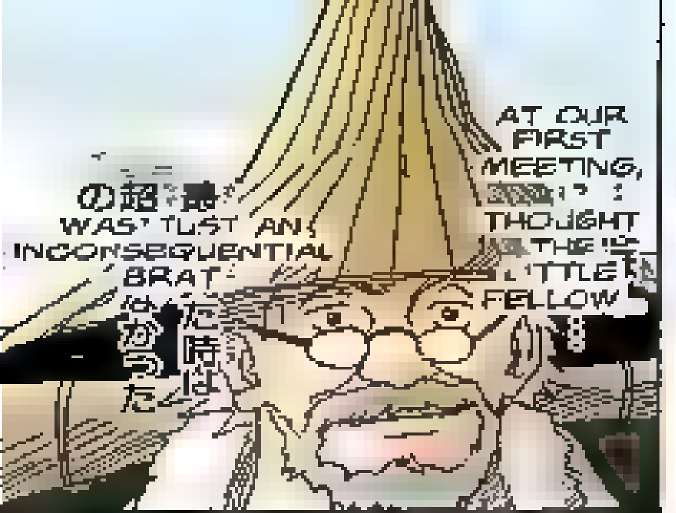








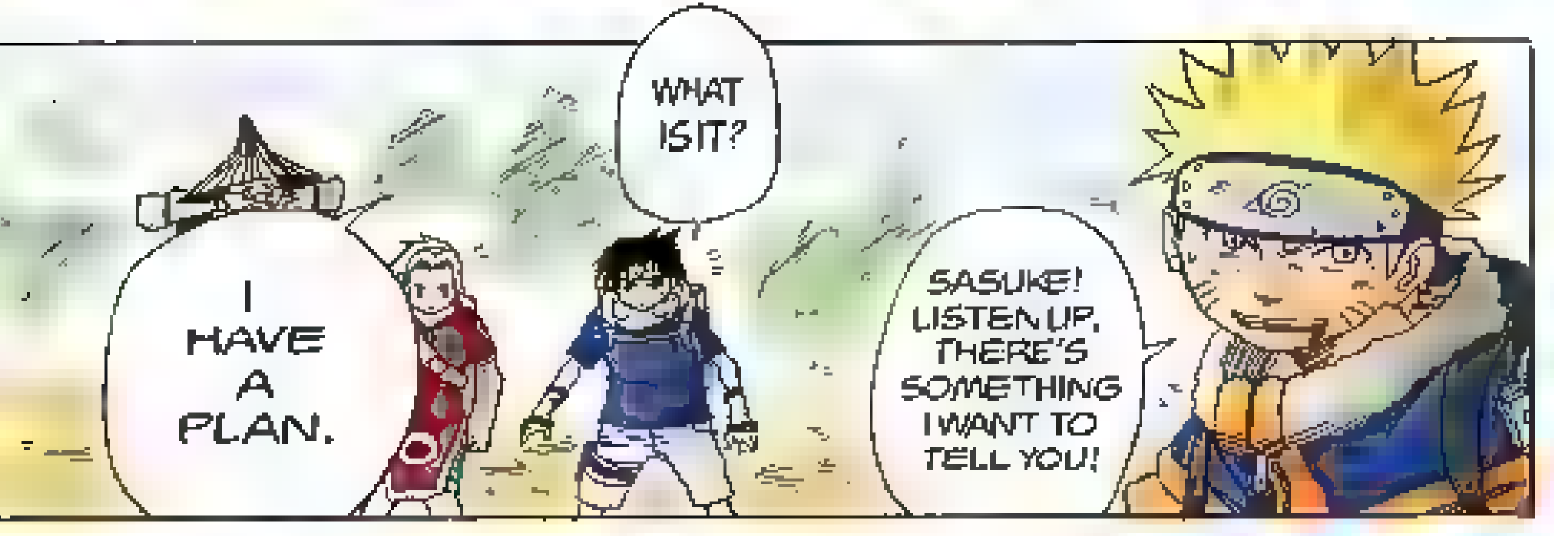

UZUMAKI NARUTO!
KONOHA-SCHOOL NINJA!



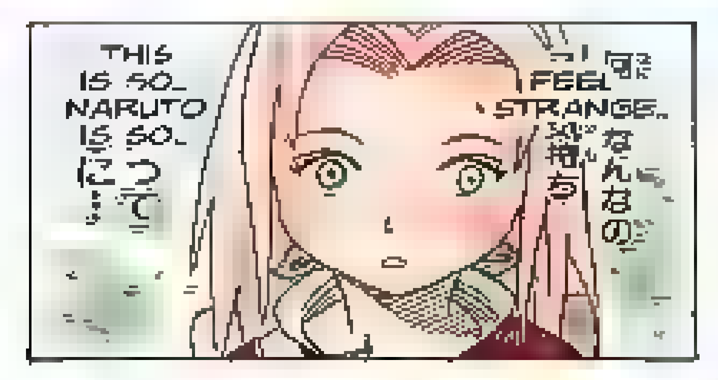
AT OUR FIRST MEETING, I THOUGHT THE LITTLE FELLOW
WAS JUST AN INCONSEQUENTIAL BRAT



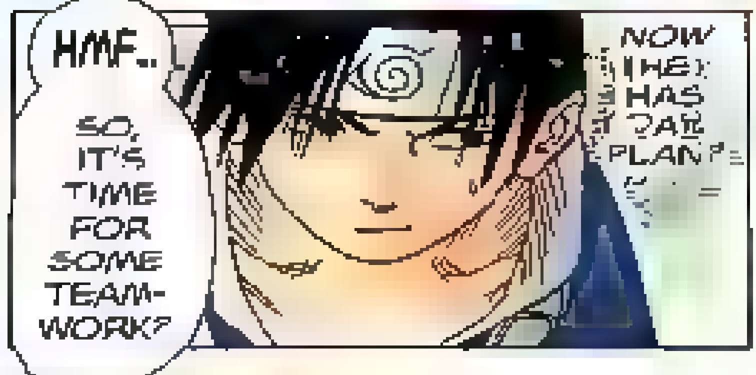

NARUTO



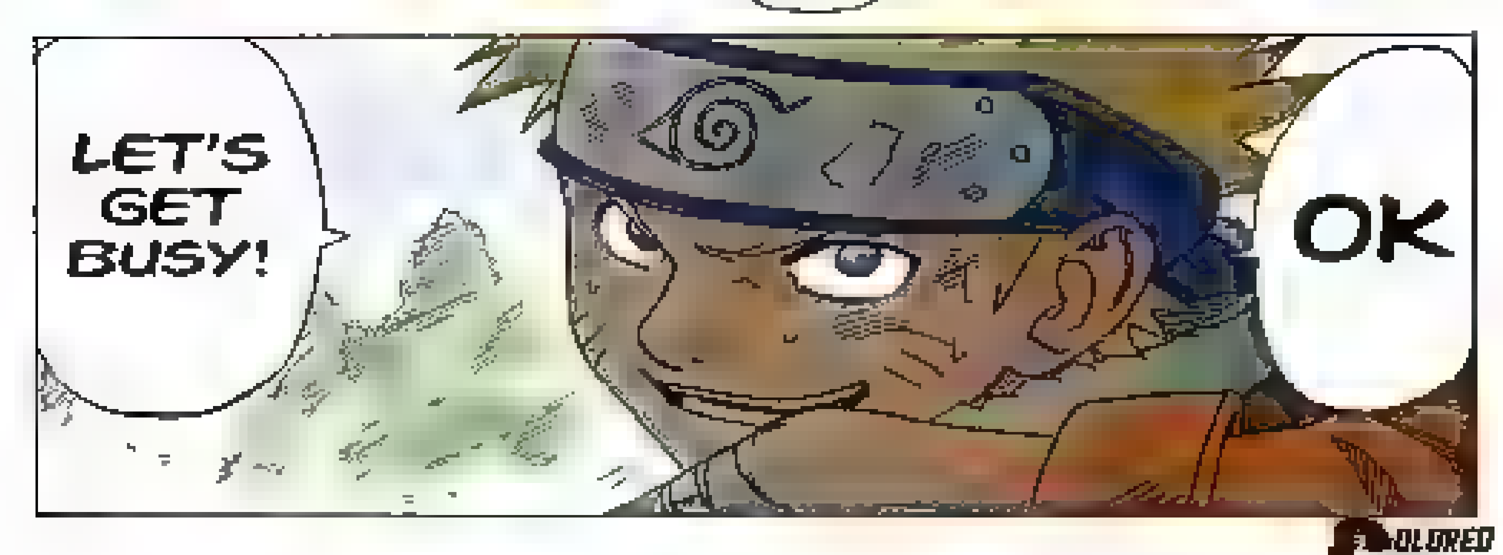
SASUKE! LISTEN UP, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TELL YOU!
WHAT IS IT?
I HAVE A PLAN.



I FEEL STRANGE..
THIS IS SO.. NARUTO IS SO..



NOW HE HAS A PLAN?
HMF..
SO, IT'S TIME FOR SOME TEAM-WORK?



OK
LET'S GET BUSY!

IRUKA & MIZUKI

These were my first sketches of Iruka and Mizuki (see **Naruto** Vol. 1). In the final version, Mizuki's bangs are parted in the center, but otherwise he's pretty much the same. Iruka used to have a more evil look around his eyes, and sharper cheekbones, but I made him more relaxed and younger-looking.

One more thing. When I was originally planning who Iruka and Mizuki's teacher was going to be, I decided on the next teacher's name at the same time. If you look in the bottom right corner, you can see some of the names I considered: *Kakashi* ("scarecrow"), *Kuwa* ("hoe"), *Kama* ("scythe"), *Botan* ("peony" or "button") and *Enoki* (a Chinese nettle tree). Looking back at it, though, I'm really glad I used "Kakashi."

TIME FOR US...

...TO ROCK N' ROLL!...

14：秘策…!!

THE SECRET PLAN...!

DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU STAND A CHANCE AGAINST ME?

HEH HEH.. YOU'RE VERY SURE OF YOURSELF, BUT..

YOU HAVE TO DO YOUR DUTY. KEEP THAT IN MIND.

WE'RE HERE TO PROTECT MR. TAZUNA!!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? I TOLD YOU TO RUN

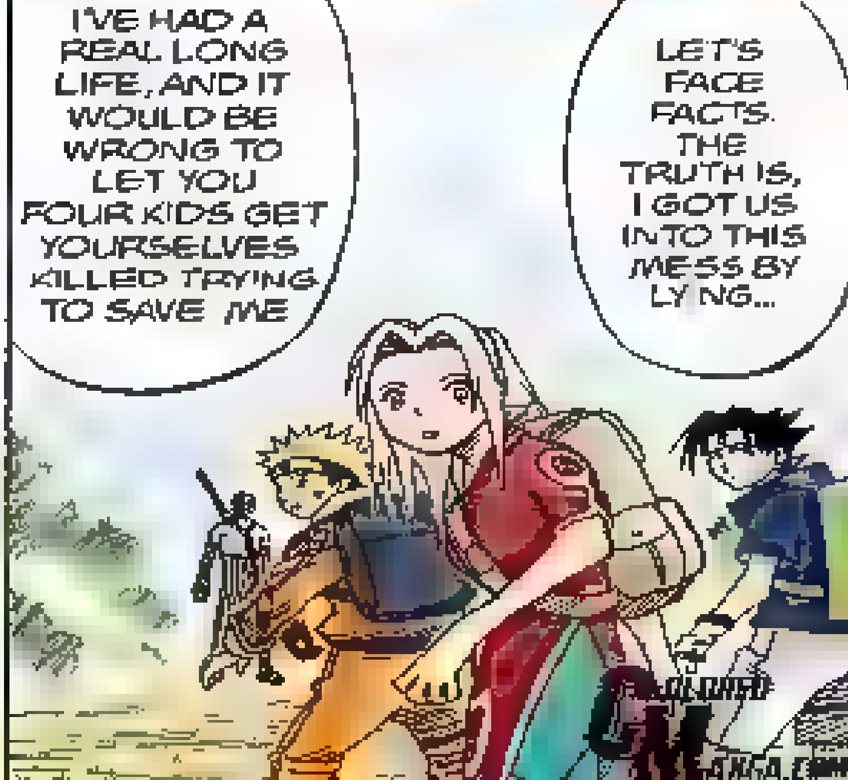
IT'S OVER. IT WAS OVER THE SECOND HE CAUGHT ME!

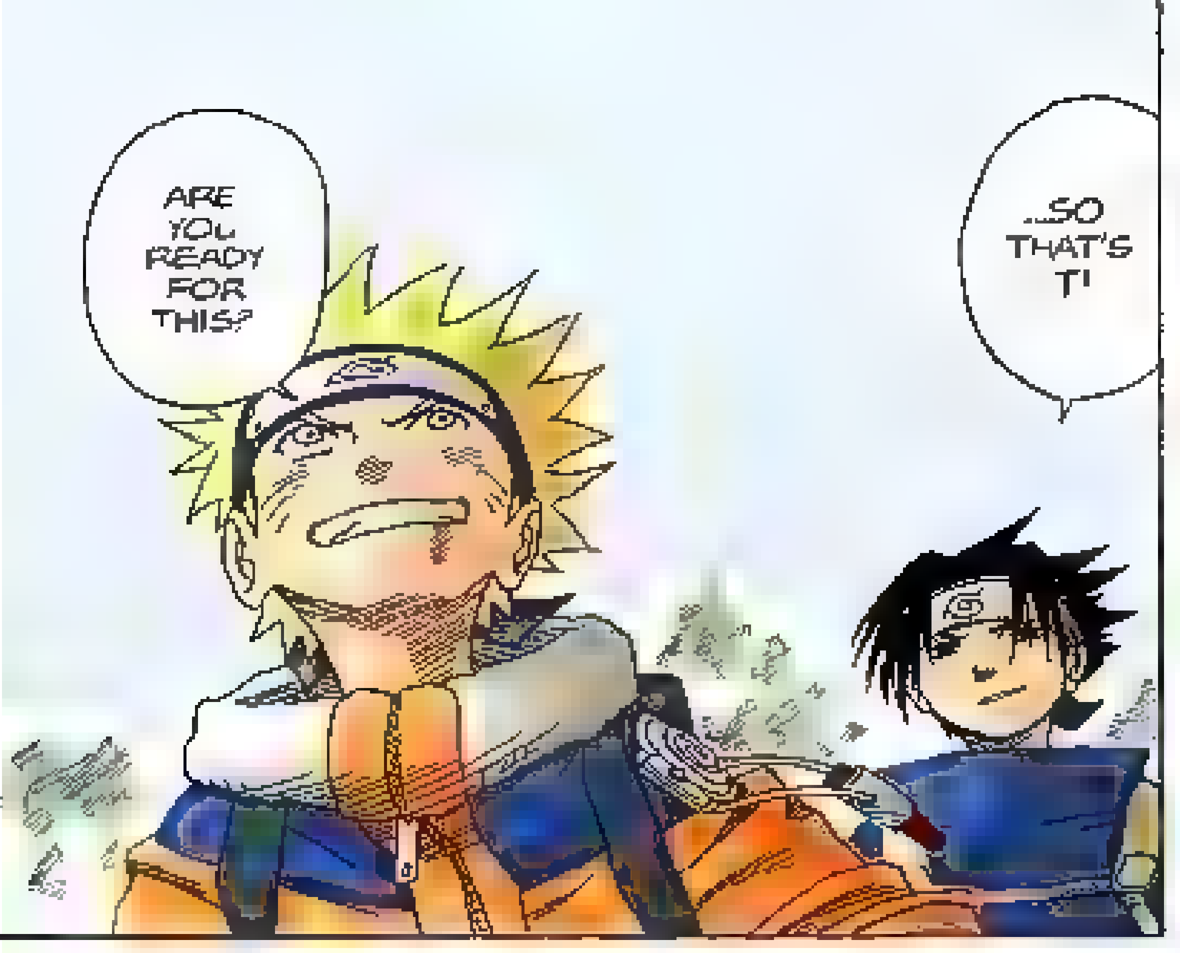
DARN IT!

WHAT?

GRAMPS..?






ARE YOU READY FOR THIS?
..SO THAT'S IT!

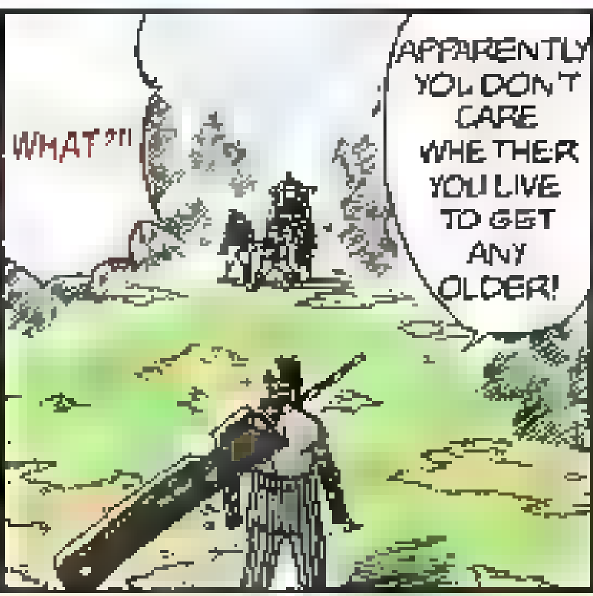

SNIFF...


HEH HEH HEH HEH...


HEH.


I, HOWEVER...


PLAYING AT BEING A NINJA LIKE IT'S A CHILD'S GAME...
!


APPARENTLY YOU DON'T CARE WHETHER YOU LIVE TO GET ANY OLDER!
WHAT?!



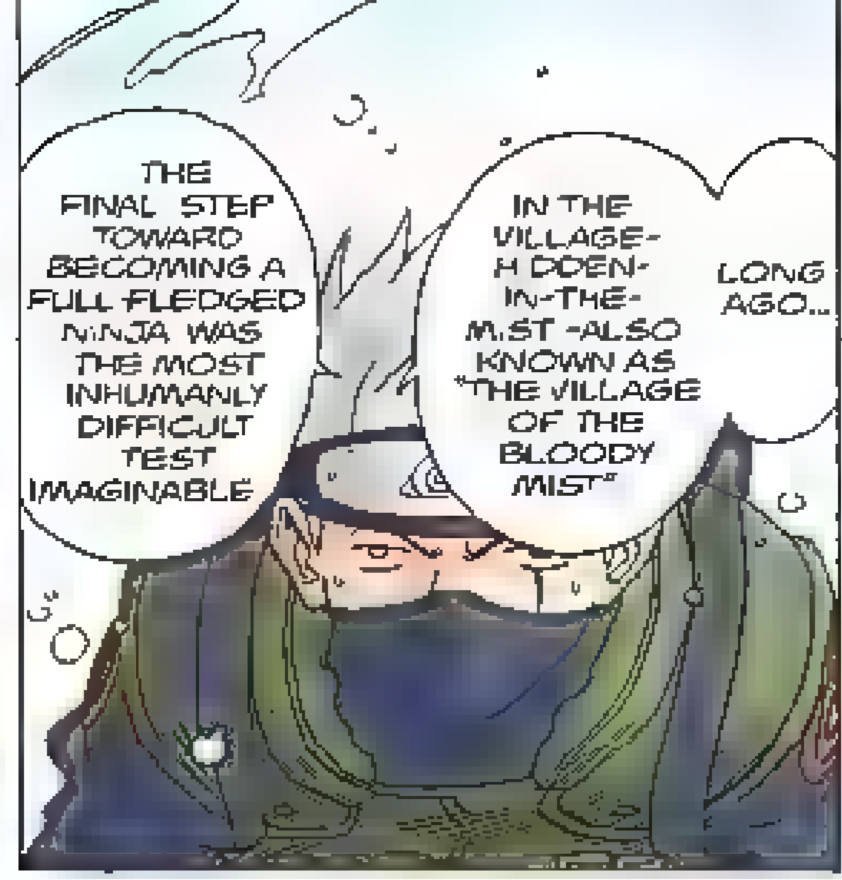
BY THE TIME I WAS YOUR AGE...

...HAD ALREADY DYED THESE HANDS IN MY ENEMIES' BLOOD...








LONG AGO...
IN THE VILLAGE-HIDDEN-IN-THE-MIST -ALSO KNOWN AS "THE VILLAGE OF THE BLOODY MIST"
THE FINAL STEP TOWARD BECOMING A FULL-FLEDGED NINJA WAS THE MOST INHUMANLY DIFFICULT TEST IMAGINABLE

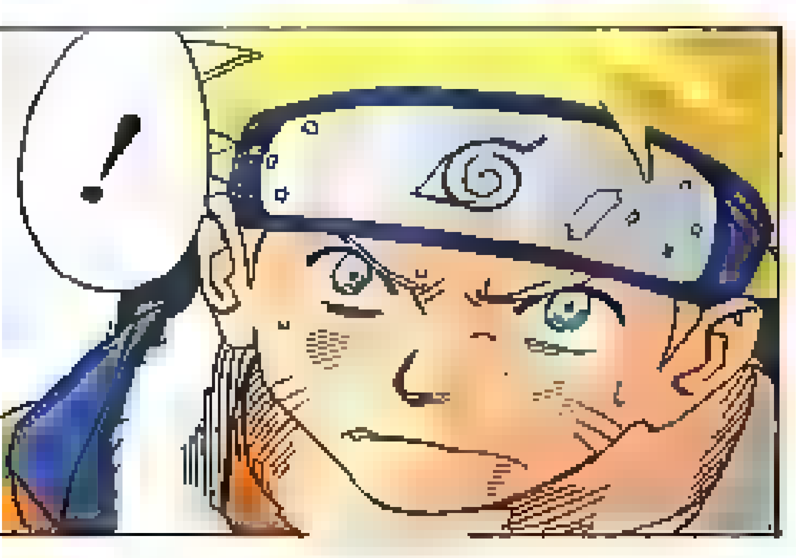

SO...
...YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT OUR LITTLE GRADUATION EXERCISE.


..."GRADUATION EXERCISE"...?


...HEH HEH HEH


WH-WHAT "GRADUATION EXERCISE"?

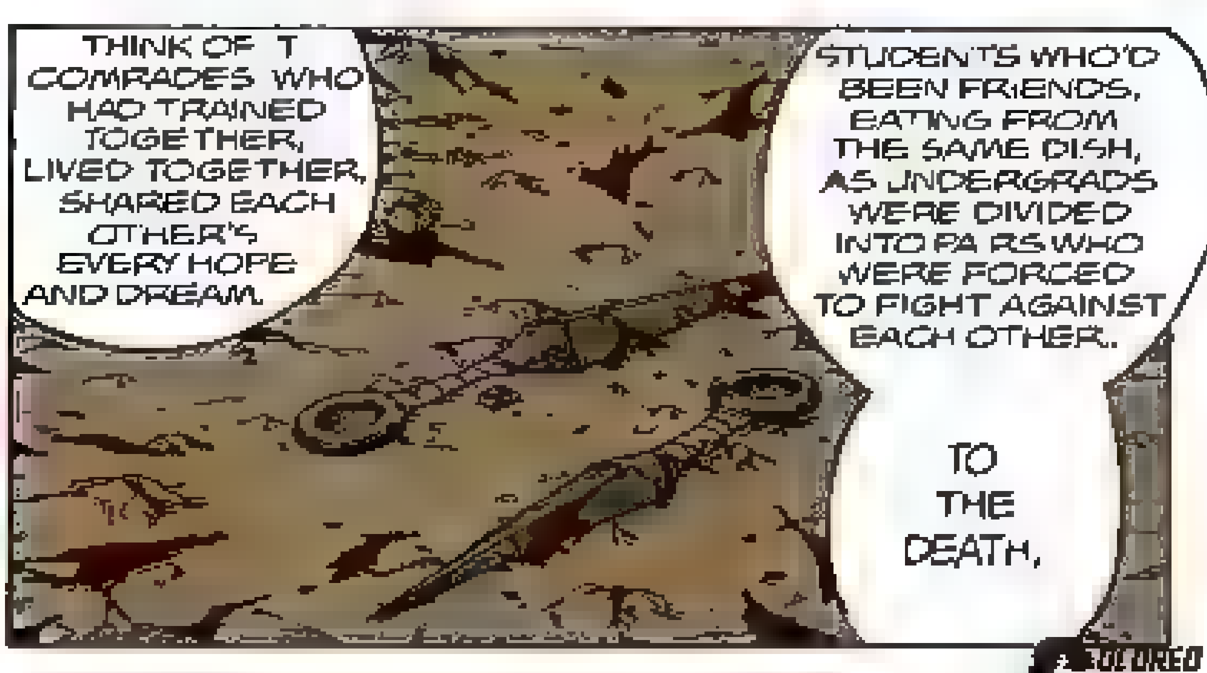

HEH HEH HEH...


!

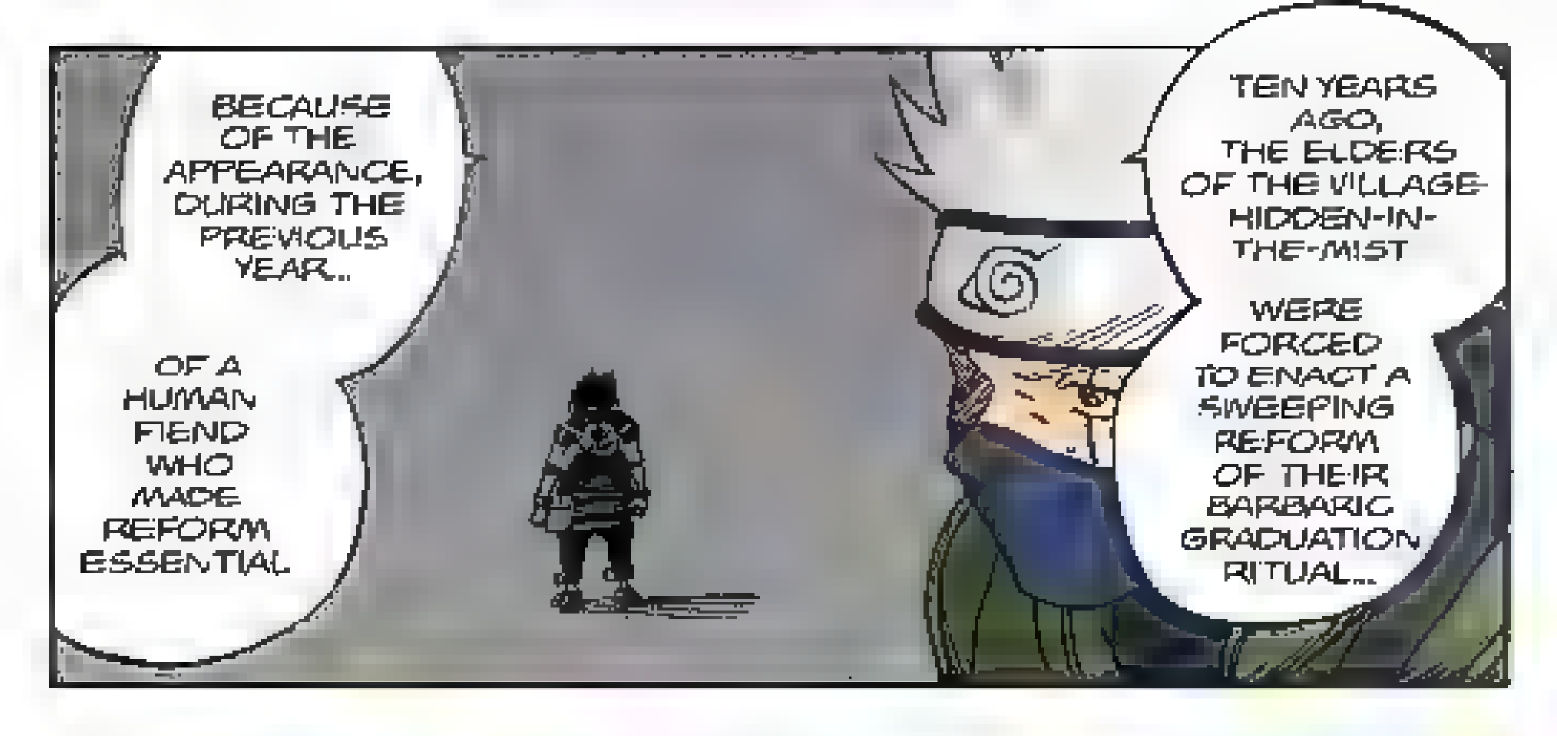
IT'S A KIND OF "KILLING SPREE"... AMONG CLASSMATES.

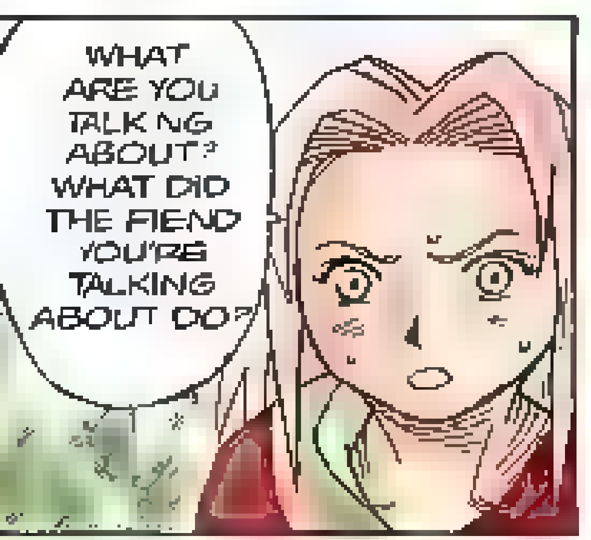


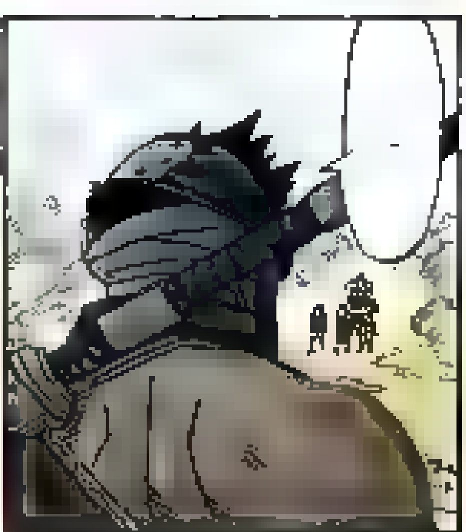


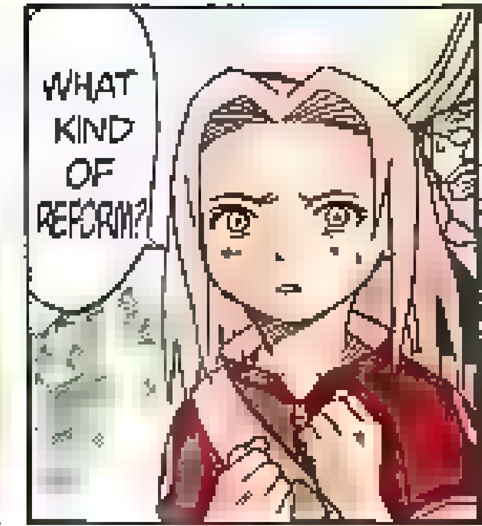












WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION..

...WITHOUT ANY HINT OF A QUALM...

...A BOY WHO HADN'T EVEN QUALIFIED YET AS A NINJA...

...BUTCHERED OVER A HUNDRED MEMBERS OF THAT YEAR'S GRADUATING CLASS.

AH, YES. GOOD TIMES...
I USED TO HAVE SUCH FUN.
ニイ
チラ
!!!

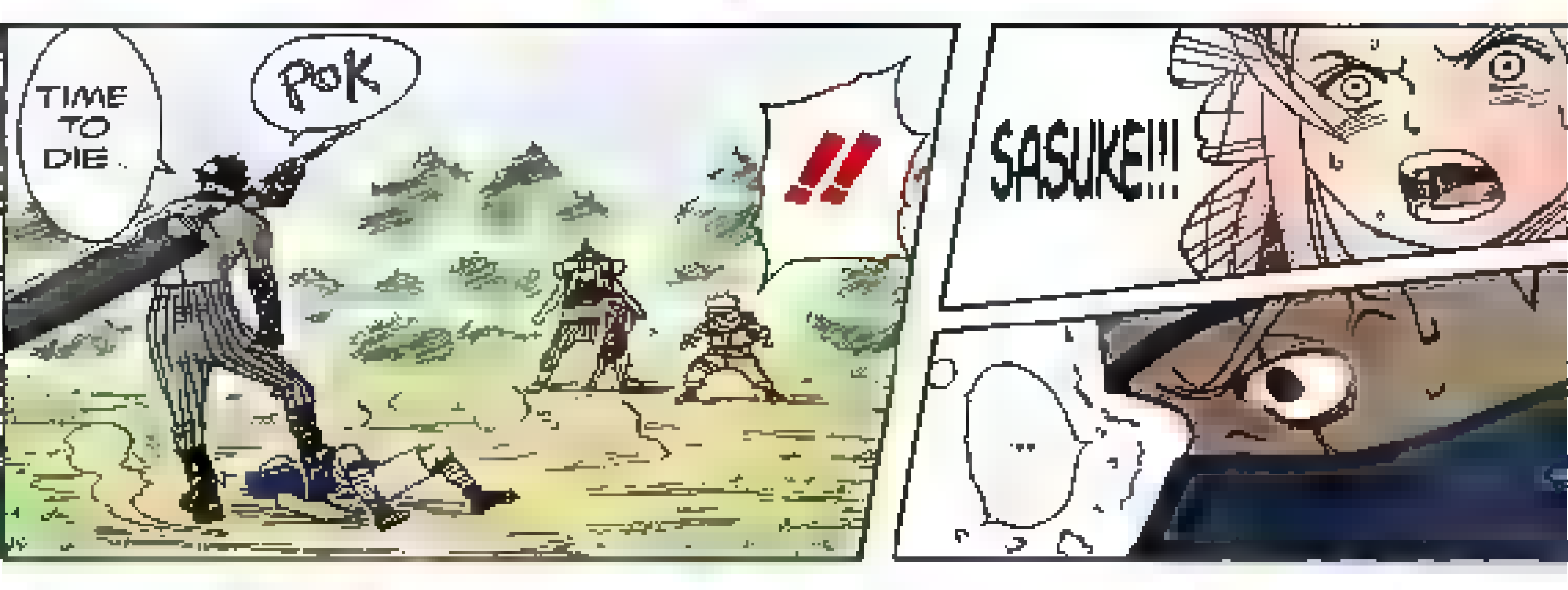
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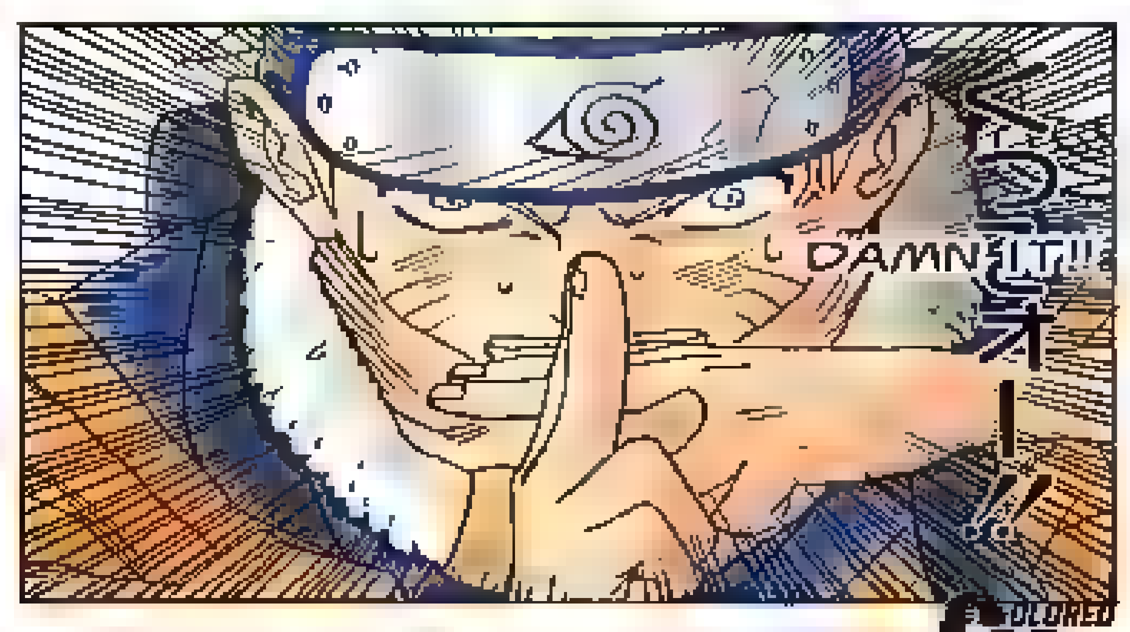
!!!...

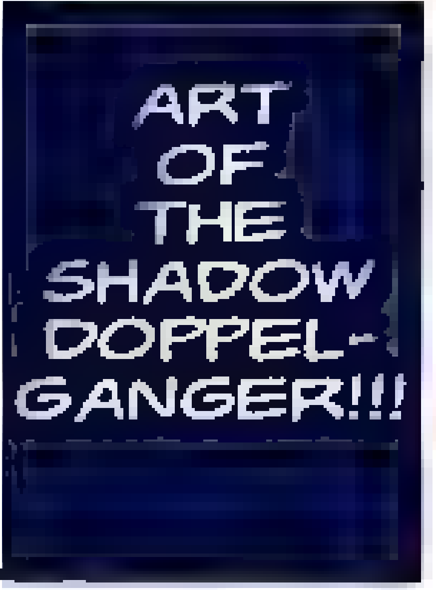







SASUKE!!!
...
!!
POK
TIME TO DIE..


DAMN IT!!!

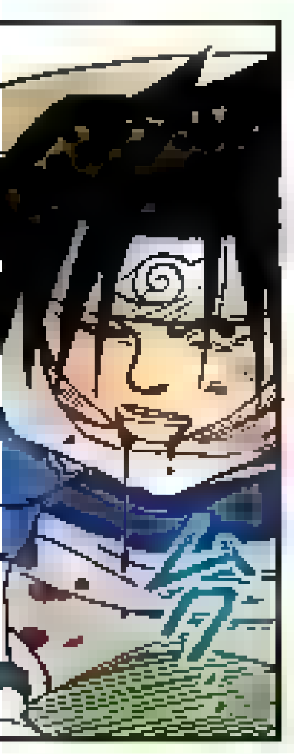

ART OF THE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER!!!

!!!...


SO.. DOPPEL-GANGERS, EH?
AND QUITE A LOT OF THEM..

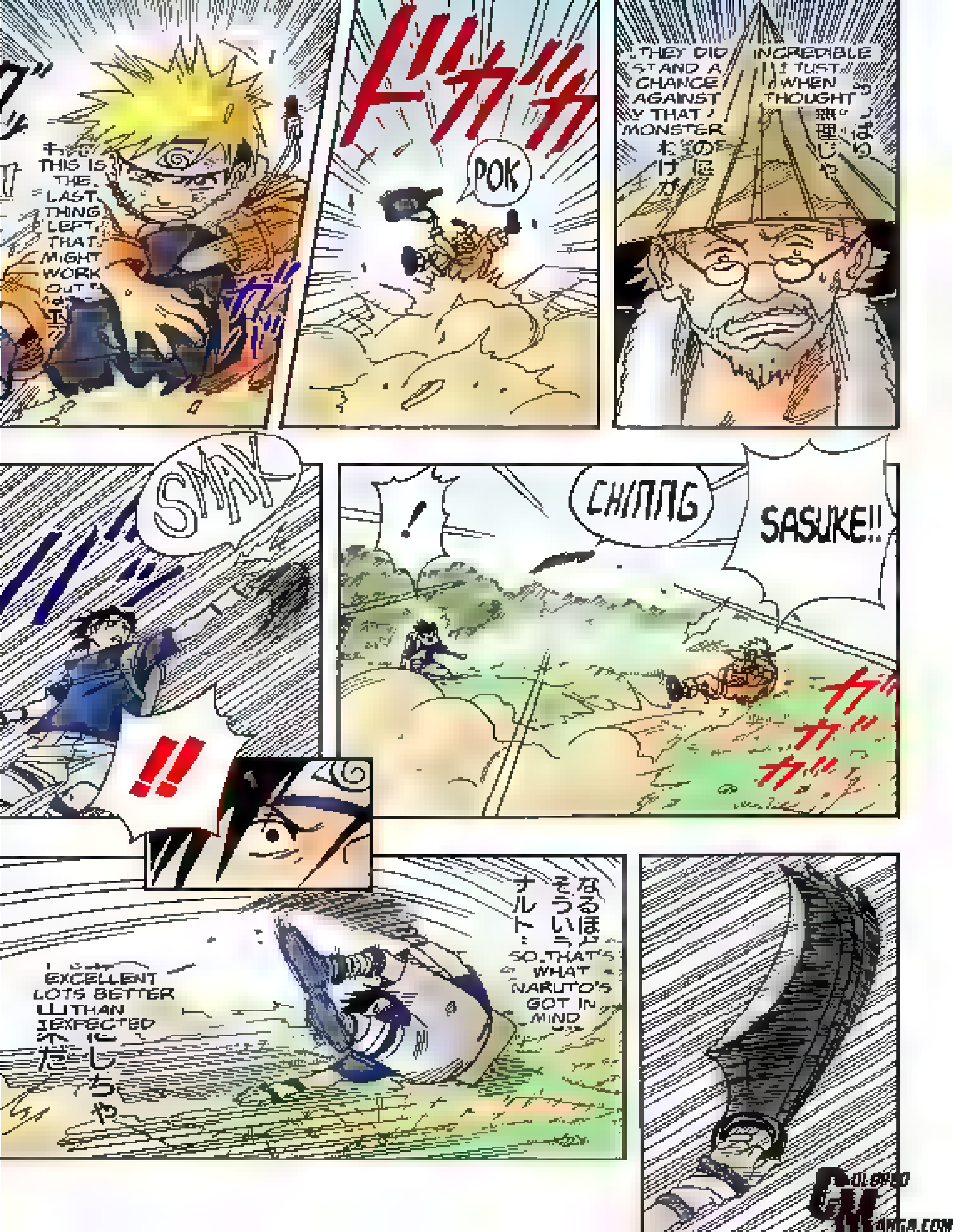


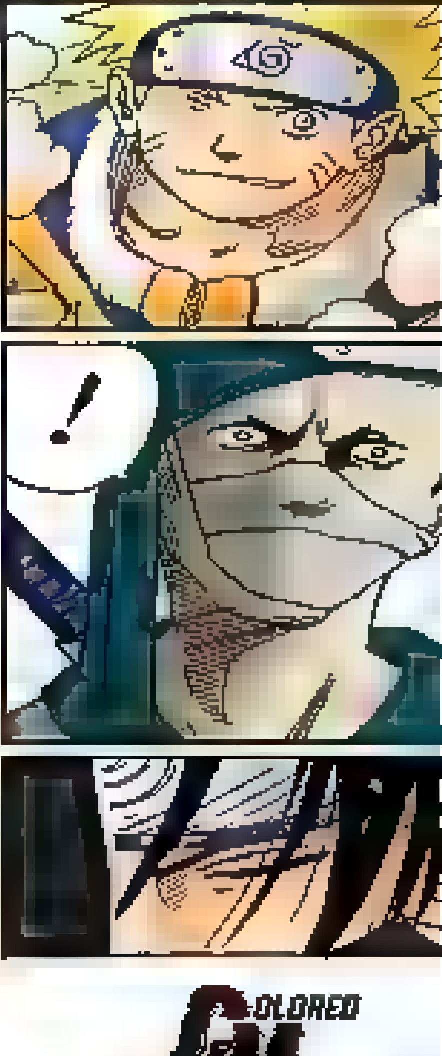

READY OR NOT--!!!



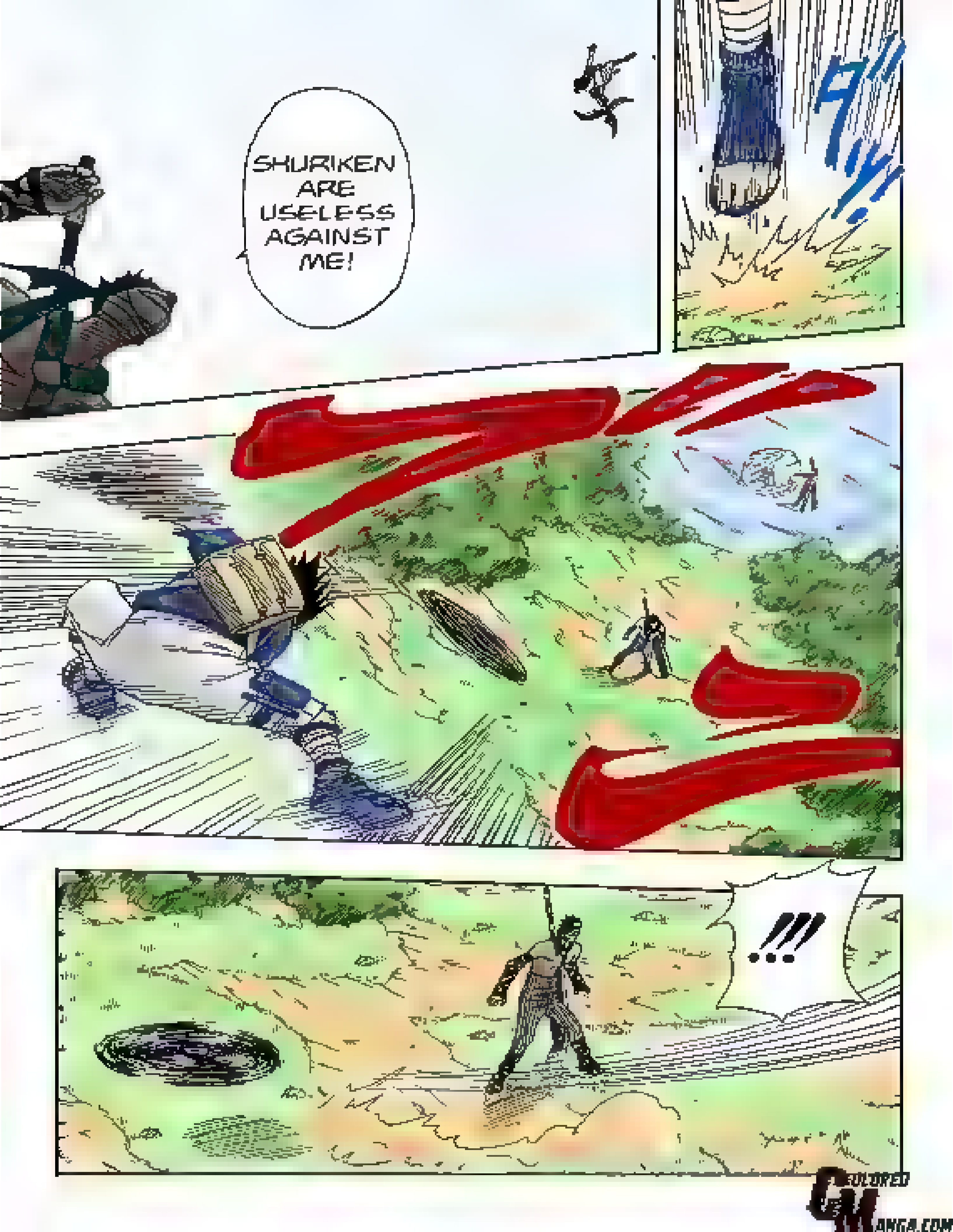


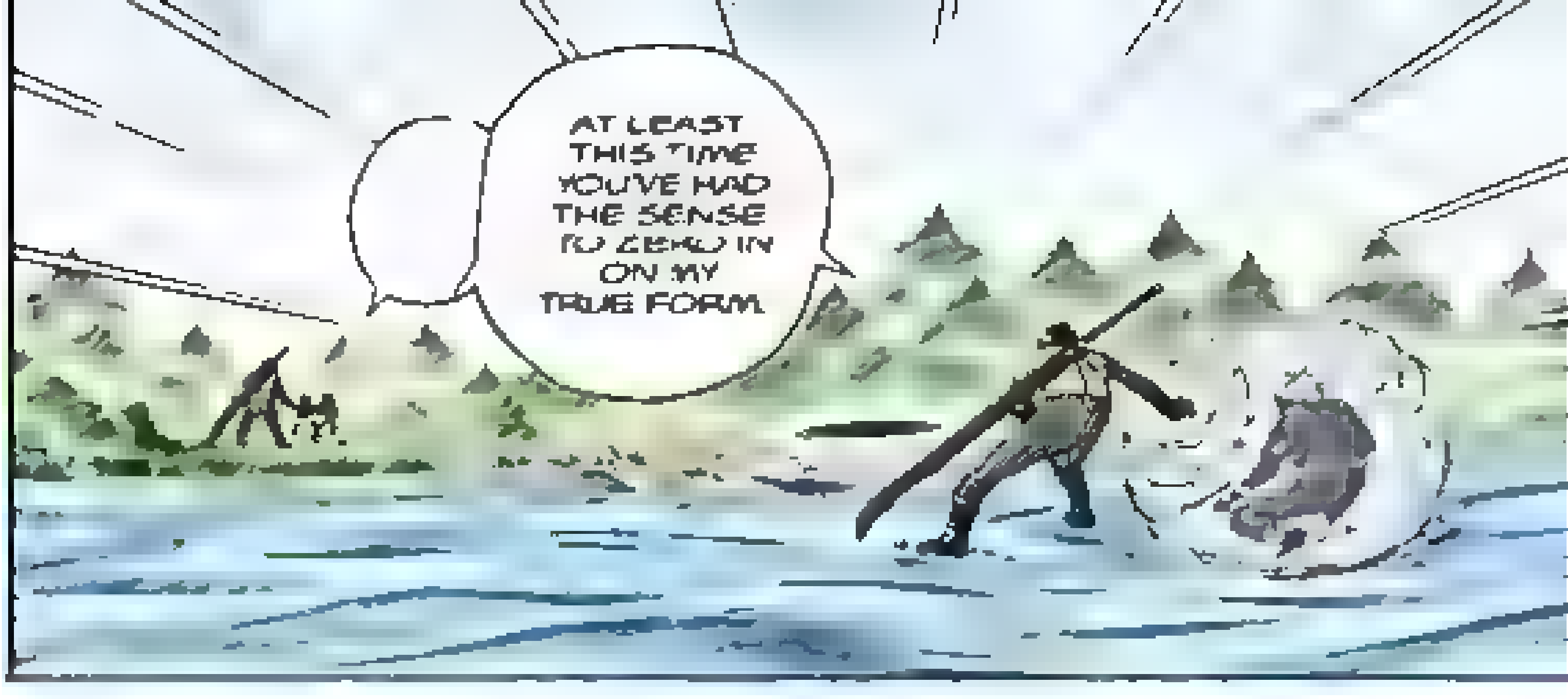
ド
ン
YAAH!!
AAUGH!!!!

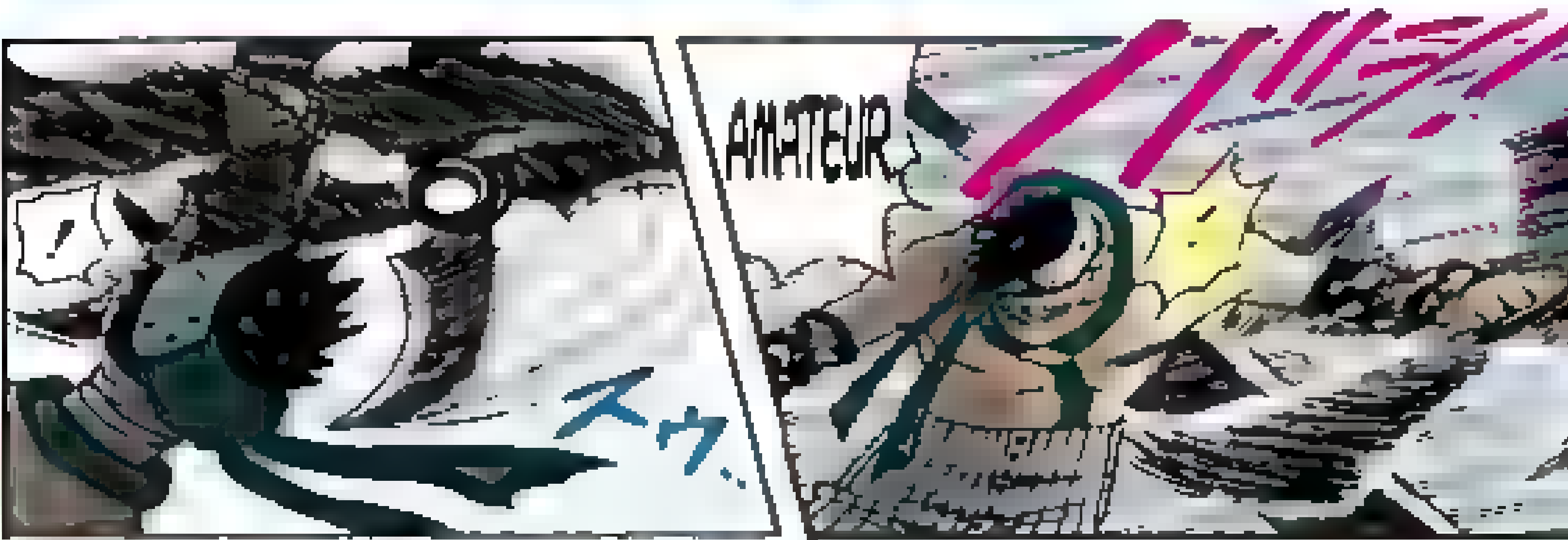

THIS IS THE LAST THING LEFT THAT MIGHT WORK OUT
POK
THEY DID STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THAT MONSTER
INCREDIBLE JUST WHEN THOUGHT
SMAK
!
CHINNG
SASUKE!!
!!
SO THAT'S WHAT NARUTO'S GOT IN MIND
なるほど そういう ナルト…
EXCELLENT LOTS BETTER THAN I EXPECTED



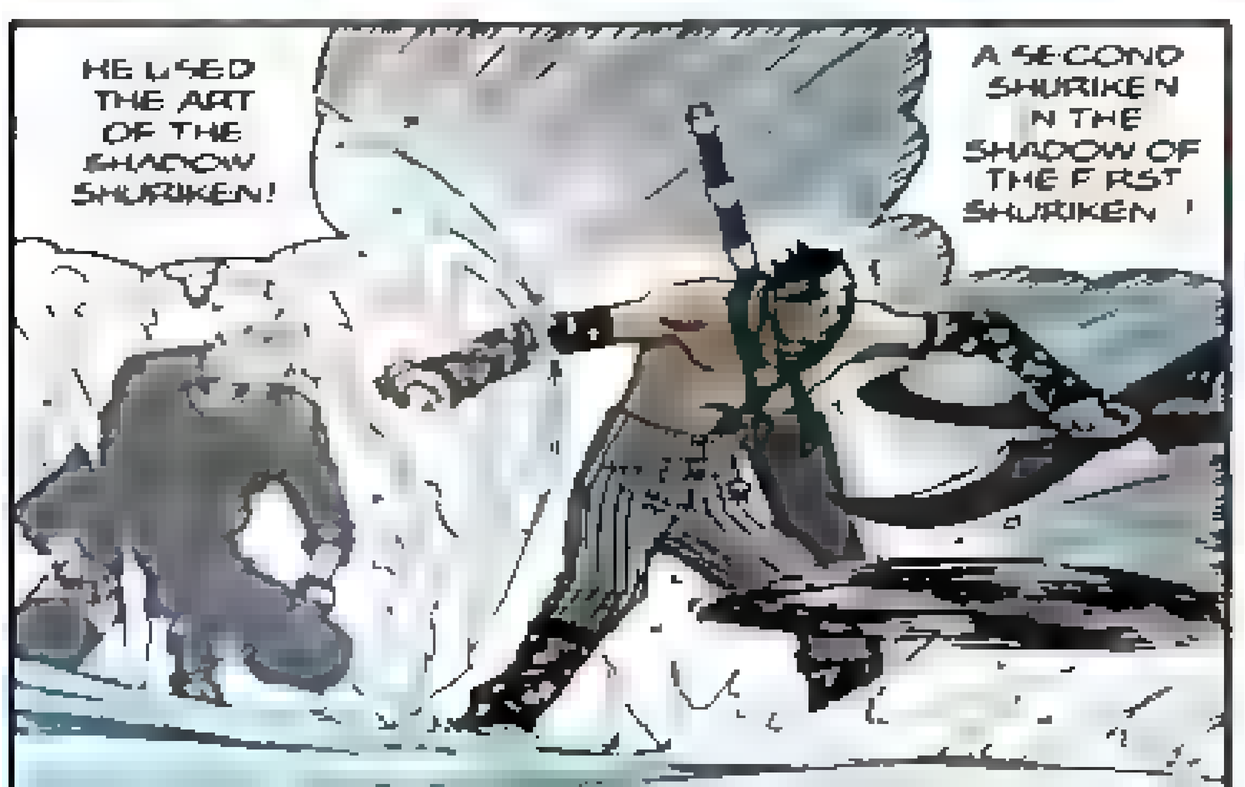
ガチャ
DEMON WIND SHURIKEN!!!
WINDMILL OF SHADOWS!!
!


SHURIKEN ARE USELESS AGAINST ME!
!!!

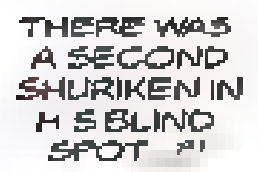

AT LEAST THIS TIME YOU'VE HAD THE SENSE TO ZERO IN ON MY TRUE FORM.

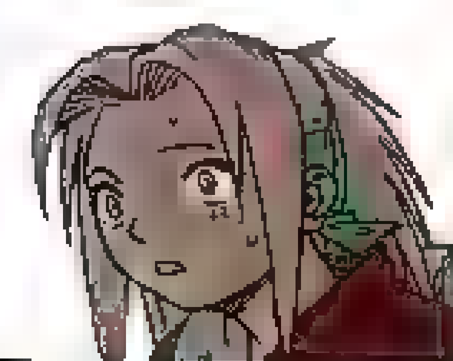

!
スゥ..
AMATEUR


!!!


A SECOND SHURIKEN IN THE SHADOW OF THE FIRST SHURIKEN!
HE USED THE ART OF THE SHADOW SHURIKEN!

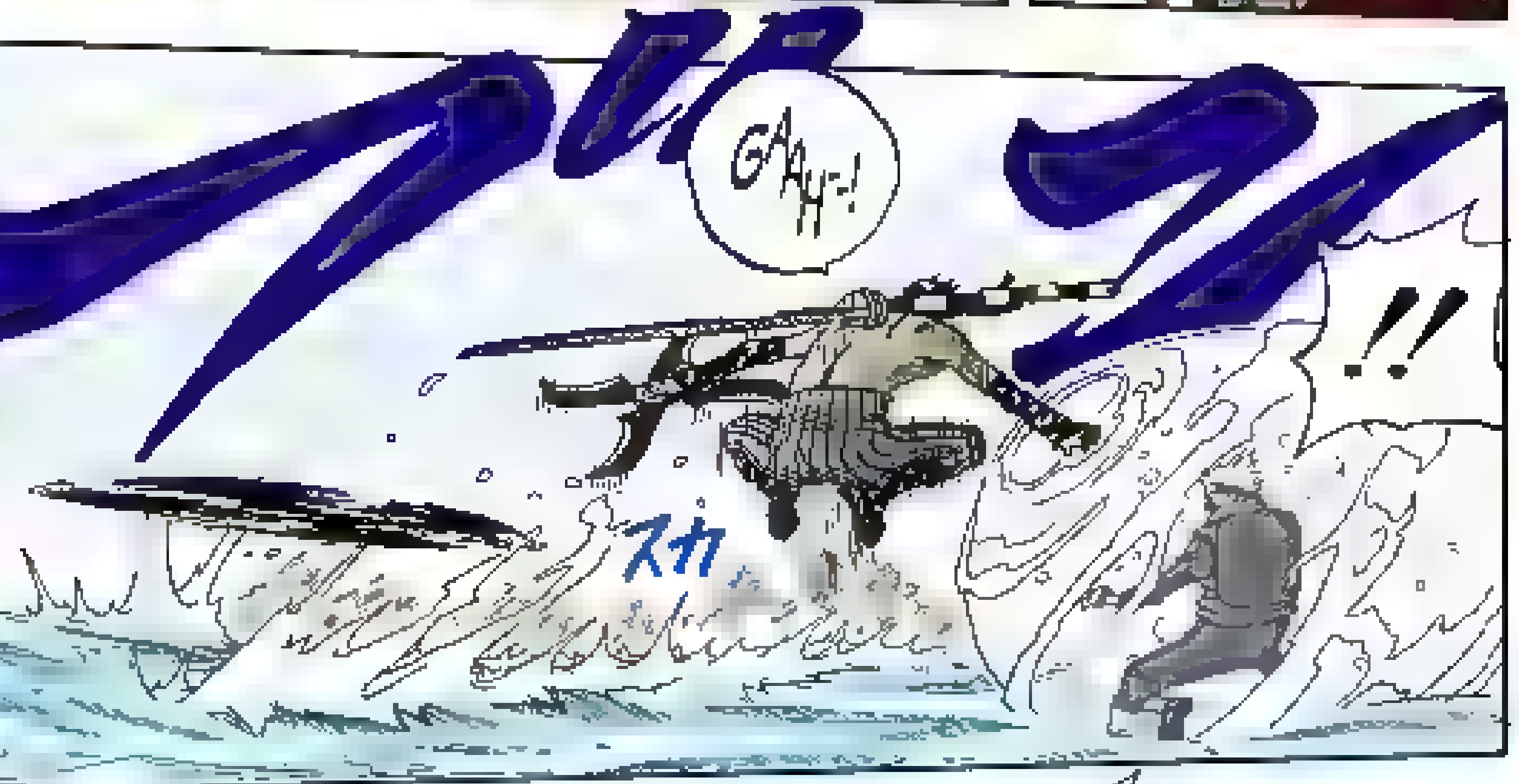


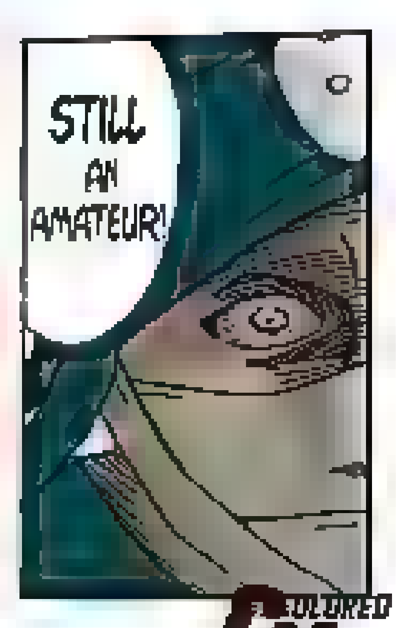

THERE WAS A SECOND SHURIKEN IN HIS BLIND SPOT...!!

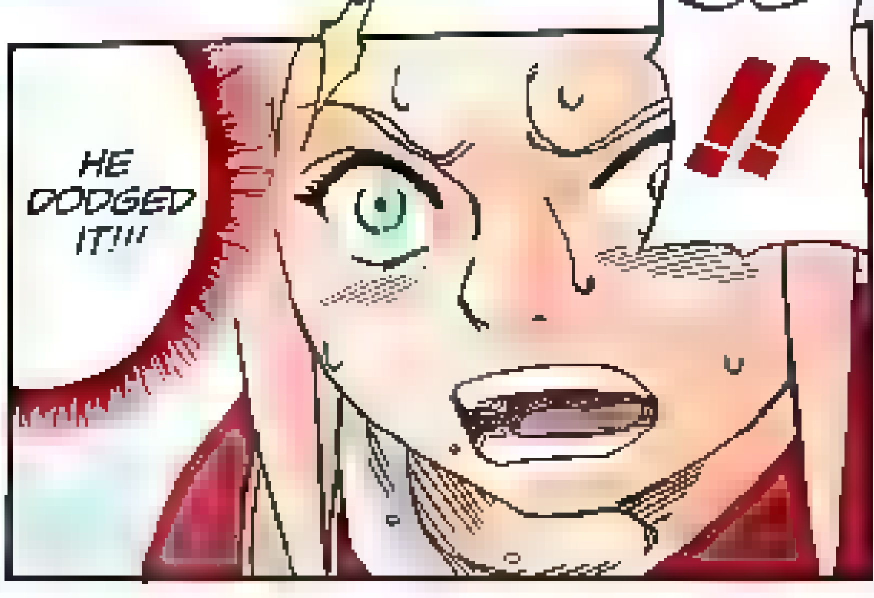


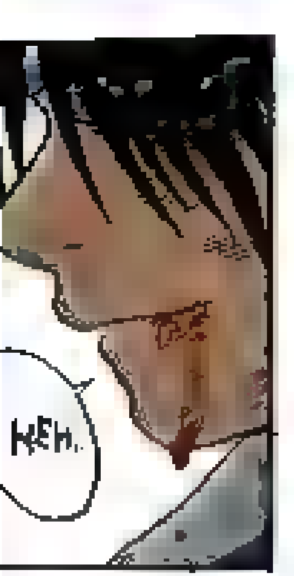

!!



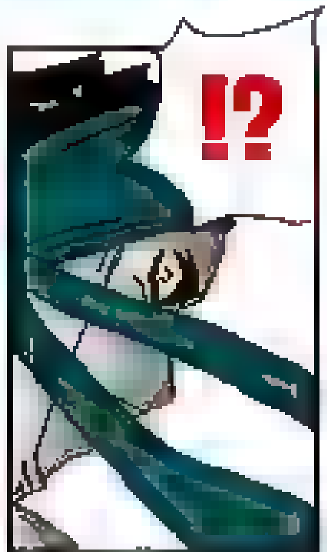

GAAH-!
!!


STILL AN AMATEUR!


!!
HE DODGED IT!!!


HEH..

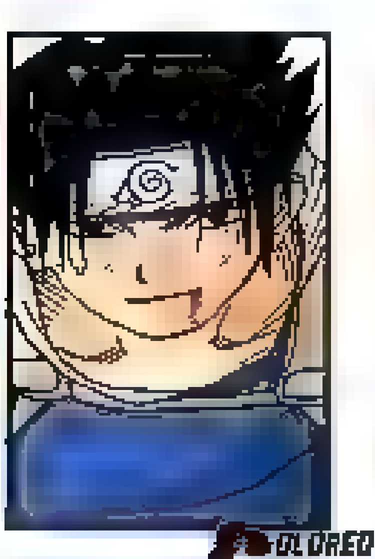

こ
HERE GOES NOTHING!!!
あつ!!


!?


!


EH?


!!




COLORED
MANGA.COM

15：甦る写輪眼!!

RETURN OF THE SHARINGAN

!!

YAH!!!

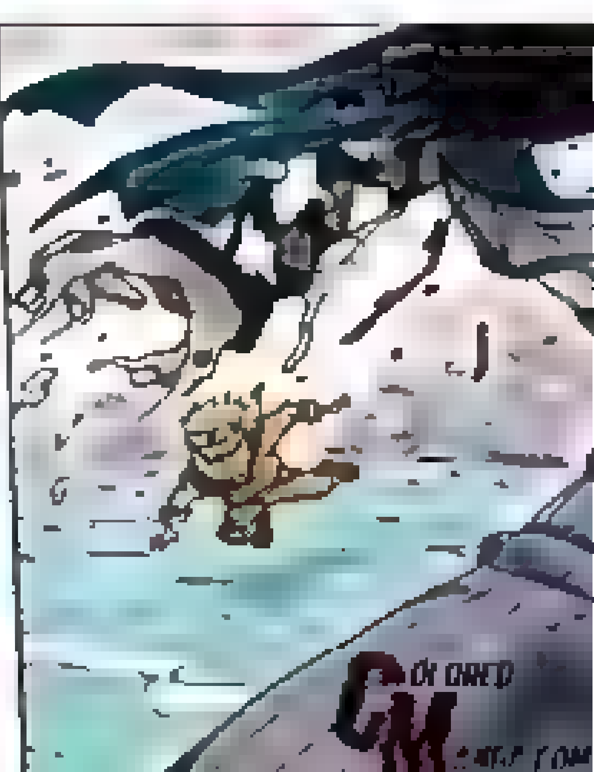


15：甦る写輪眼!!




ピキ

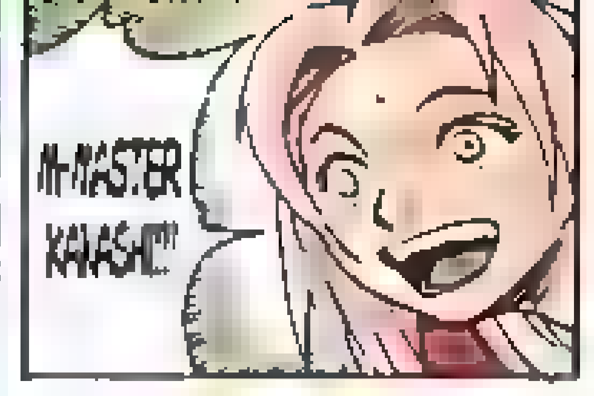




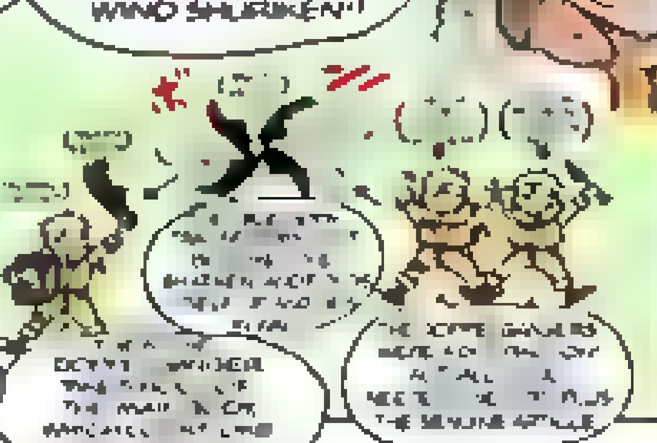





NARUTO... YOUR SCHEME WAS BRILLIANT...


M-MASTER KAKASHI!!

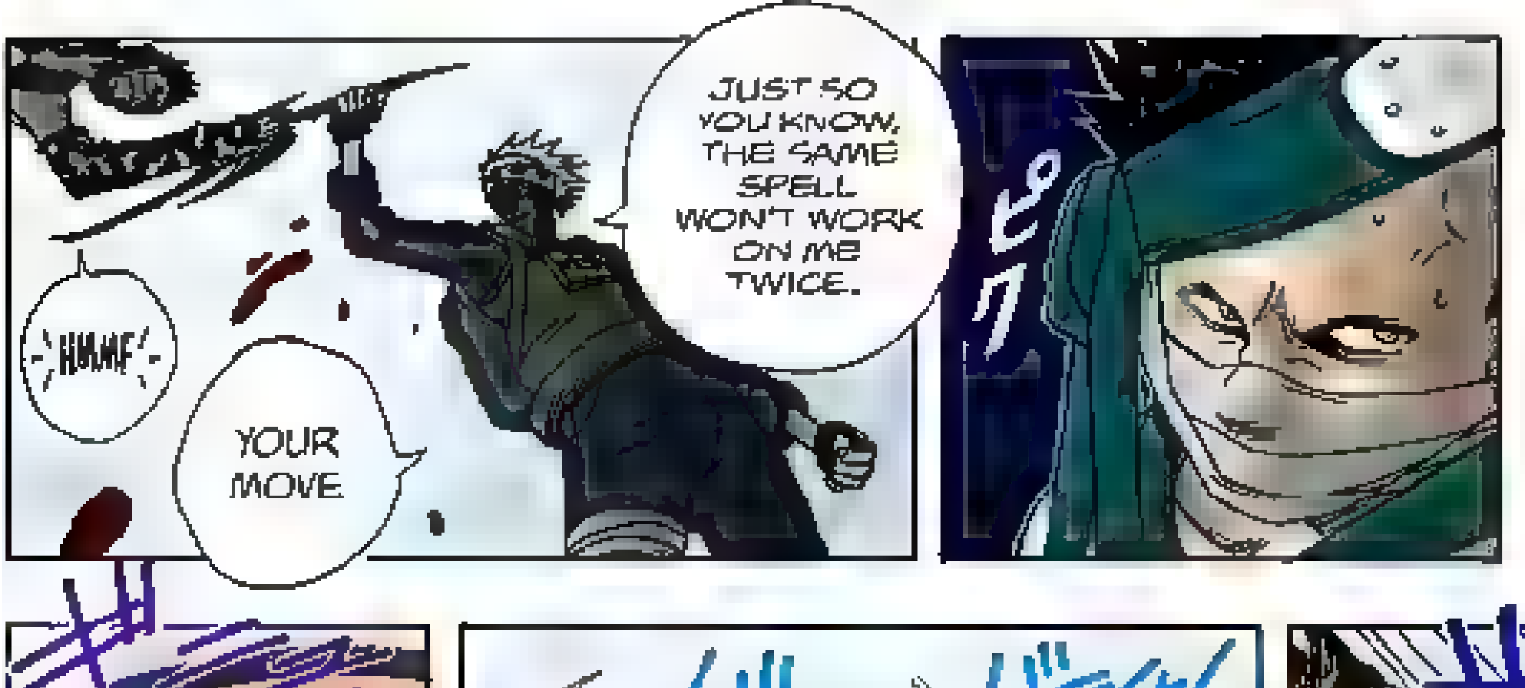

KOFF KOFF...

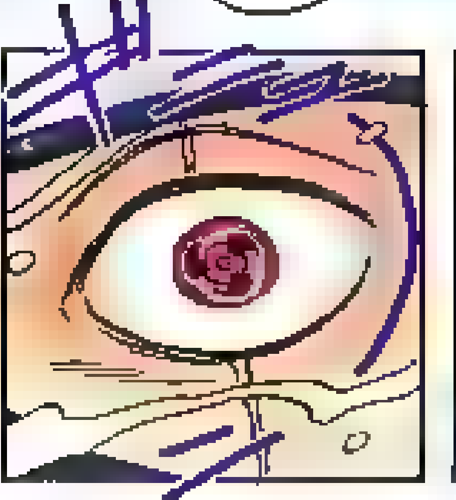

THE DOPPELGANGER SPELL WASN'T MEANT TO TAKE DOWN ZABUZA AT ALL. I DIVERTED HIS ATTENTION AWAY FROM ME WHILE I TRANSFORMED MYSELF INTO THE SECOND WIND SHURIKEN!!
OF COURSE I DIDN'T THINK THAT FORM ALONE WOULD BE ENOUGH TO PERMIT ME TO DEFEAT HIM, BUT I WAS AT LEAST ABLE TO FREE YOU FROM HIS WATER PRISON.

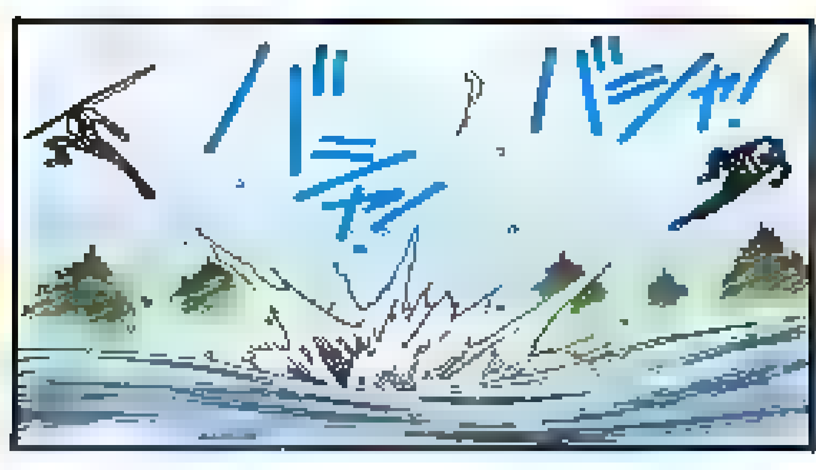

YOU'VE MATURED... ALL OF YOU
HEH HEH.


NO! YOU DIDN'T DROP YOUR OWN SPELL.
IT WAS BROKEN FROM WITHOUT.


HMM.
SO YOU MADE ME FLY INTO SUCH A RAGE THAT I UNRAVELED THE SPELL HOLDING THE WATER PRISON TOGETHER.





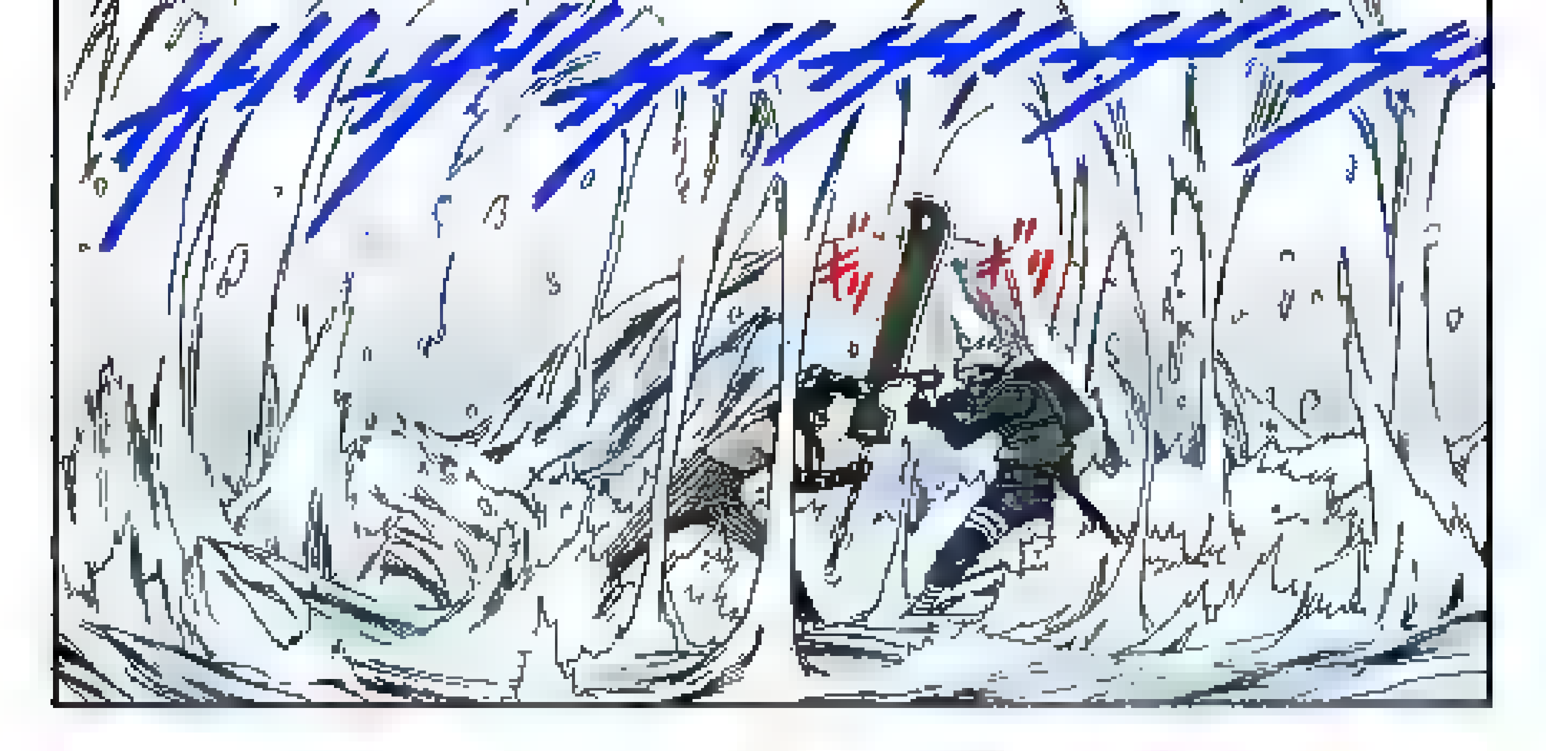




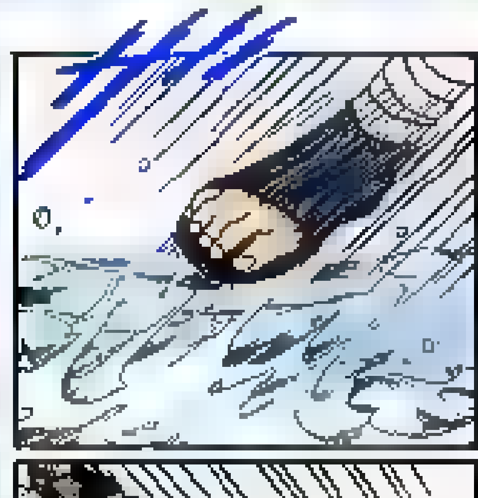
酉
TORI!! SIGN OF THE BIRD!

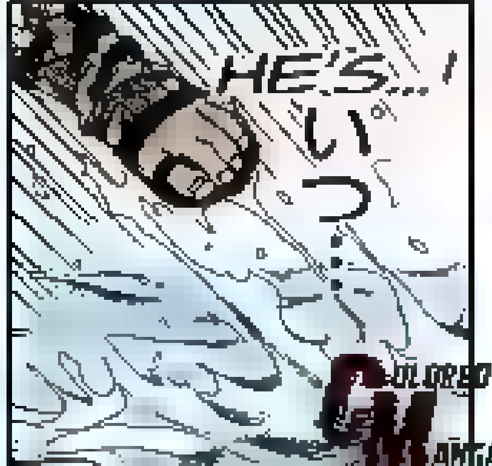

WATER STYLE! WATER DRAGON MISSILE!


ACK..!!
YEEEK!!
..GUUH..!!
SO, MANY KATAS, PERFORMED SO QUICKLY..
...AND, MASTER KAKASHI MIRRORED THEM ALL FLAWLESSLY INSTANTLY
WHAT IN
IS THIS NINJUTSU..?!
ってなの!?
!!!


ギリ
ギリ

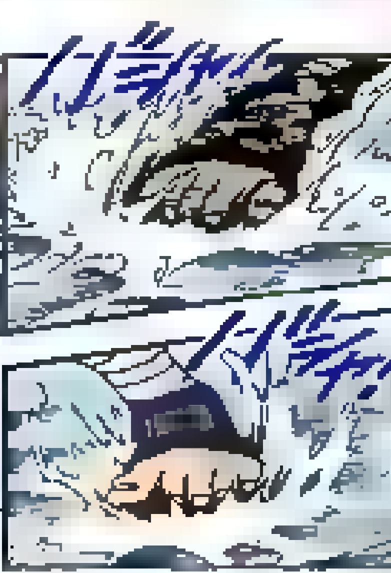
SOMETHING..
おかしい……
…ISN'T RIGHT…
どこだ……

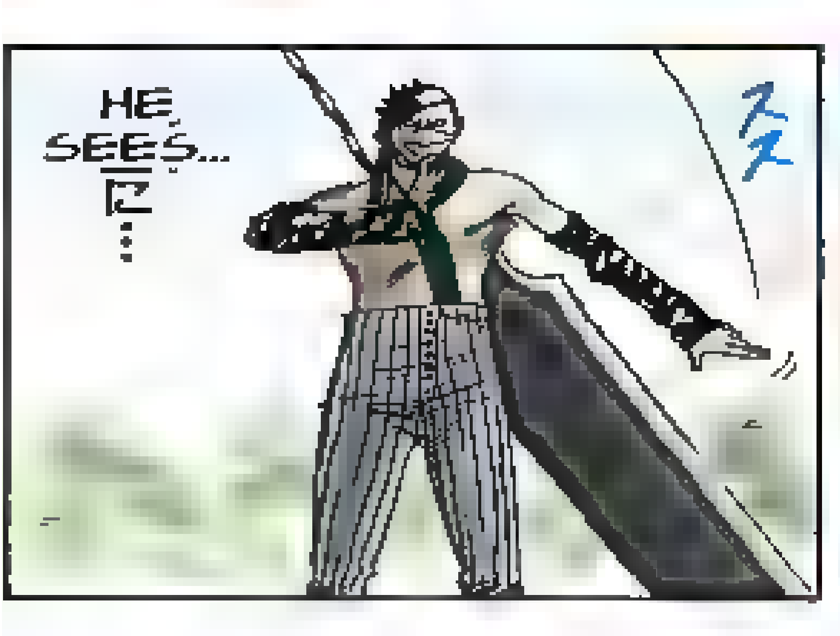


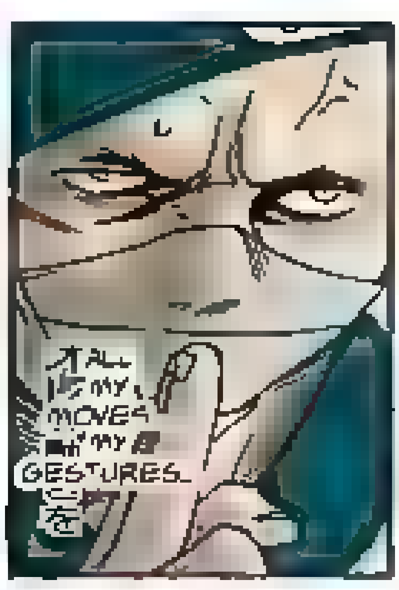
バシャ
バシャ

HE'S…!
いつ…

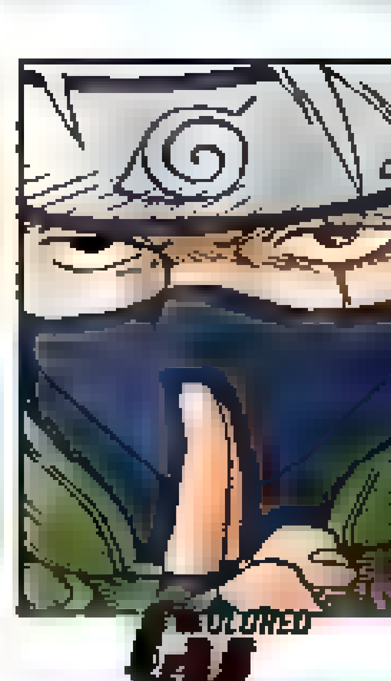

!!...

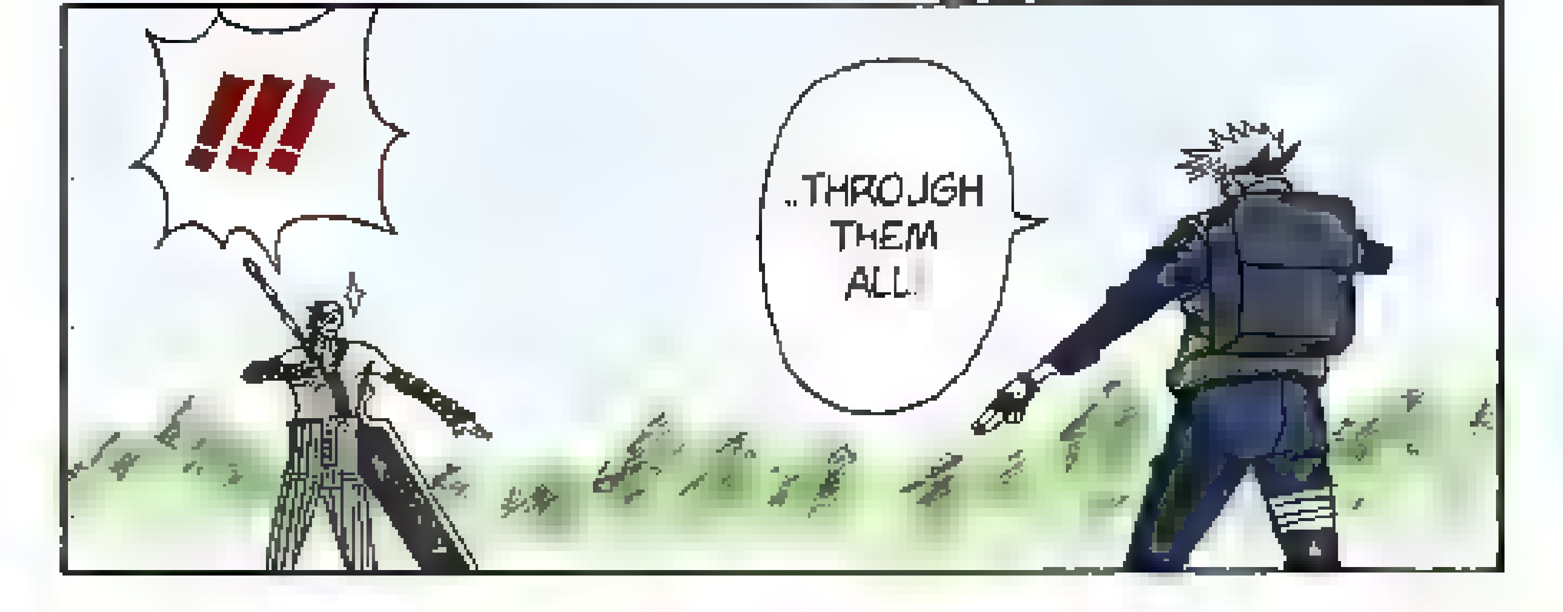

FWUP

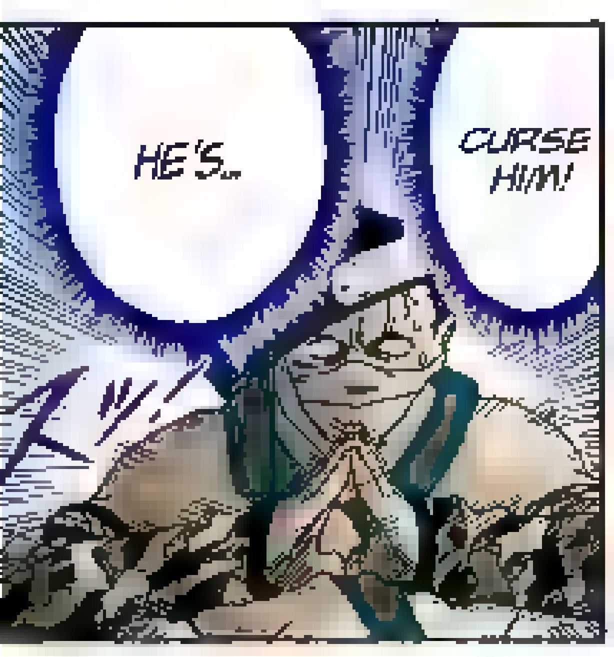


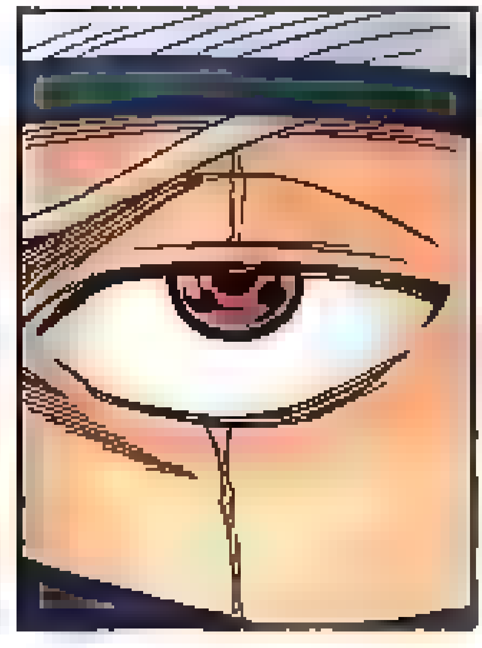

HE SEES...

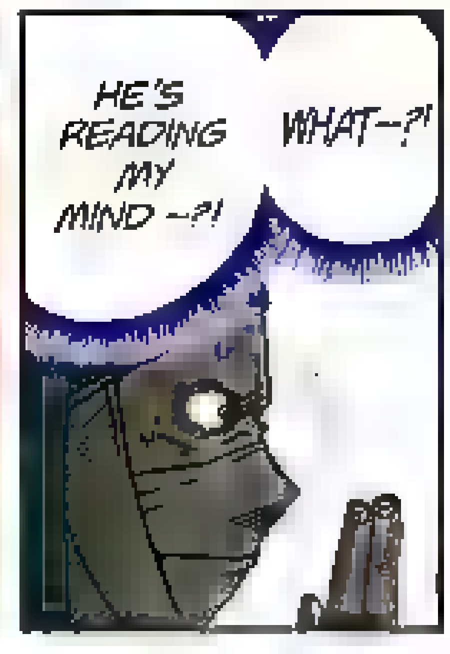

ALL MY MOVES, MY GESTURES...



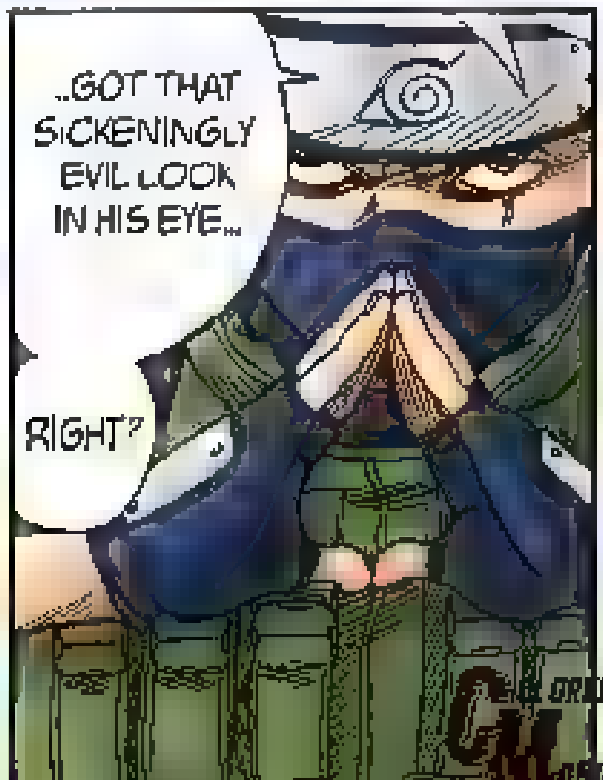

!!!
..THROUGH THEM ALL!

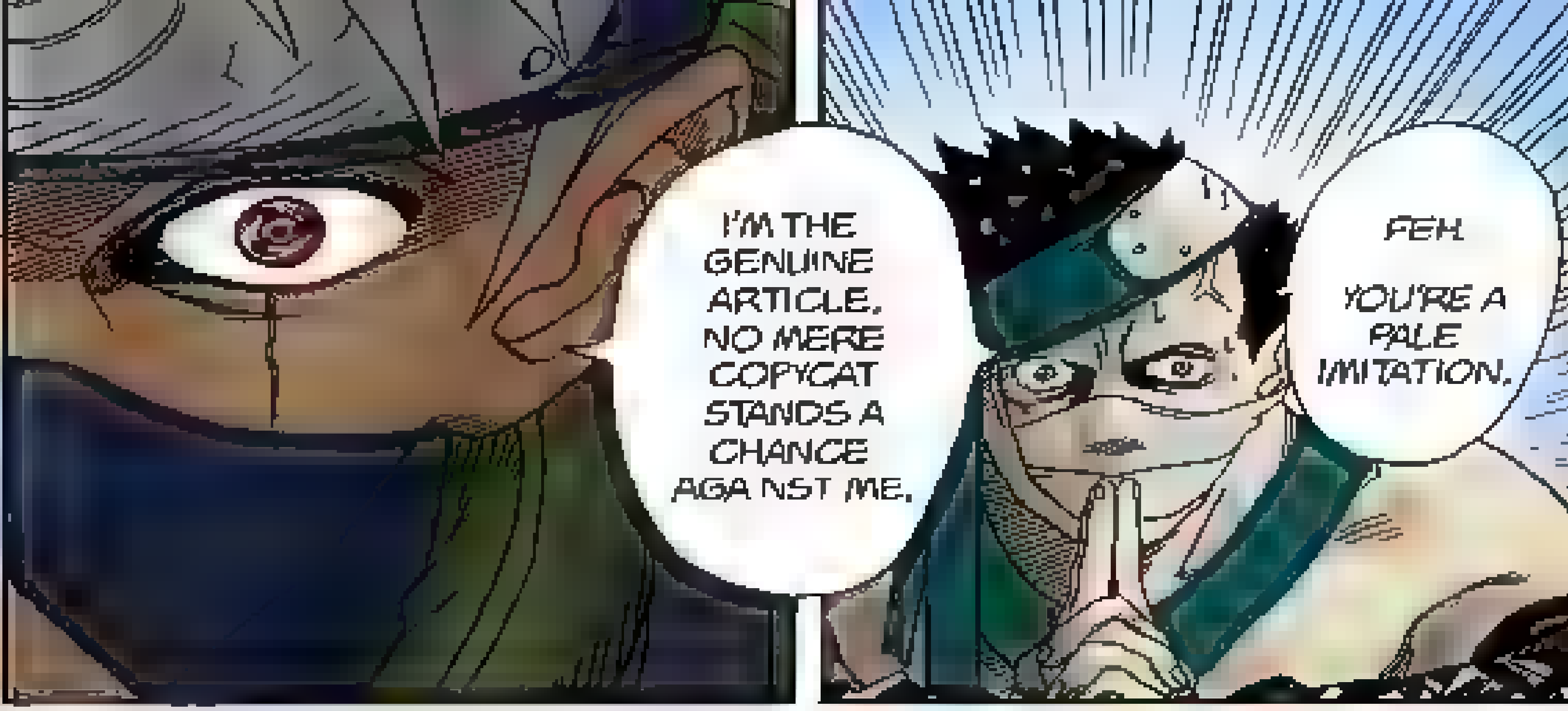

HE'S..
CURSE HIM!

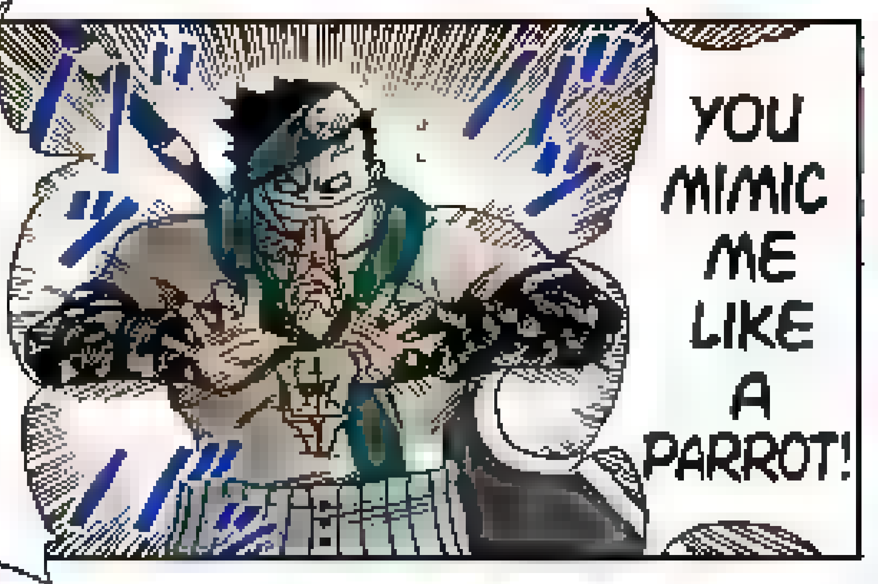



WHAT--?!
HE'S READING MY MIND--?!

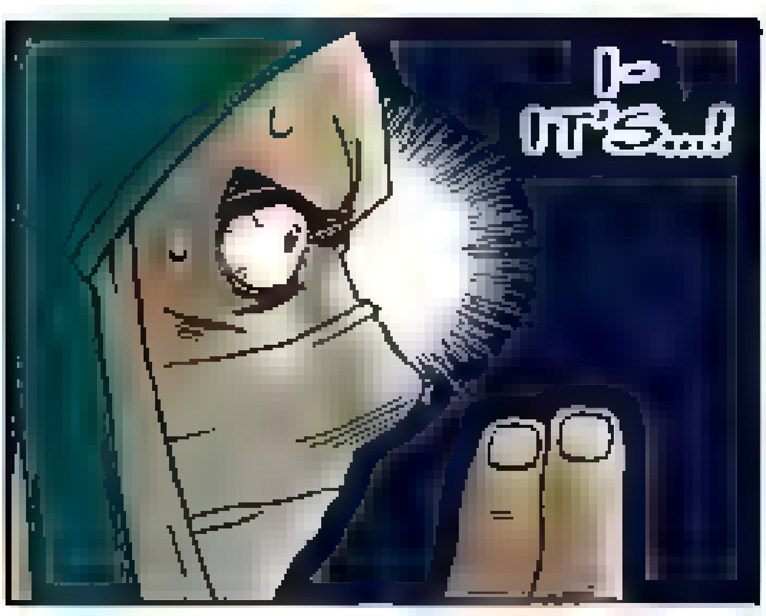

...!!!


..GOT THAT SICKENINGLY EVIL LOOK IN HIS EYE...
RIGHT?

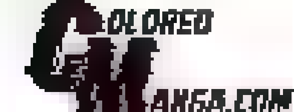

FEH.
YOU'RE A PALE IMITATION.
I'M THE GENUINE ARTICLE. NO MERE COPYCAT STANDS A CHANCE AGAINST ME.


YOU MIMIC ME LIKE A PARROT!
I'LL CLOSE YOUR BEAK FOR GOOD!


!!!


I- IT'S...!

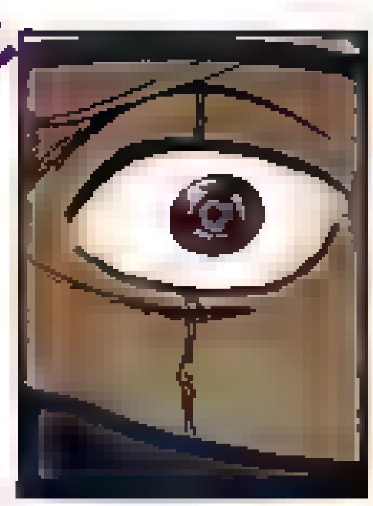

!!!




ME?


BUT TH THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!!
そんな な!!
IS THIS ANOTHER OF HIS ILLUSIONS?


WATER STYLE! GIANT WATERFALL!



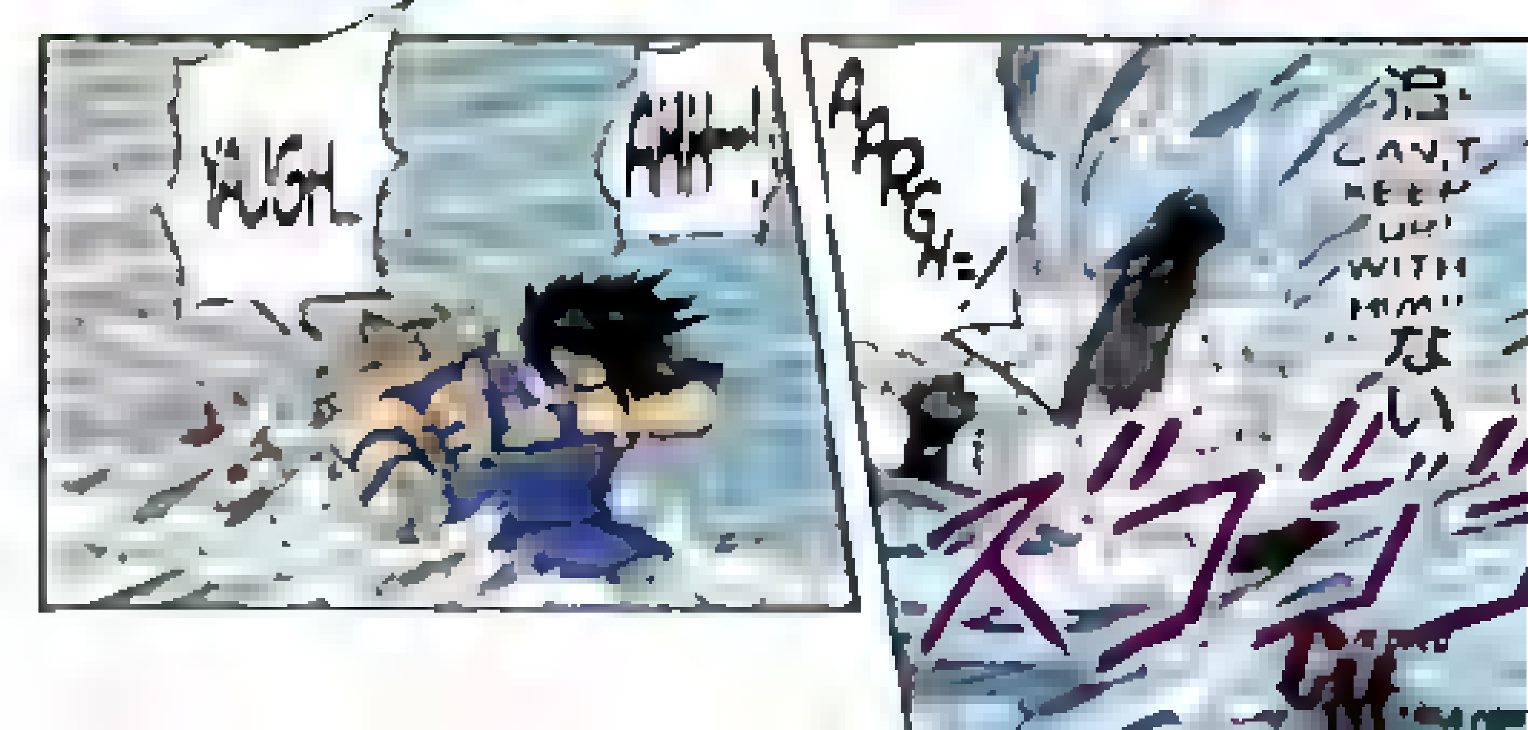


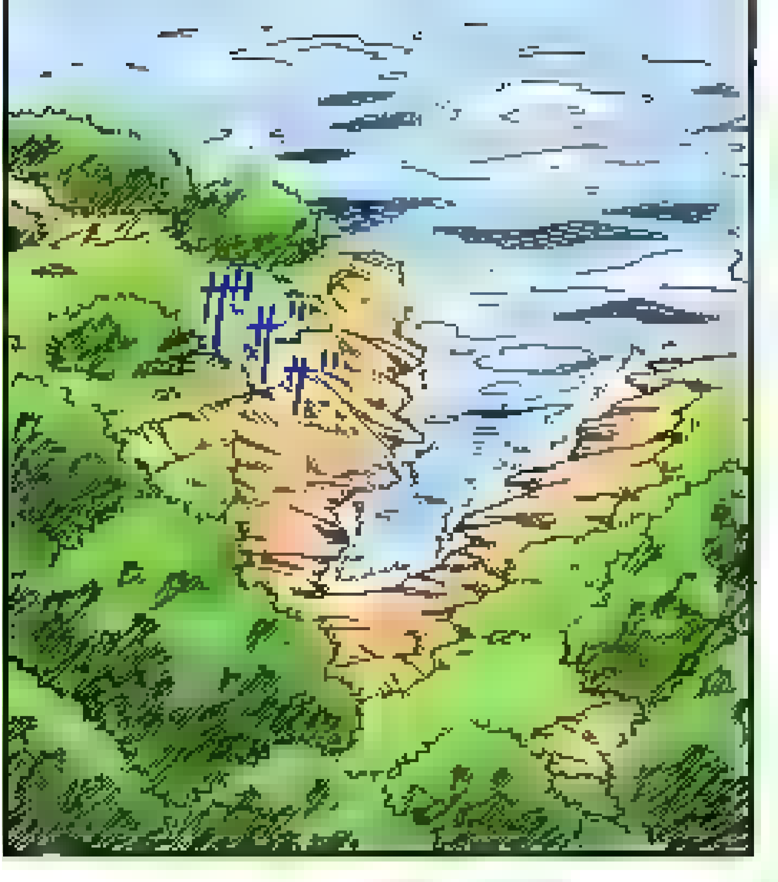

WH-WHAT--?!
THIS IS ABSURD!!

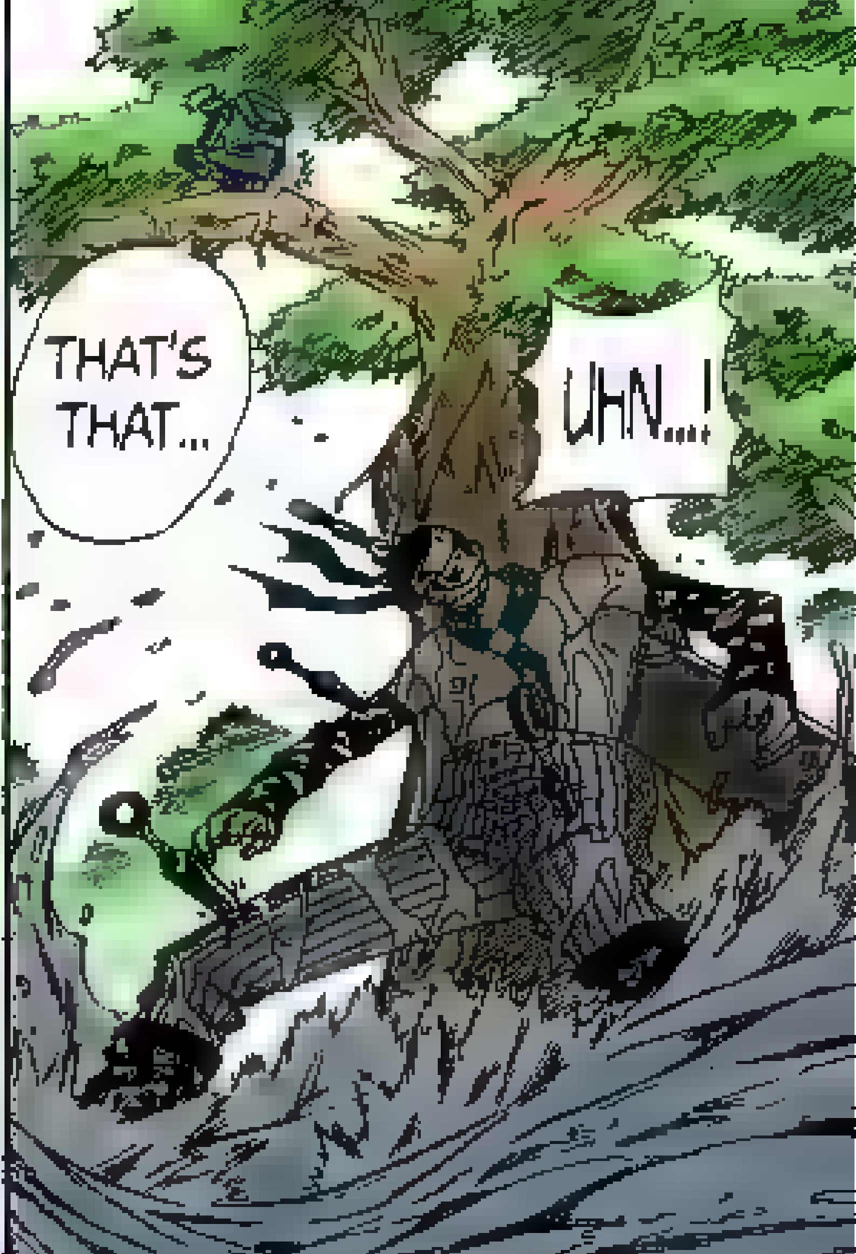



!!!
!!!
UHN...!

BEFORE I COULD EVEN FINISH MY NINJUTSU, HE USED THE SAME TECHNIQUE AGAINST ME...

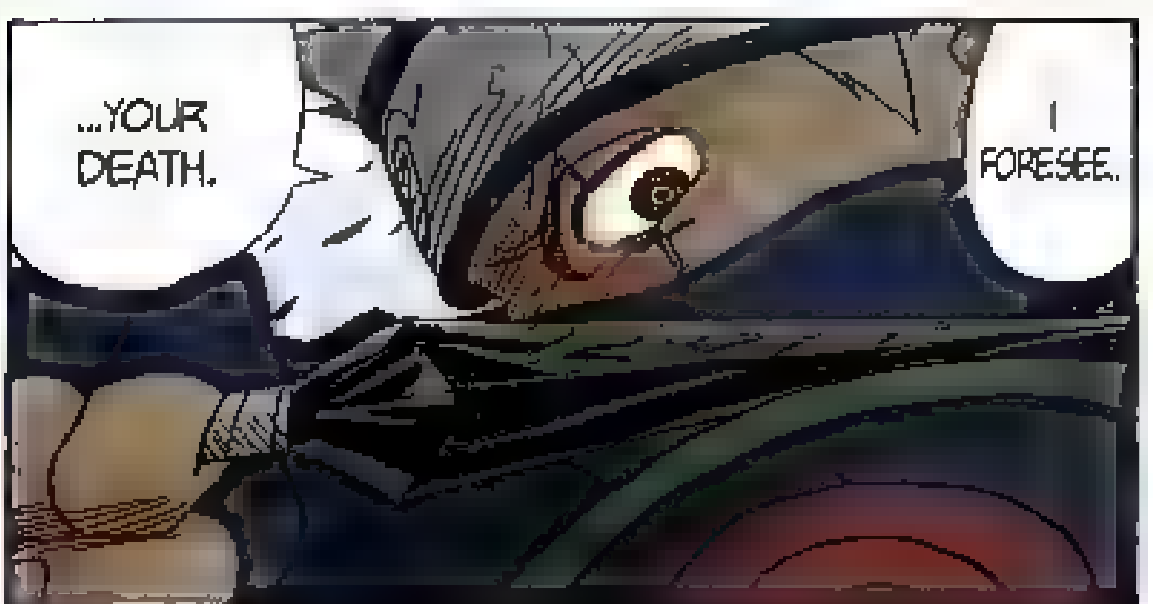


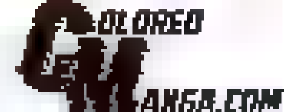


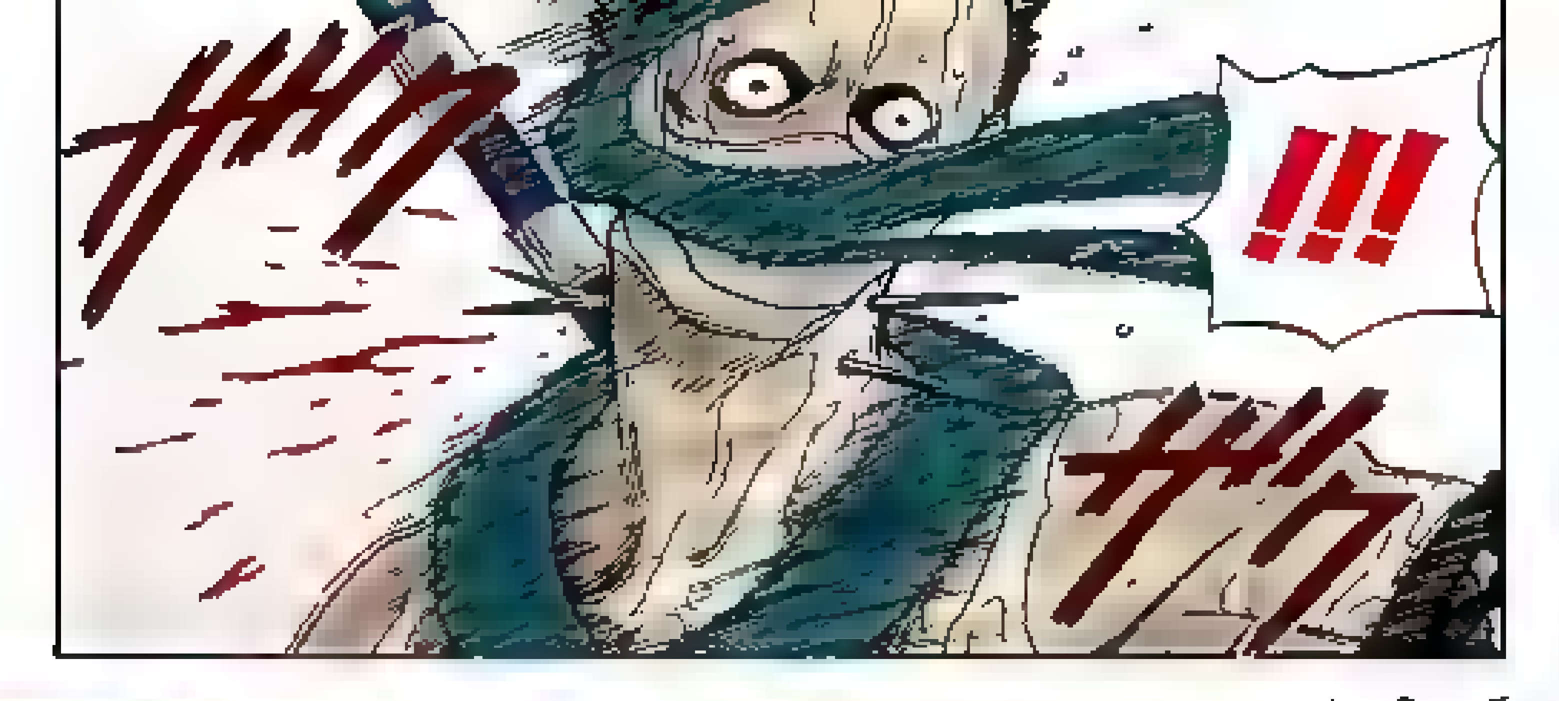

UHN...!
THAT'S THAT...


...WHAT...
...CAN YOU SEE THE FUTURE...?




I FORESEE.
...YOUR DEATH.

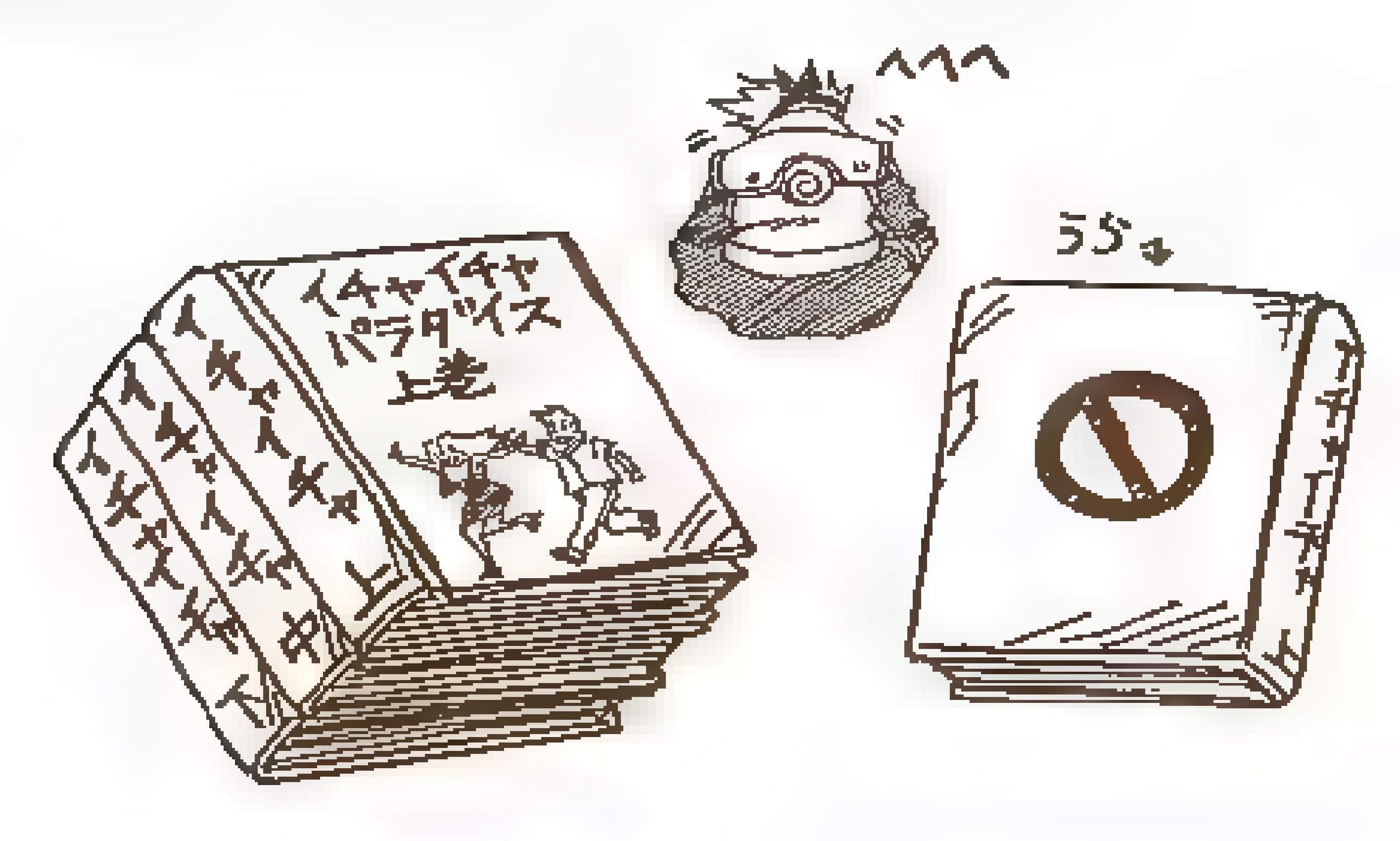



!!!

!!
!!
HEH HEH YOUR PREDICTION CAME TRUE ♥
SHFF

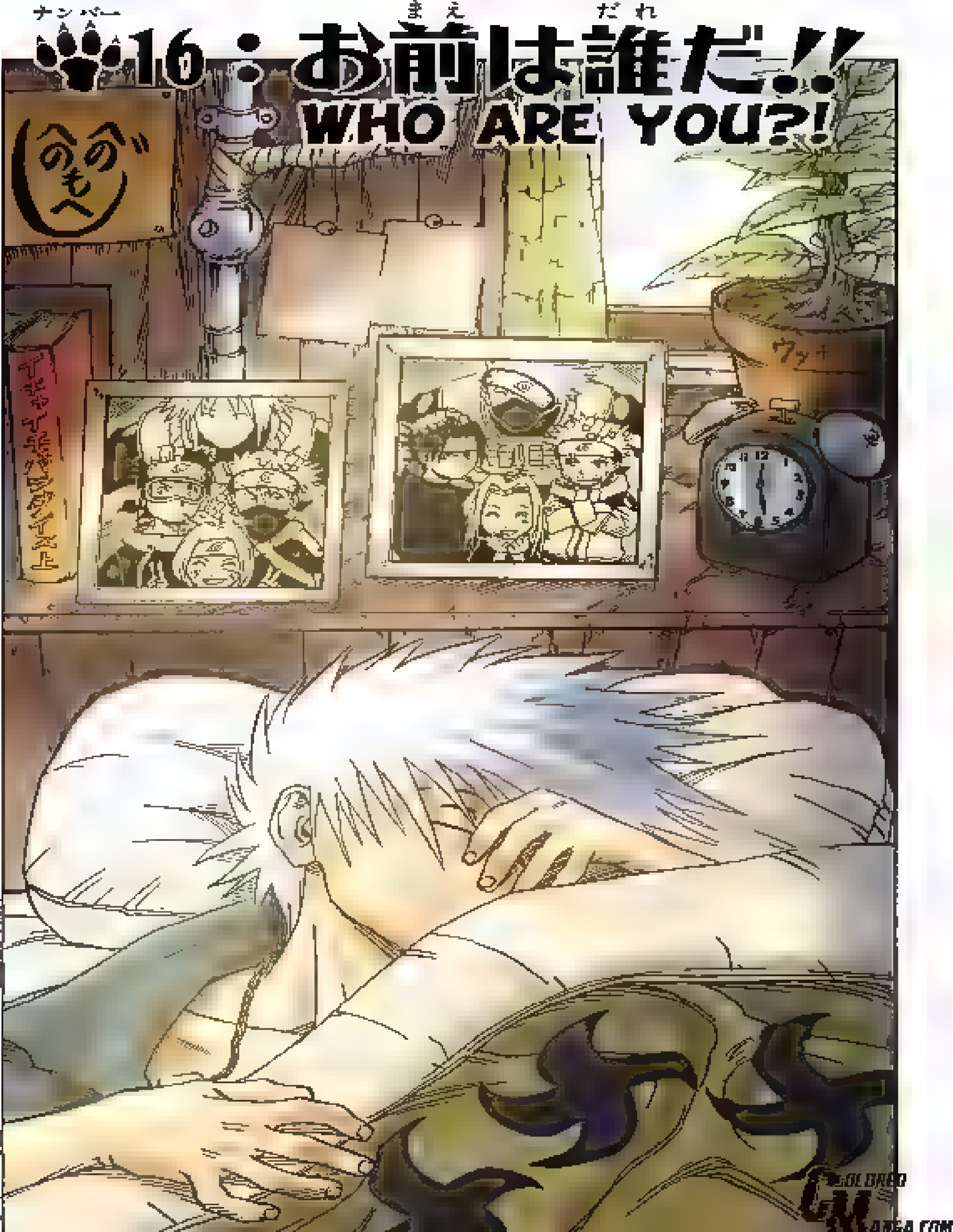
MAKE-OUT PARADISE

I've gotten a number of letters asking me to tell more about **Make-Out Paradise**, the books Kakashi is always reading. Therefore, I've decided to write a little bit about it.



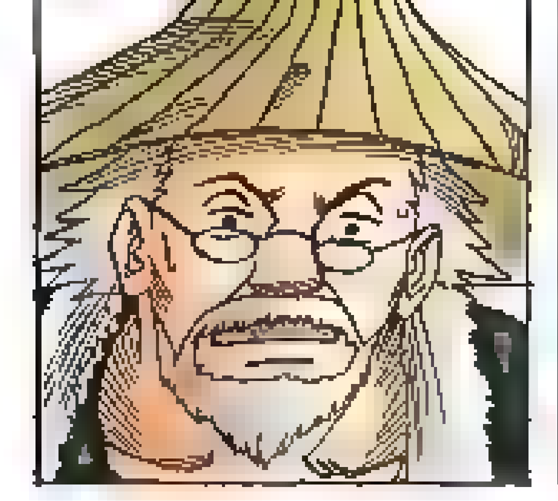
Make-Out Paradise (a three-volume series) is Kakashi's favorite reading material! The plot involves .. ..
.. ..
.. ...Umm ...unfortunately, even though **Naruto** is "recommended for ages 13 and up," it's not *quite* "adult" enough to explain the story of **Make-Out Paradise**. Sorry! But I will say that if Kakashi gets his wish, **Make-Out Paradise** Vol. 1 may yet be published in English!

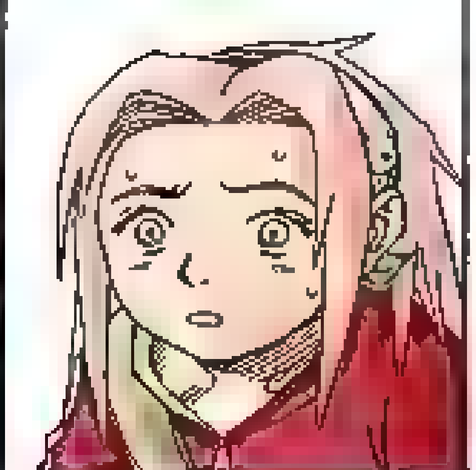




ナンバー
16：お前は誰だ!!
まえ だれ
WHO ARE YOU?!
へのへのもへじ

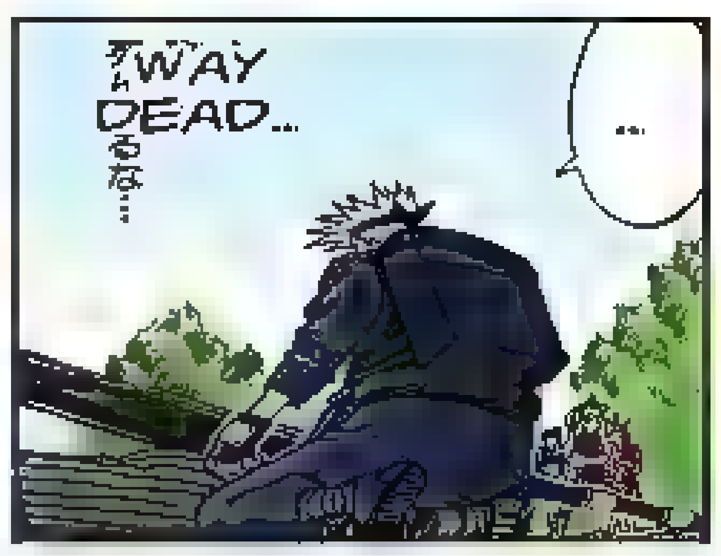

!
!!
COLORED MANGA.COM

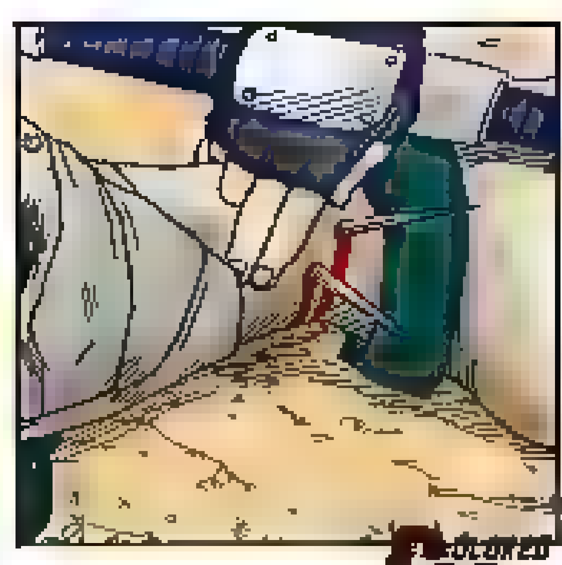


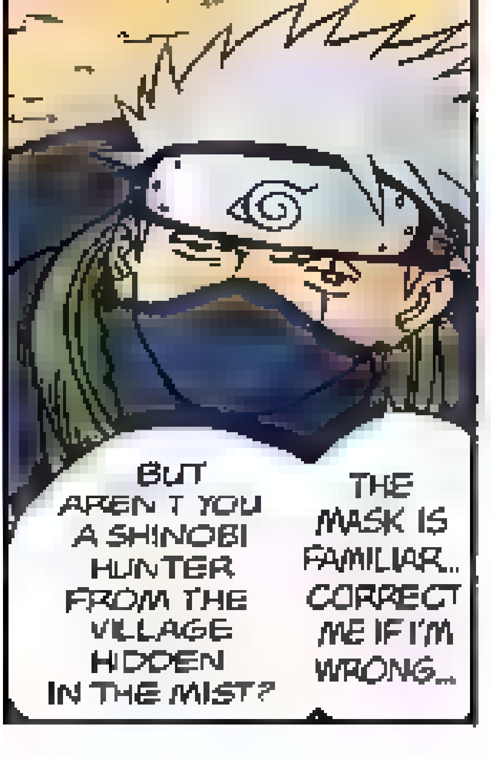




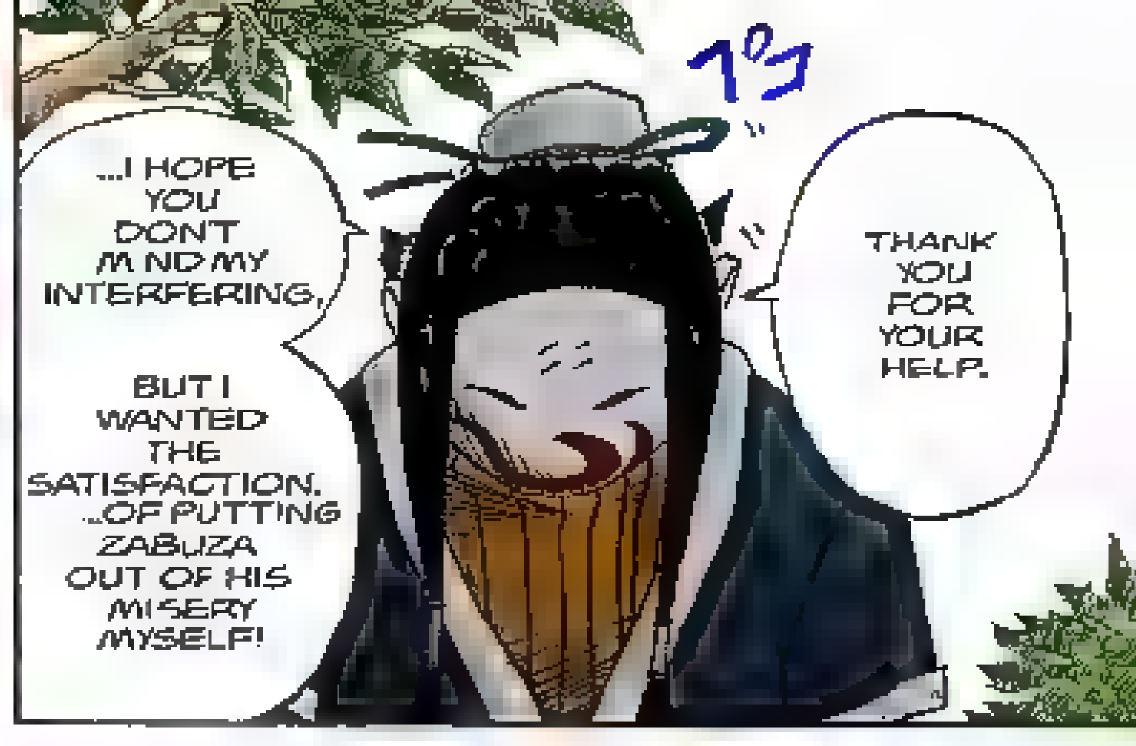



WAY
DEAD...
...

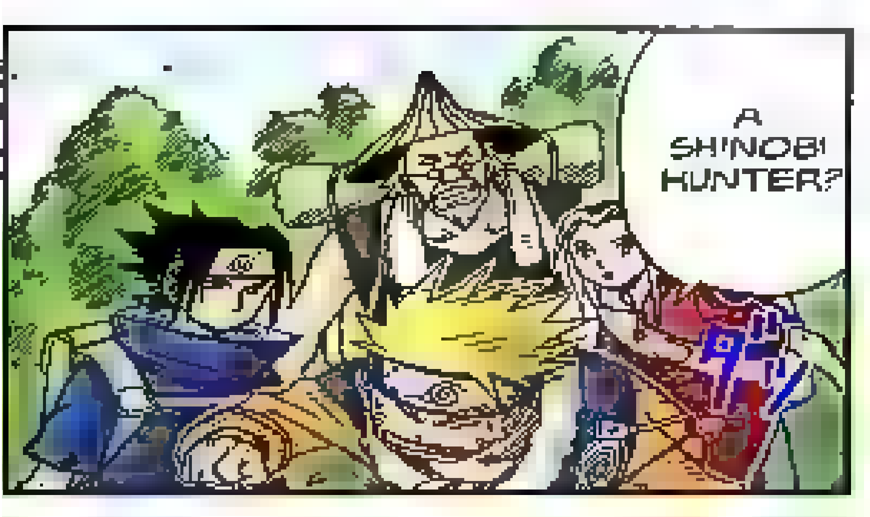




THE MASK IS FAMILIAR... CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG...
BUT AREN'T YOU A SHINOBI HUNTER FROM THE VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE MIST?



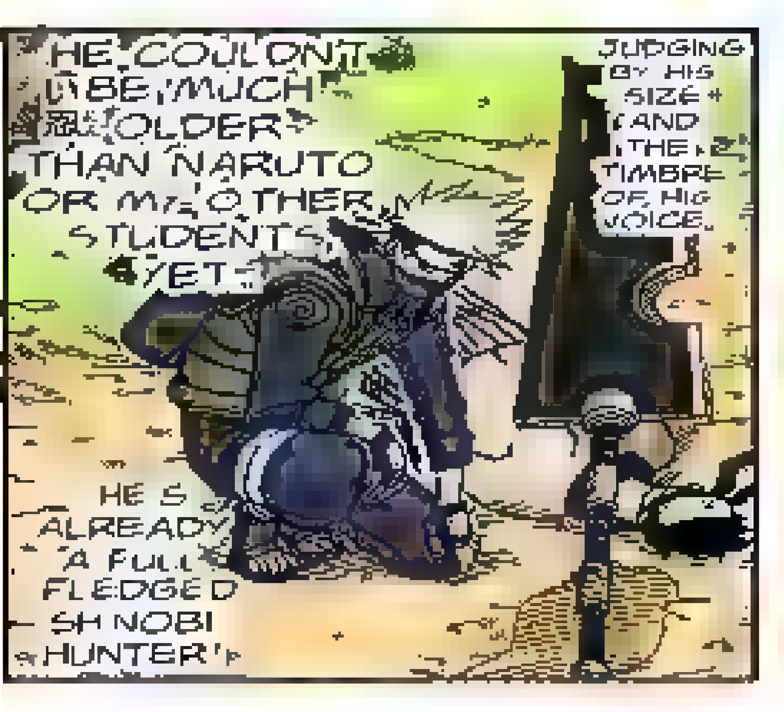
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.
...I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY INTERFERING,
BUT I WANTED THE SATISFACTION. ..OF PUTTING ZABUZA OUT OF HIS MISERY MYSELF!



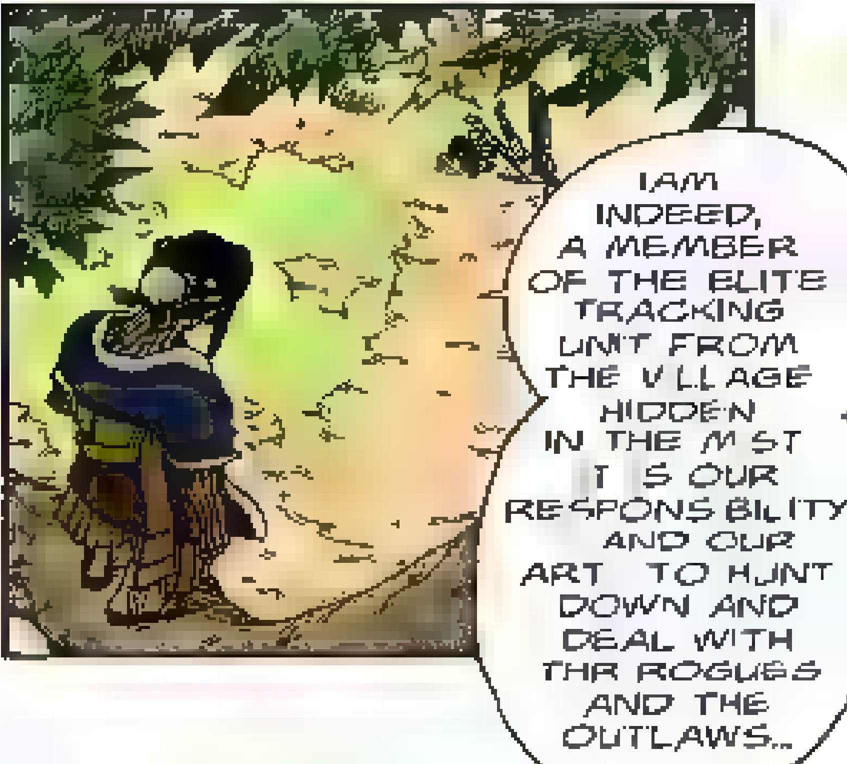
A SHINOBI HUNTER?



WELL, AREN'T YOU THE SMART ONE?!
...



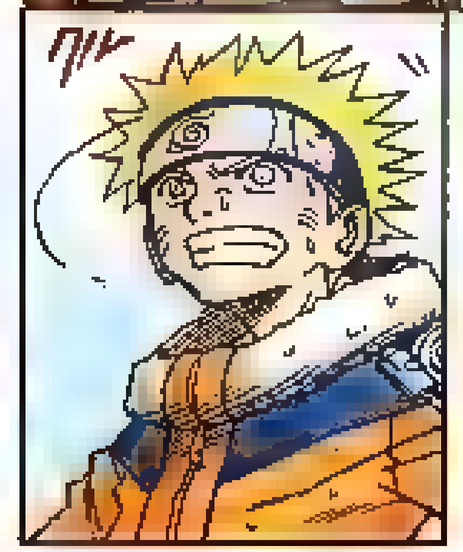
HE COULDN'T BE MUCH OLDER THAN NARUTO OR MY OTHER STUDENTS, YET...
JUDGING BY HIS SIZE AND THE TIMBRE OF HIS VOICE.
HE'S ALREADY A FULL FLEDGED SHINOBI HUNTER!

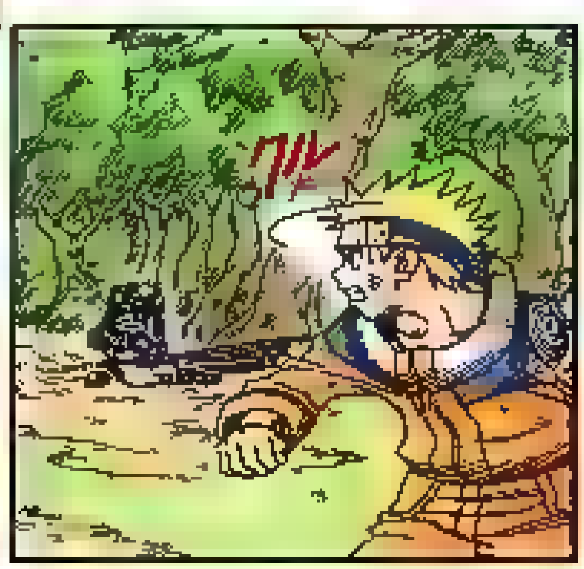


I AM INDEED, A MEMBER OF THE ELITE TRACKING UNIT FROM THE VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE MIST. IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY AND OUR ART TO HUNT DOWN AND DEAL WITH THR ROGUES AND THE OUTLAWS...


SKFF
HE'S NOT YOUR AVERAGE KID, THAT'S FOR SURE!

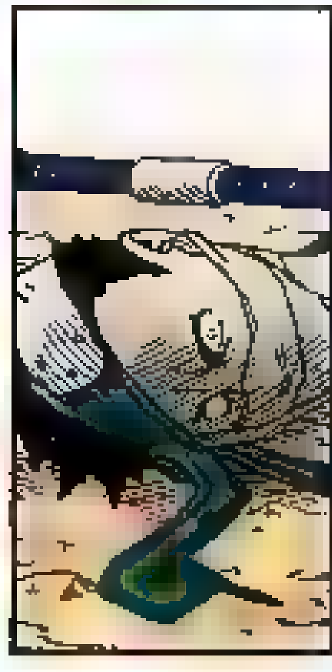

!
...






?



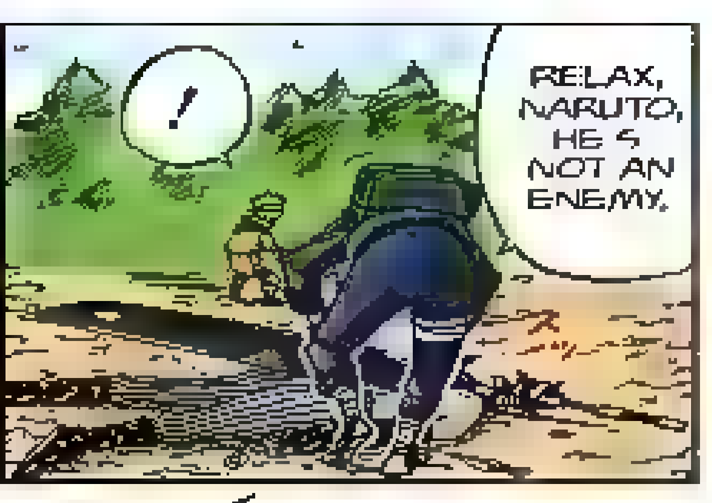


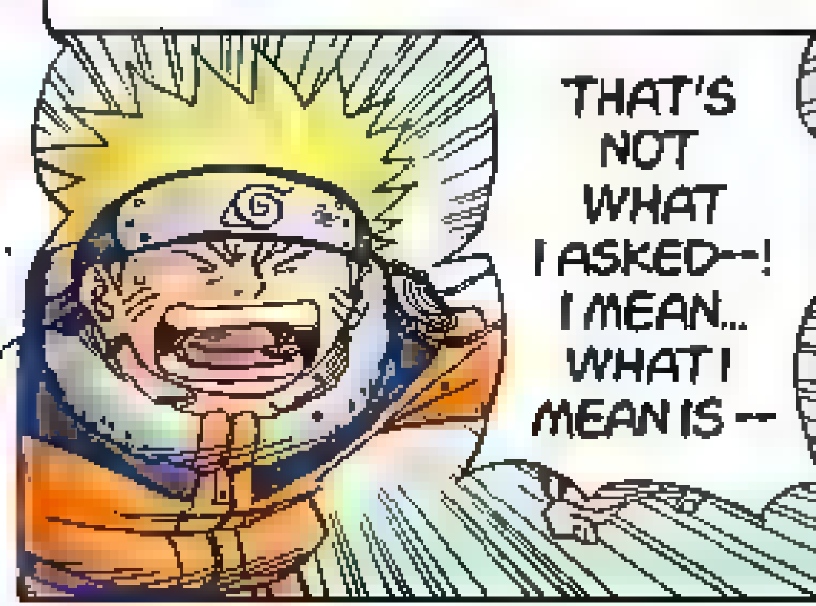


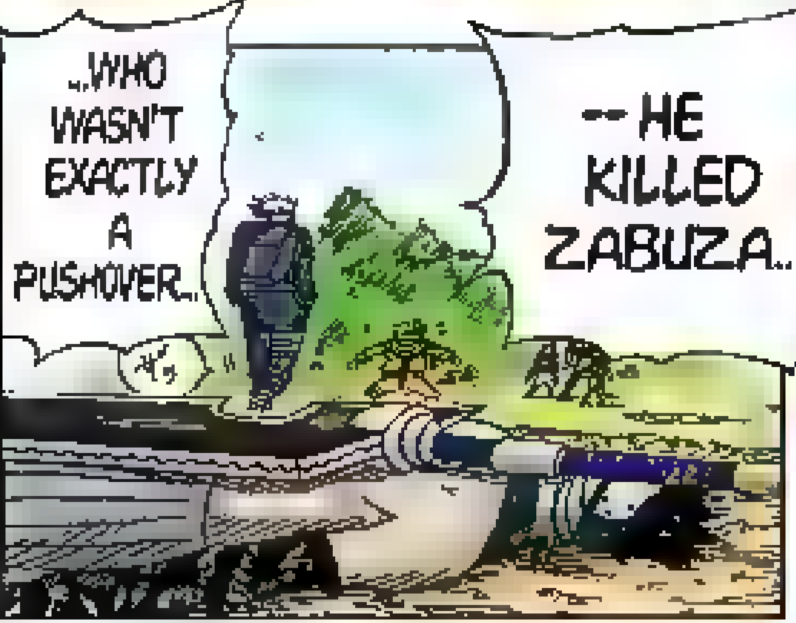


WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!!
WHO ARE YOU?!!

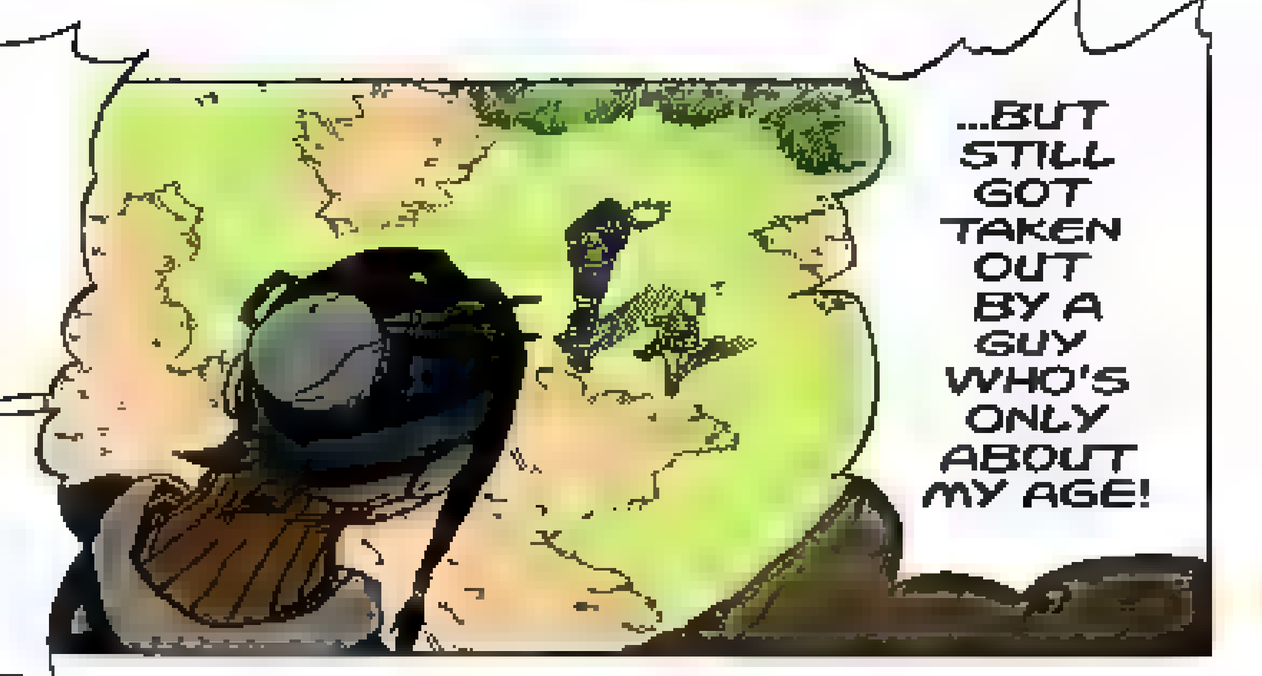




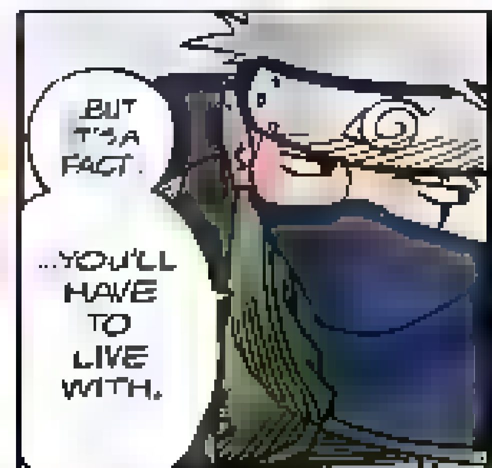


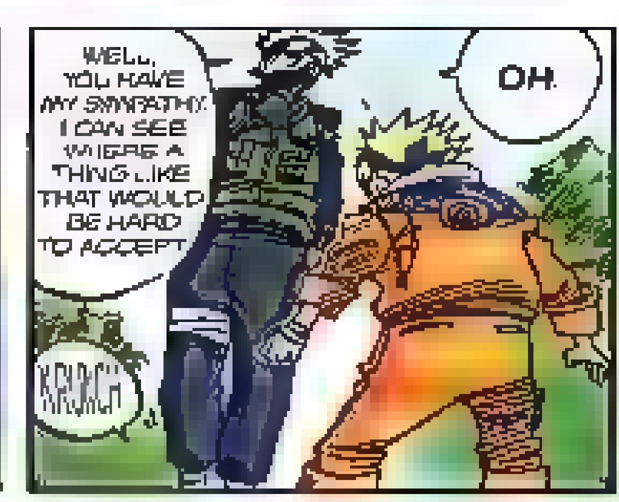


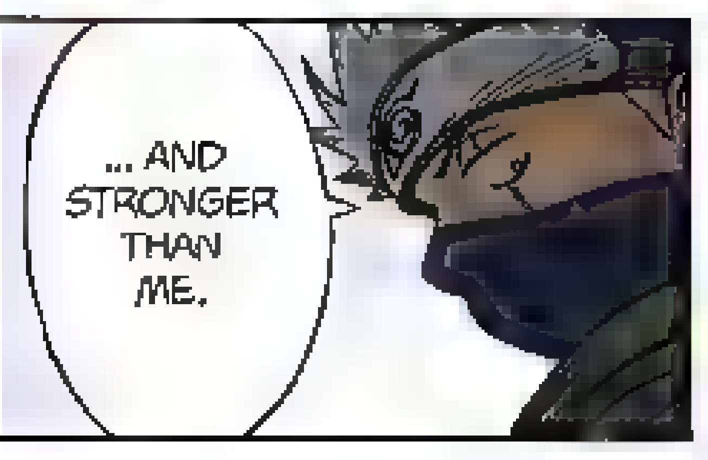



LIKE IT WAS NOTHING! WHAT, DO WE SUCK OR SOMETHING?
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?!
...BUT STILL GOT TAKEN OUT BY A GUY WHO'S ONLY ABOUT MY AGE!

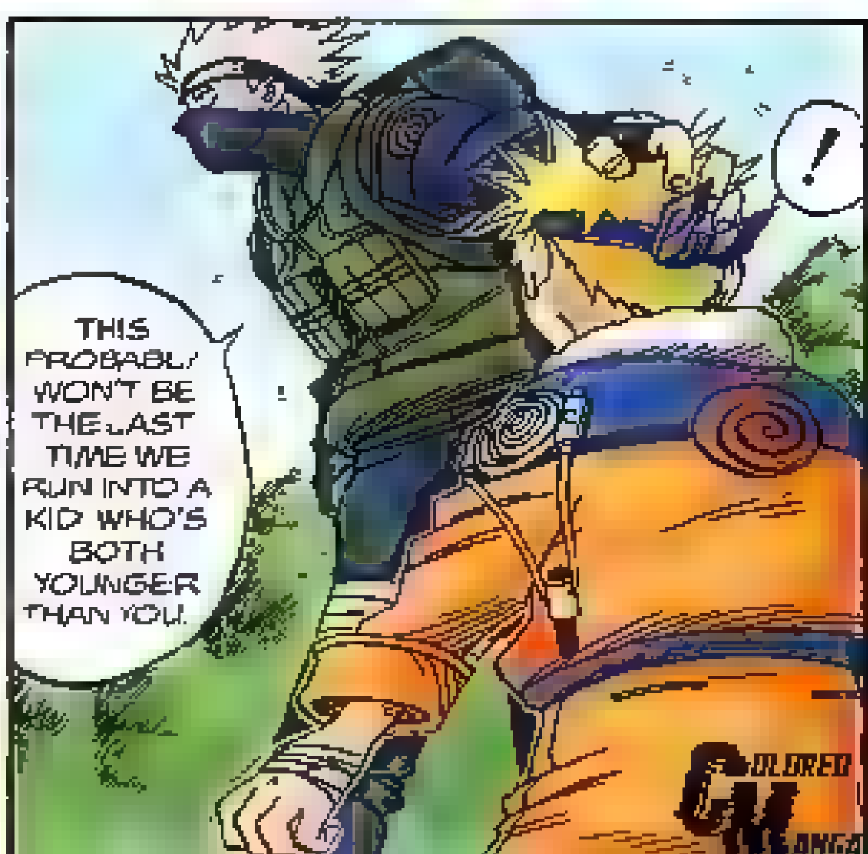

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BUT IT'S A FACT.
...YOU'LL HAVE TO LIVE WITH.

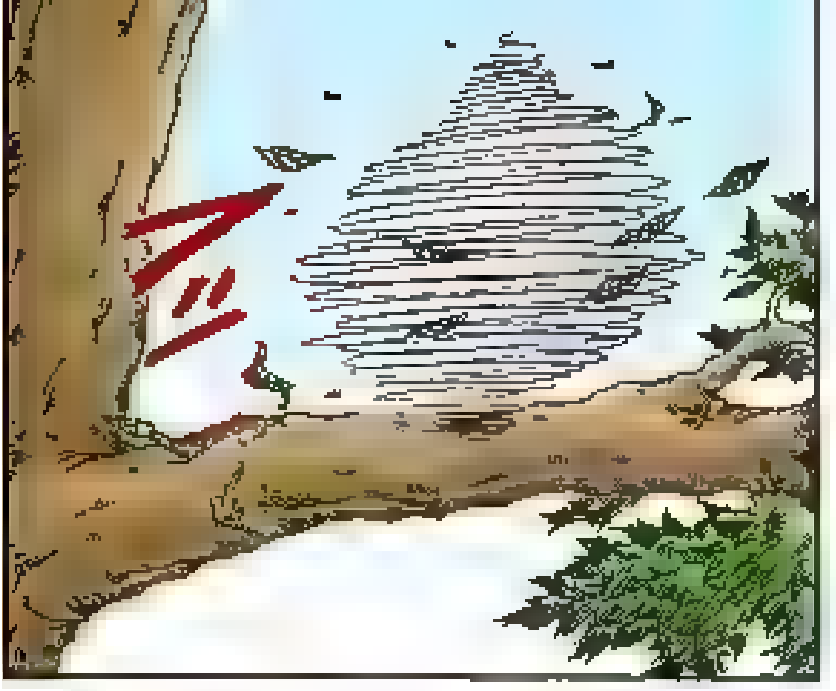

WELL, YOU HAVE MY SYMPATHY. I CAN SEE WHERE A THING LIKE THAT WOULD BE HARD TO ACCEPT.
OH.
KRUNCH


... AND STRONGER THAN ME.

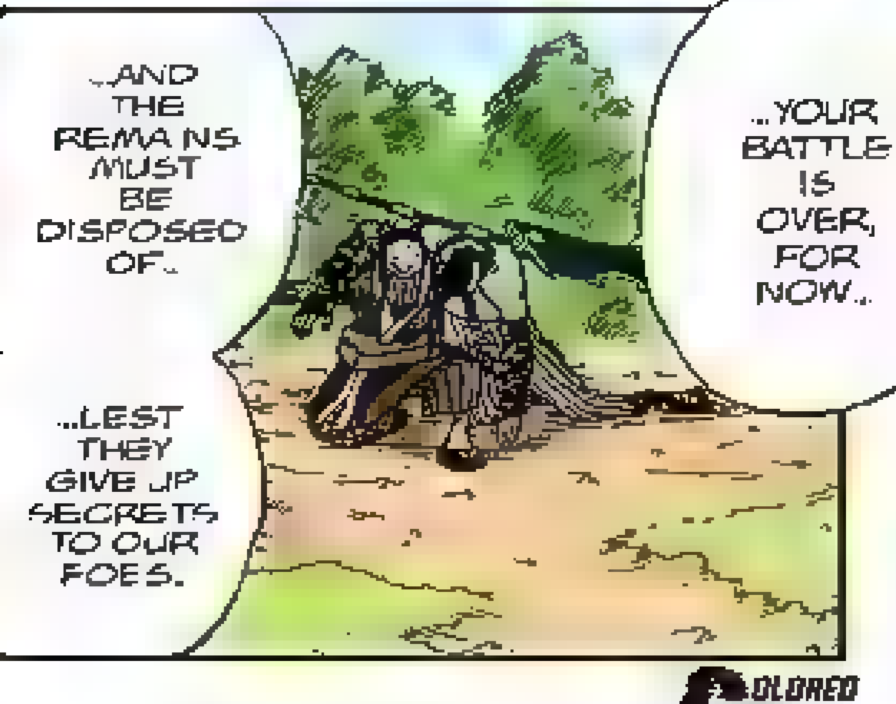


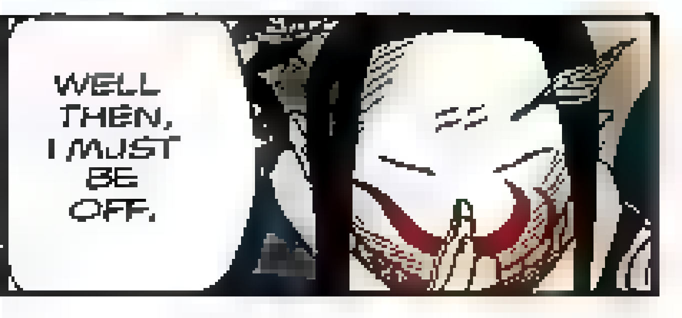

!
THIS PROBABLY WON'T BE THE LAST TIME WE RUN INTO A KID WHO'S BOTH YOUNGER THAN YOU.

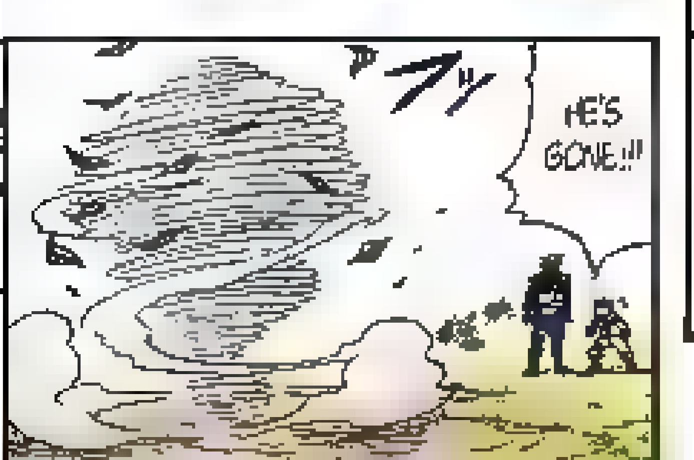

...

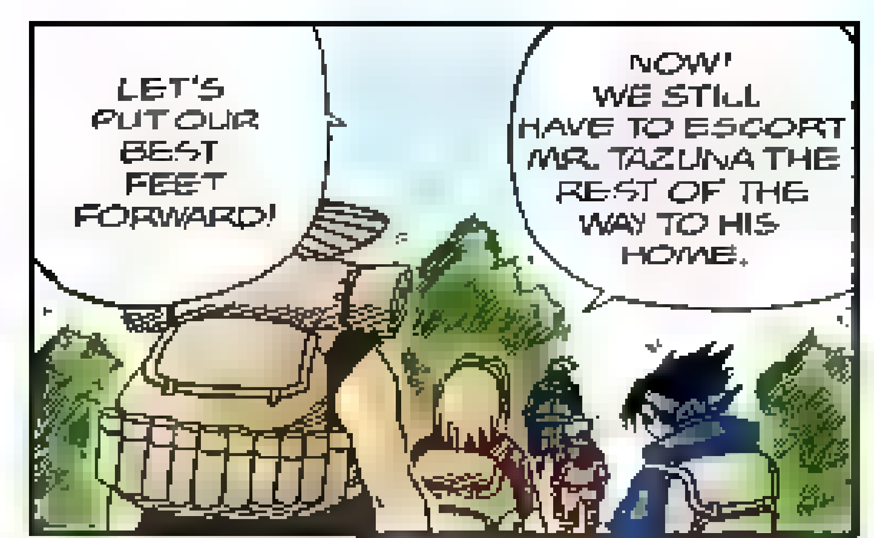




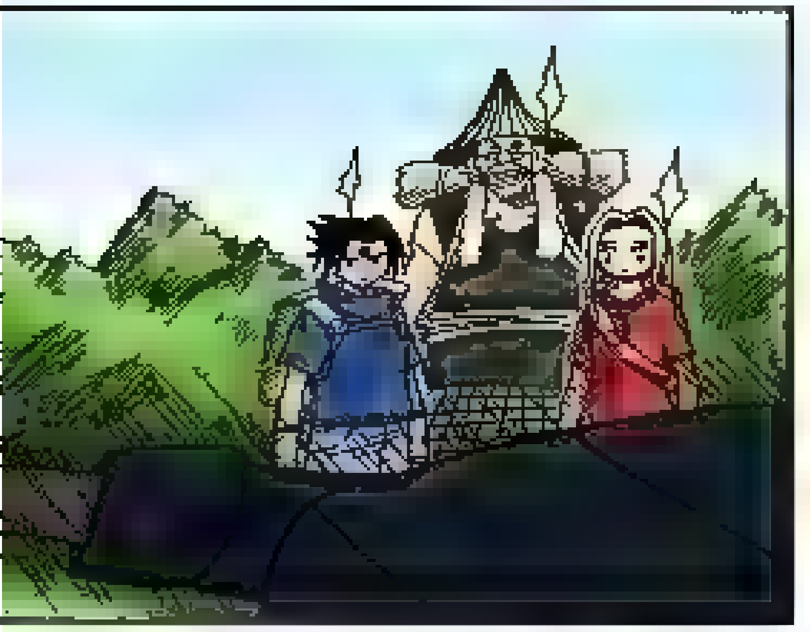

...YOUR BATTLE IS OVER, FOR NOW...
...AND THE REMAINS MUST BE DISPOSED OF...
...LEST THEY GIVE UP SECRETS TO OUR FOES.

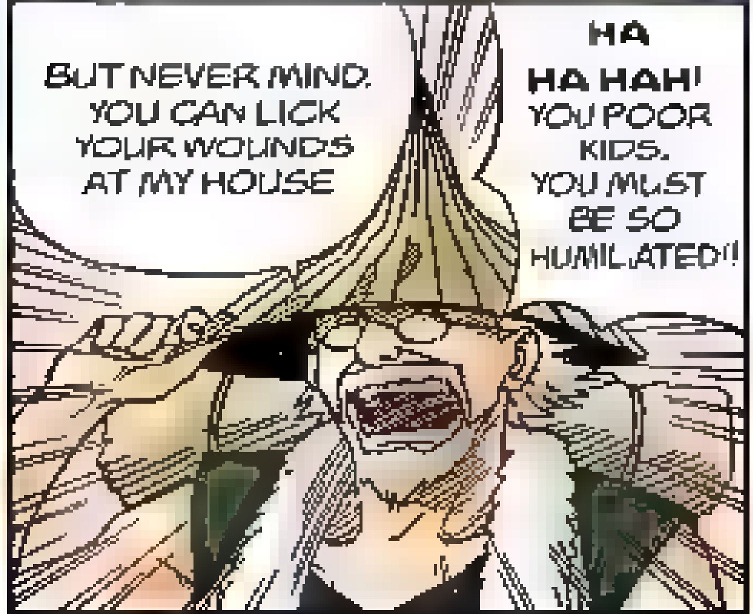

WELL THEN, I MUST BE OFF.

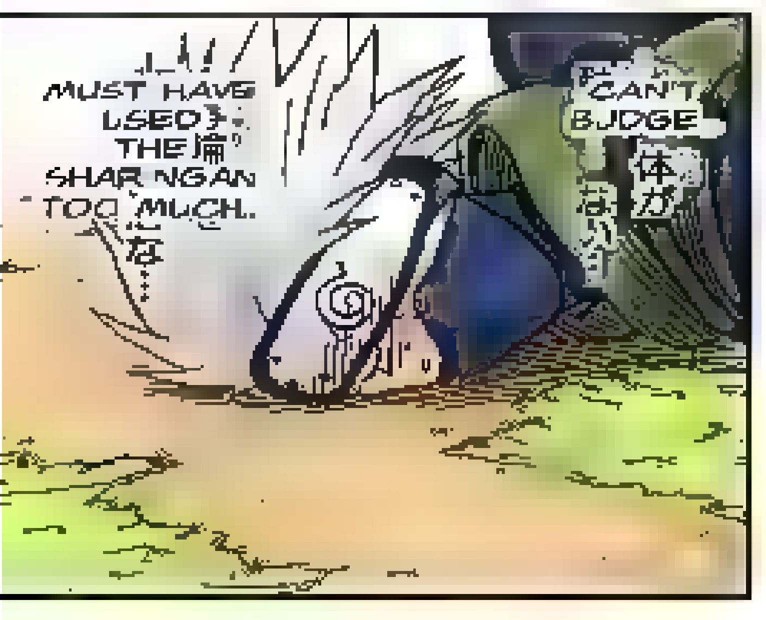

HE'S GONE!!


LET'S PUT OUR BEST FEET FORWARD!
NOW! WE STILL HAVE TO ESCORT MR. TAZUNA THE REST OF THE WAY TO HIS HOME.


SHF
SIGH

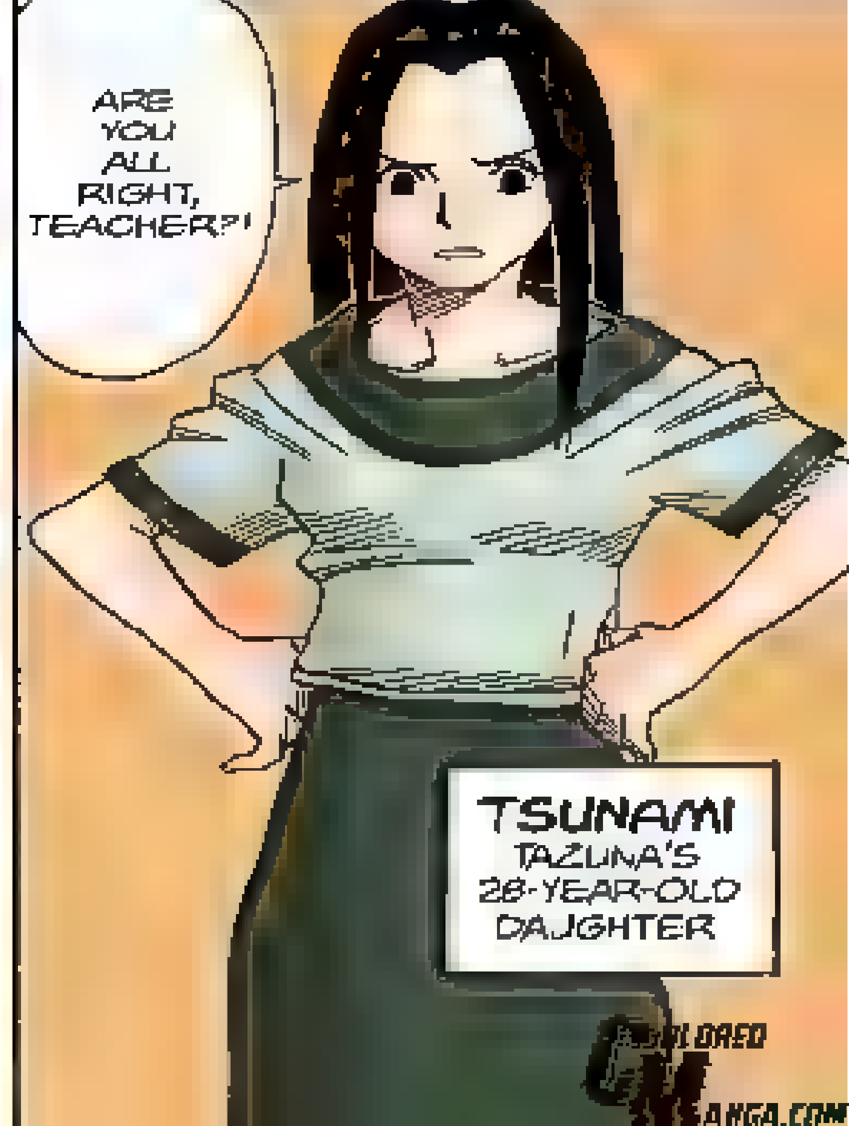



HA HA HAH! YOU POOR KIDS. YOU MUST BE SO HUMILIATED!!
BUT NEVER MIND. YOU CAN LICK YOUR WOUNDS AT MY HOUSE

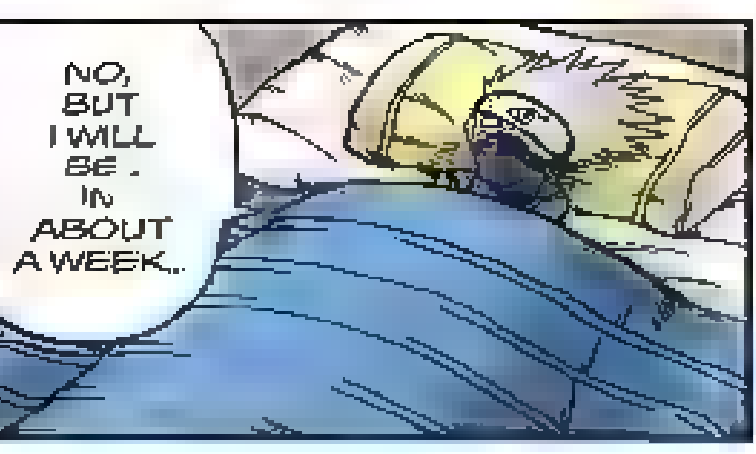

CAN'T BUDGE
I...I MUST HAVE USED THE SHARINGAN TOO MUCH.
体が


WHAT?! HUH...?!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
MASTER KAKASHI--!

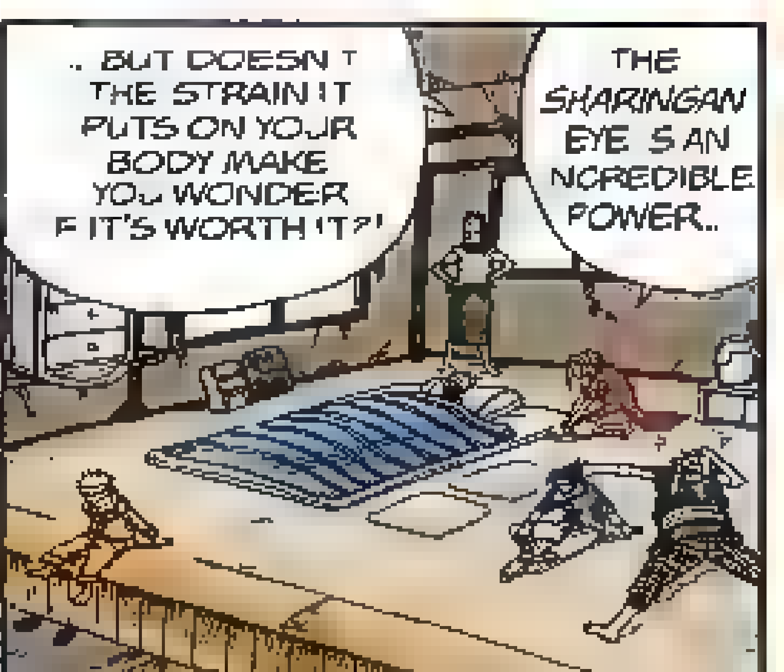




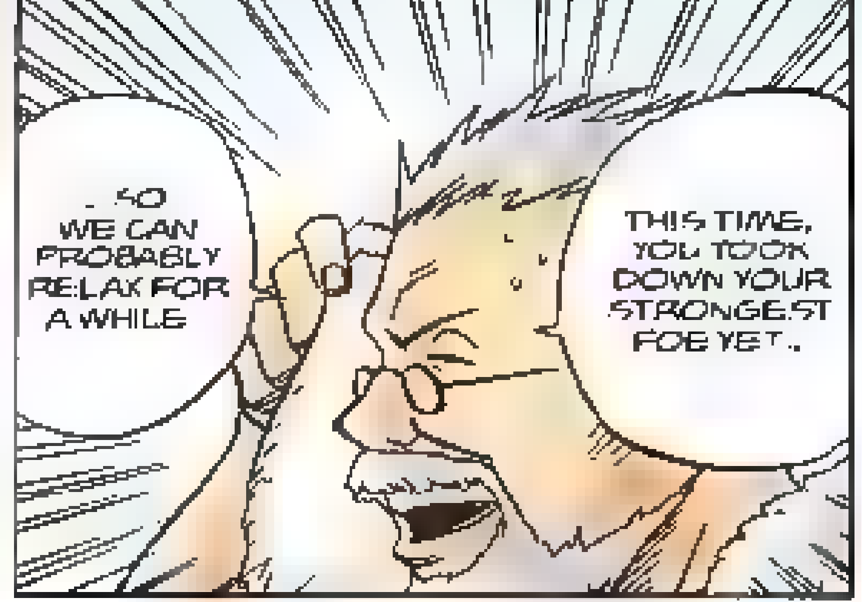
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, TEACHER?!
TSUNAMI
TAZUNA'S 28-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER



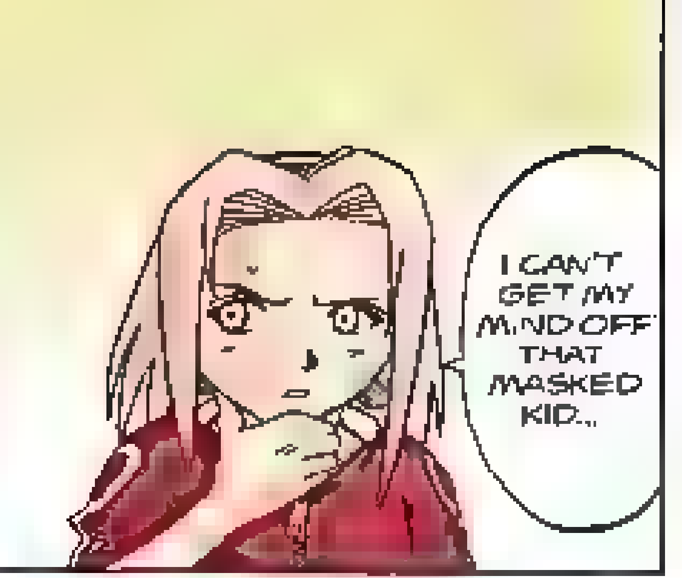
NO, BUT I WILL BE.. IN ABOUT A WEEK..



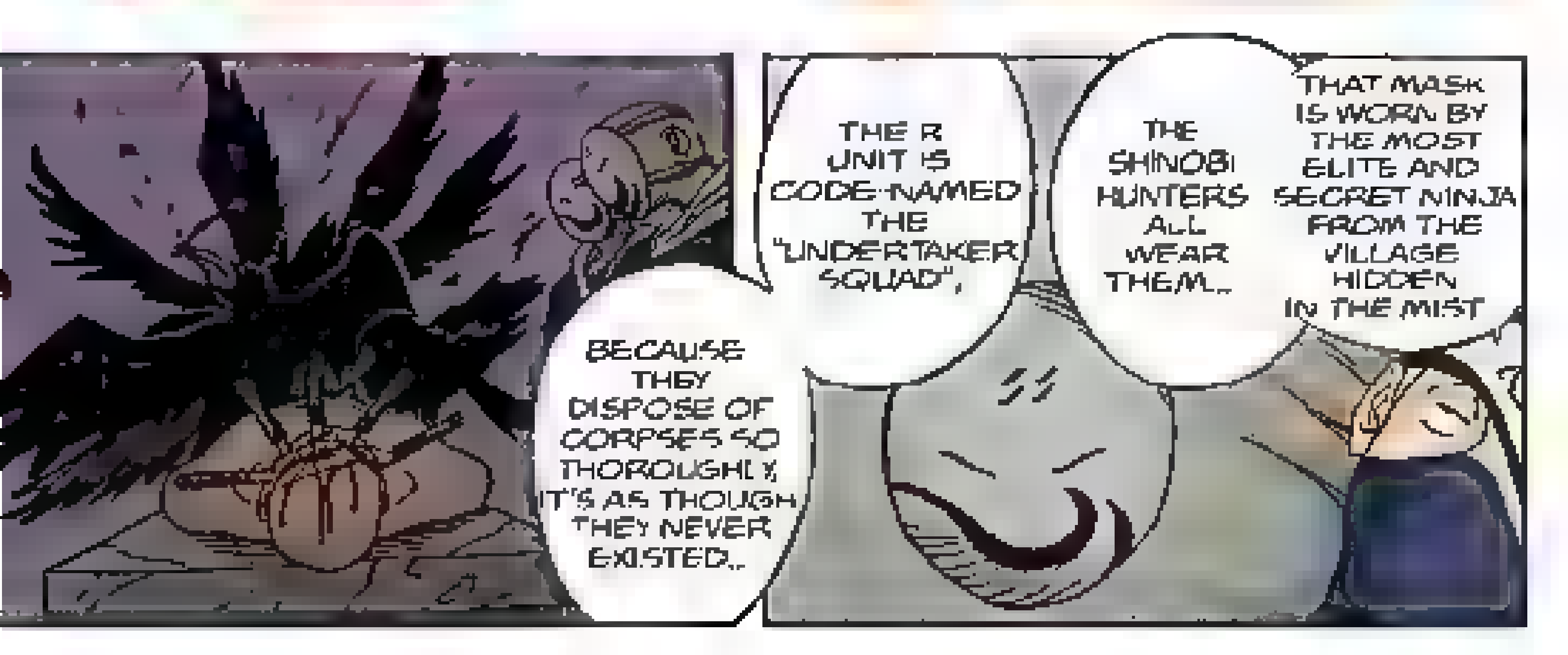
THE SHARINGAN EYE IS AN INCREDIBLE POWER..
..BUT DOESN'T THE STRAIN IT PUTS ON YOUR BODY MAKE YOU WONDER IF IT'S WORTH IT?!



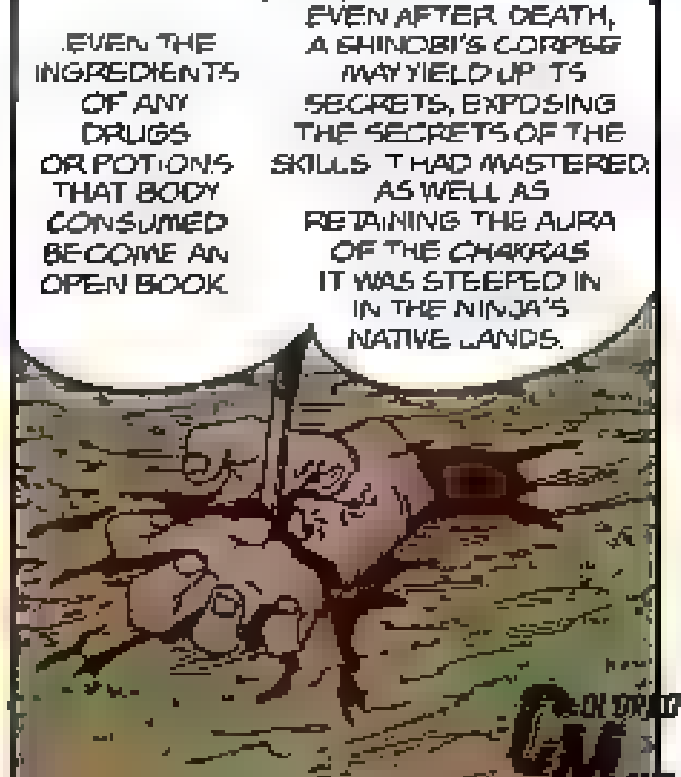
THIS TIME, YOU TOOK DOWN YOUR STRONGEST FOE YET..
..SO WE CAN PROBABLY RELAX FOR A WHILE



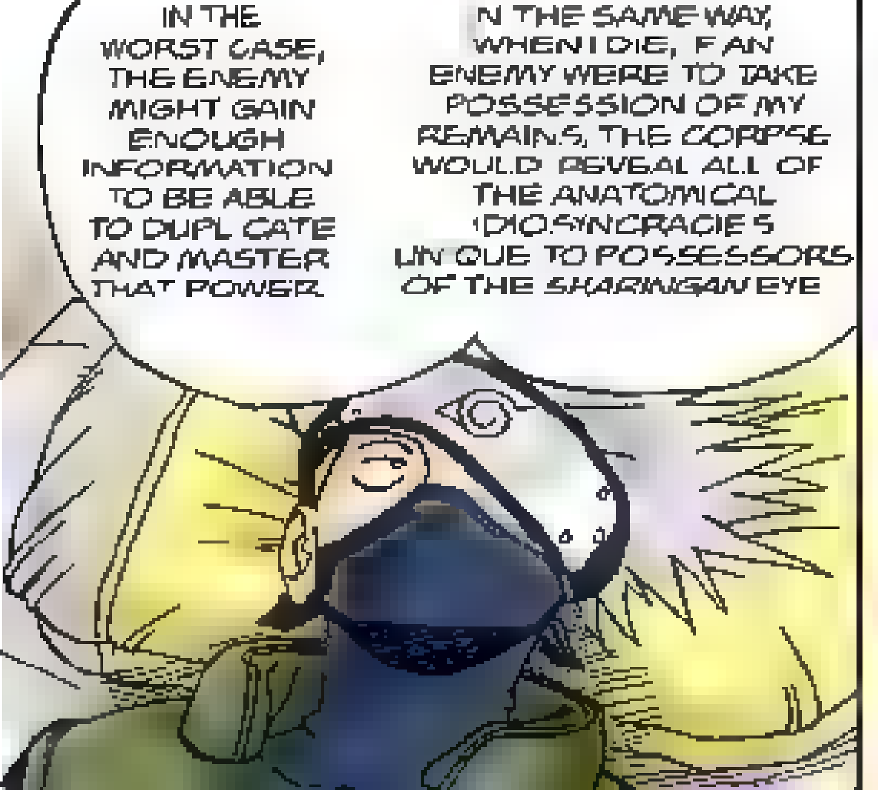
I CAN'T GET MY MIND OFF THAT MASKED KID..



THAT MASK IS WORN BY THE MOST ELITE AND SECRET NINJA FROM THE VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE MIST
THE SHINOBI HUNTERS ALL WEAR THEM..
THE R UNIT IS CODE-NAMED THE "UNDERTAKER SQUAD",
BECAUSE THEY DISPOSE OF CORPSES SO THOROUGHLY, IT'S AS THOUGH THEY NEVER EXISTED..

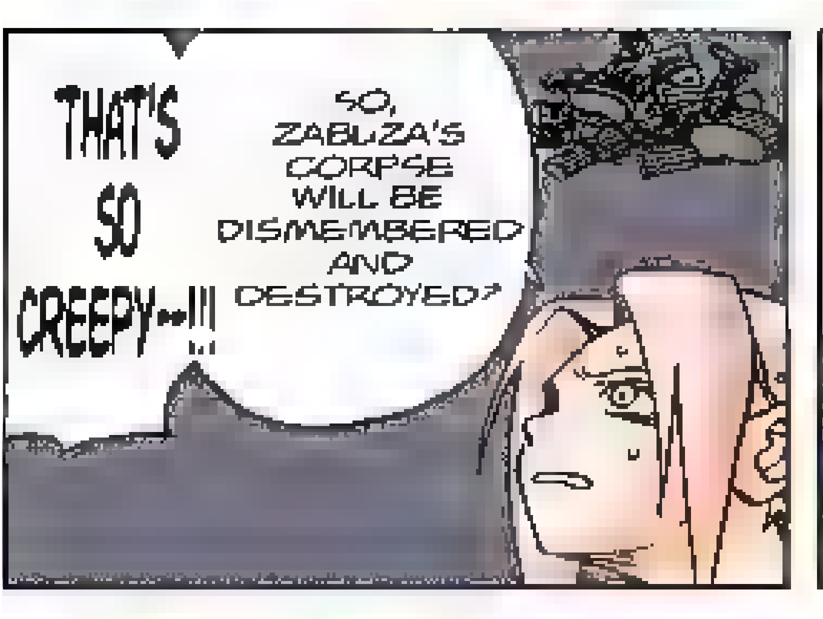


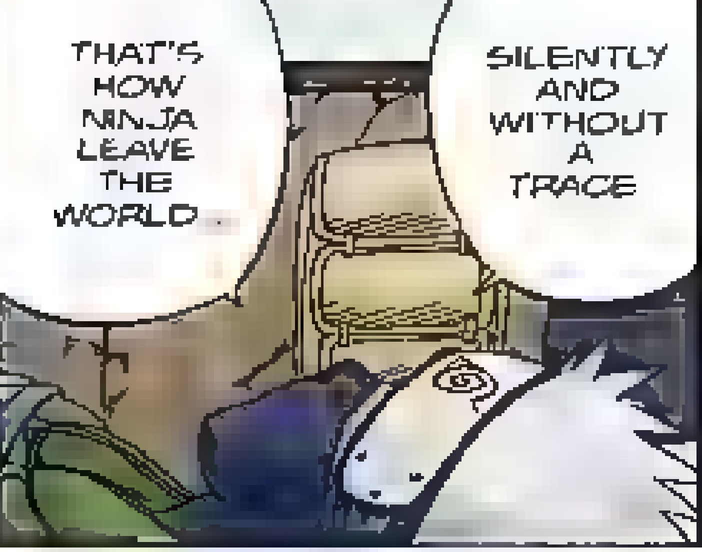
EVEN AFTER DEATH, A SHINOBI'S CORPSE MAY YIELD UP ITS SECRETS, EXPOSING THE SECRETS OF THE SKILLS IT HAD MASTERED, AS WELL AS RETAINING THE AURA OF THE CHAKRAS IT WAS STEEPED IN IN THE NINJA'S NATIVE LANDS.
..EVEN THE INGREDIENTS OF ANY DRUGS OR POTIONS THAT BODY CONSUMED BECOME AN OPEN BOOK



IN THE SAME WAY, WHEN I DIE, IF AN ENEMY WERE TO TAKE POSSESSION OF MY REMAINS, THE CORPSE WOULD REVEAL ALL OF THE ANATOMICAL IDIOSYNCRACIES UNIQUE TO POSSESSORS OF THE SHARINGAN EYE
IN THE WORST CASE, THE ENEMY MIGHT GAIN ENOUGH INFORMATION TO BE ABLE TO DUPLICATE AND MASTER THAT POWER.


IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE SECRETS OF THEIR HOME VILLAGE FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD
BASICALLY, SH NOBI HUNTERS SPECIALIZE IN TRACKING DOWN AND ELIM NAT NG ROGJE NINJA AND OBLITERATING THE R REMAINS...
N NJA CORPSES TELL TOO MANY TALES.

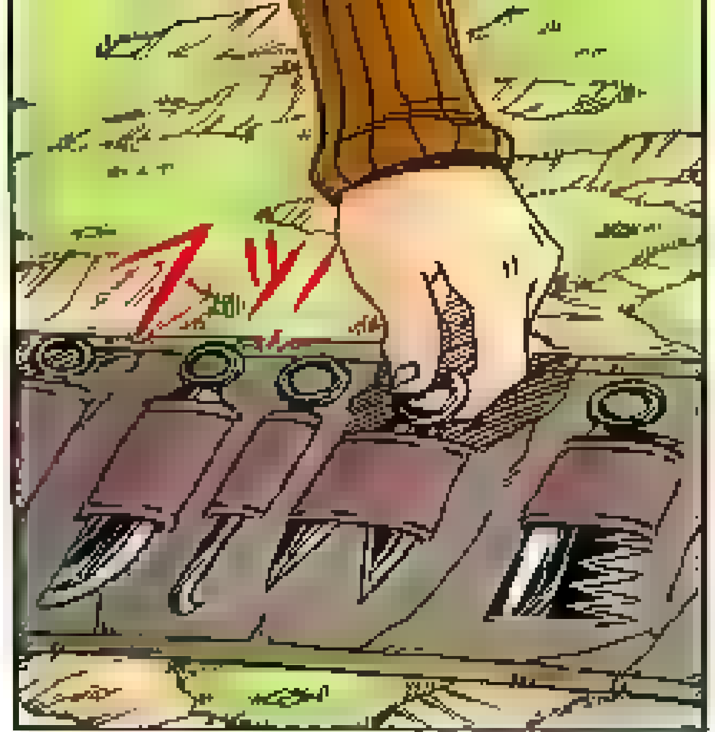

THAT'S SO CREEPY--!!!
SO, ZABUZA'S CORPSE WILL BE DISMEMBERED AND DESTROYED?

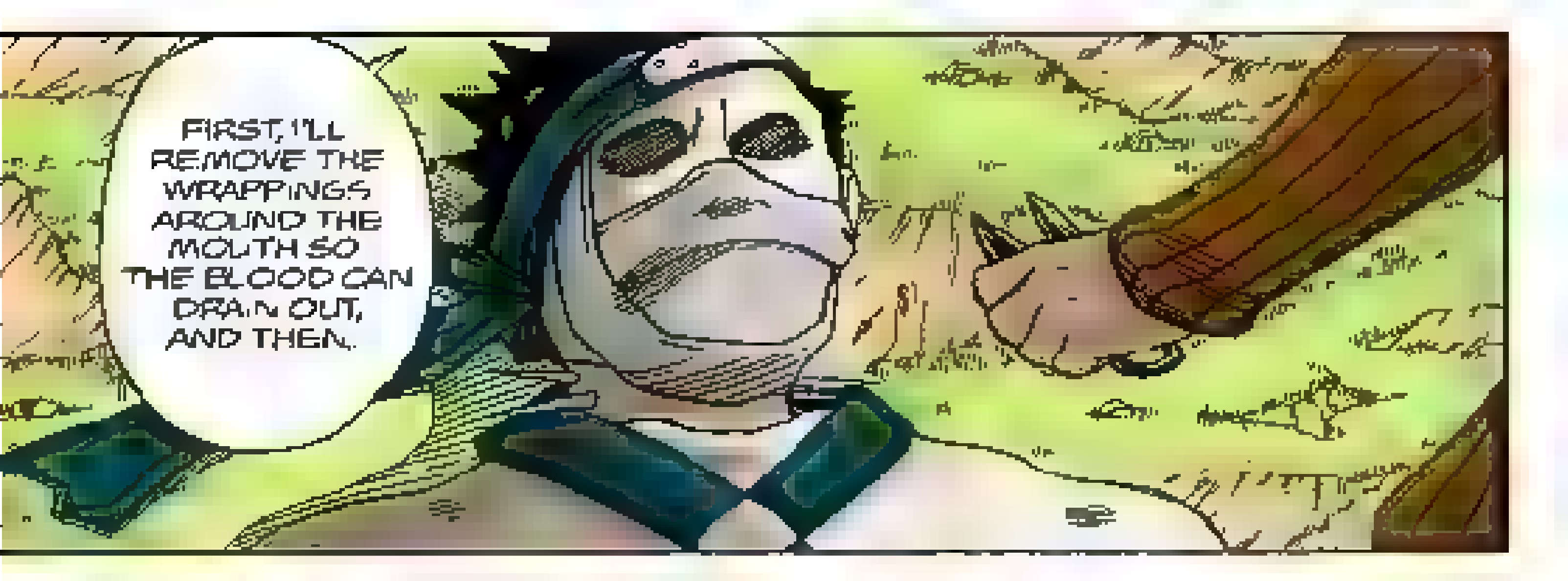

THAT'S HOW NINJA LEAVE THE WORLD...
SILENTLY AND WITHOUT A TRACE




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FIRST, I'LL REMOVE THE WRAPPINGS AROUND THE MOUTH SO THE BLOOD CAN DRAIN OUT, AND THEN.







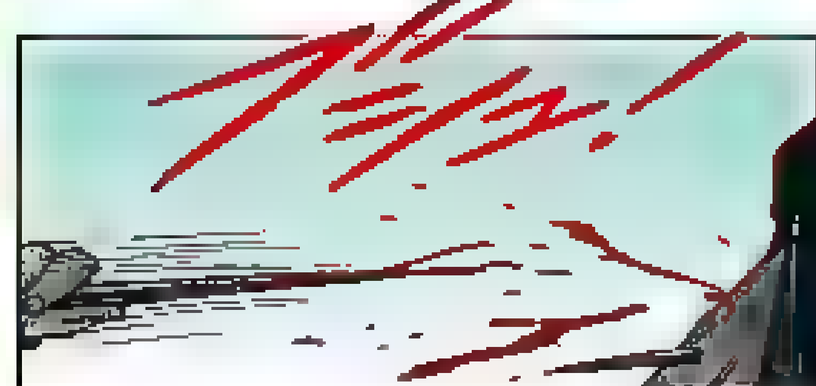

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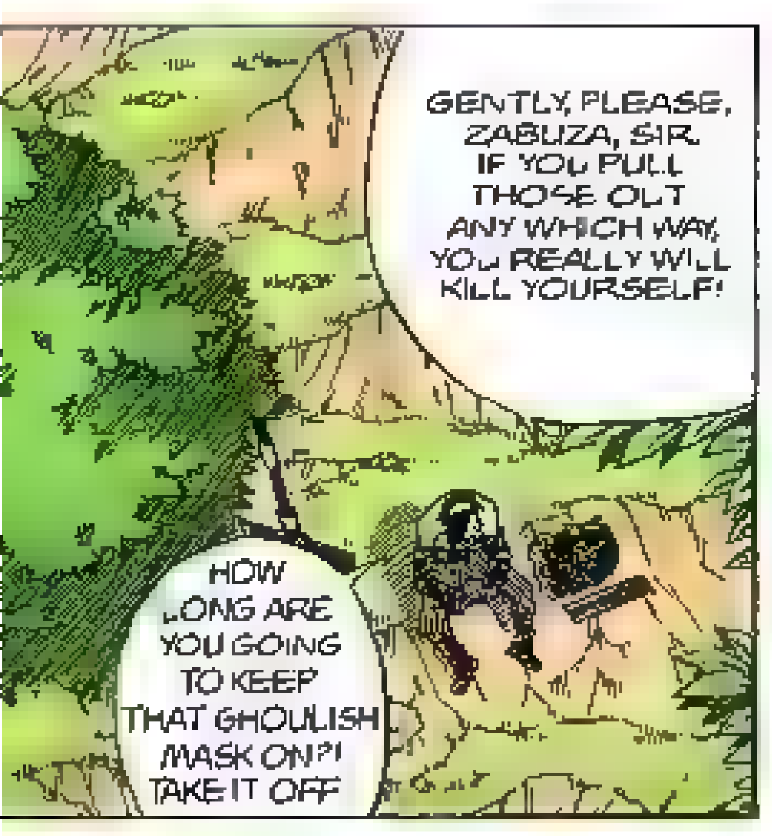

ENOUGH.
I CAN DO IT MYSELF...

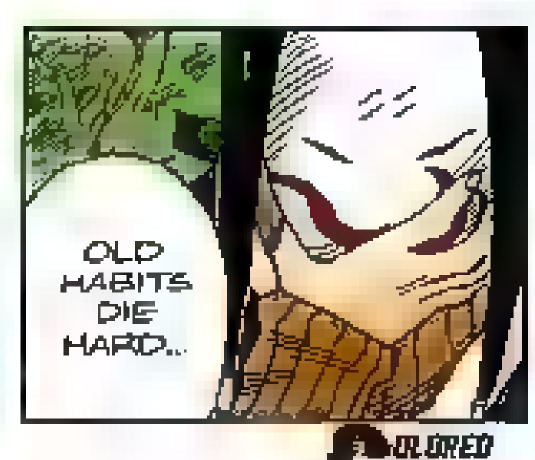

WELL NOW...


AWAKE ALREADY?

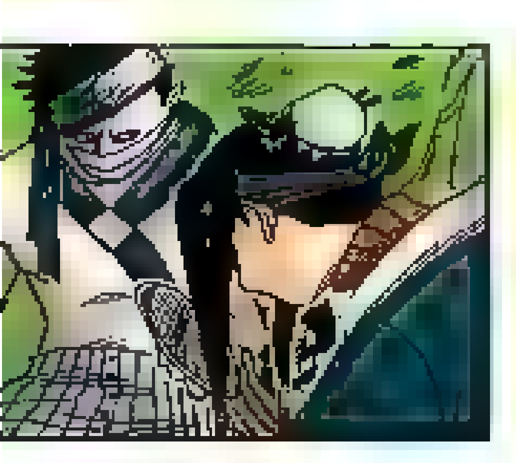

POK
YOU HAVE ALL THE FINESSE...
...OF A BUTCHER...

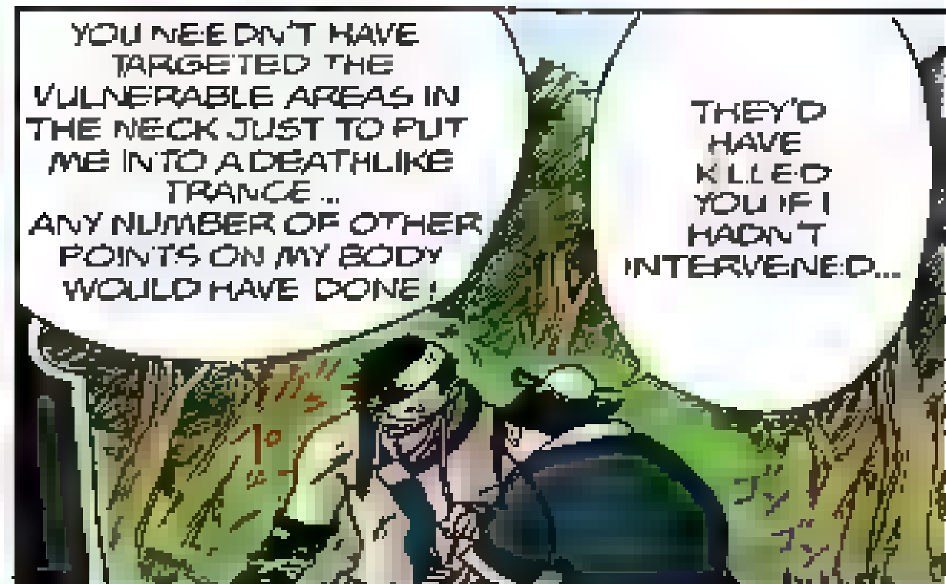


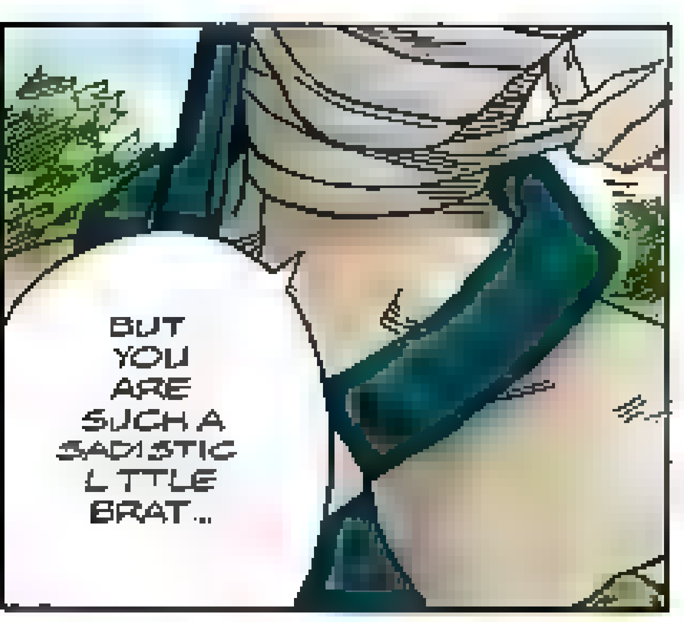

GENTLY, PLEASE, ZABUZA, SIR. IF YOU PULL THOSE OUT ANY WHICH WAY, YOU REALLY WILL KILL YOURSELF!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP THAT GHOULISH MASK ON?! TAKE IT OFF


OLD HABITS DIE HARD...


カパ
AND I WAS ALSO USEFUL FOR MY MONKEY PANTOMIME ROUTINE...



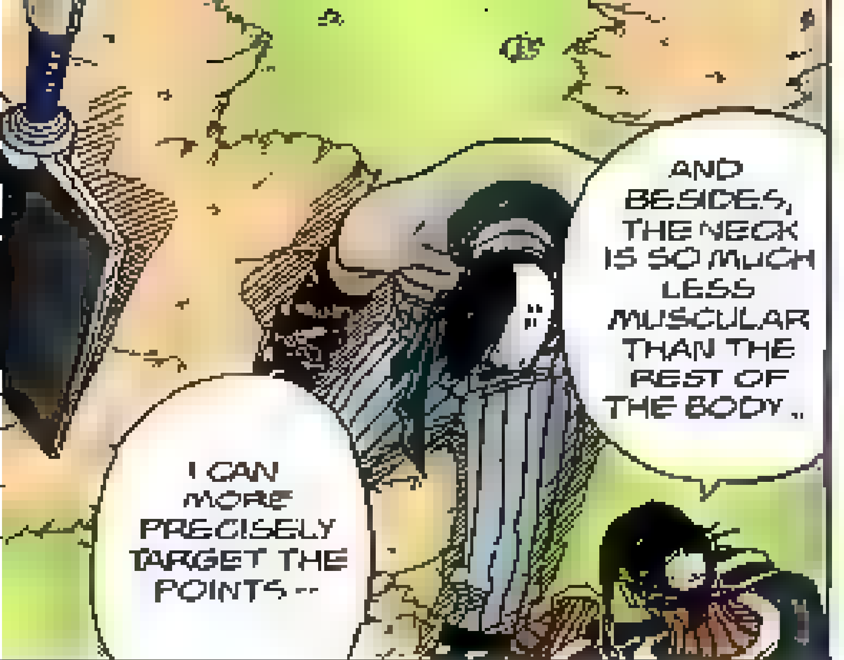

YOU NEEDN'T HAVE TARGETED THE VULNERABLE AREAS IN THE NECK JUST TO PUT ME INTO A DEATHLIKE TRANCE ... ANY NUMBER OF OTHER POINTS ON MY BODY WOULD HAVE DONE!
THEY'D HAVE KILLED YOU IF I HADN'T INTERVENED...


BUT YOU ARE SUCH A SADISTIC LITTLE BRAT...


よし!
EXACTLY!

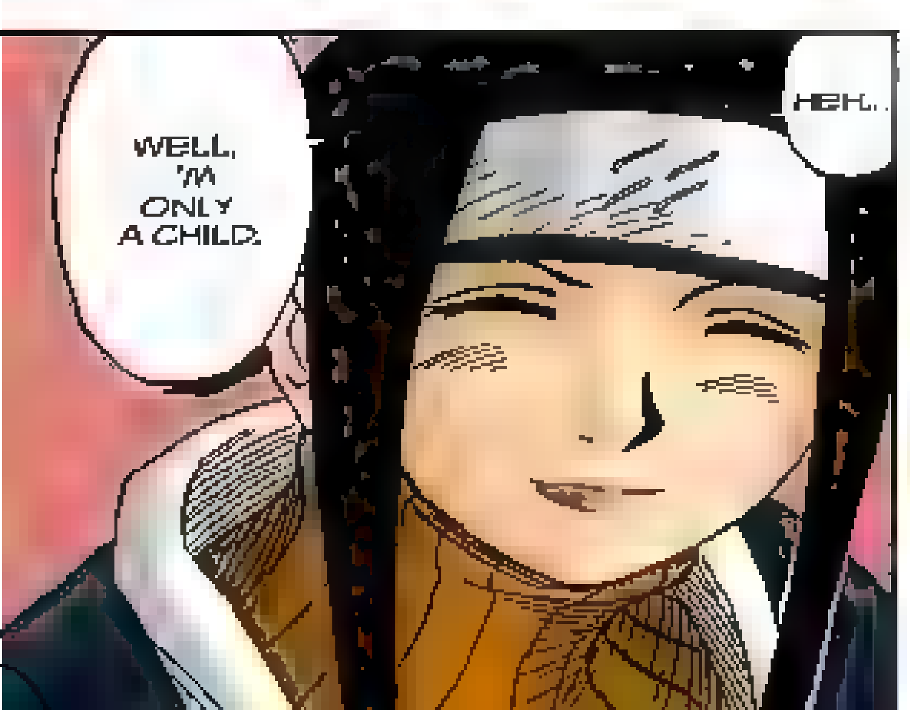
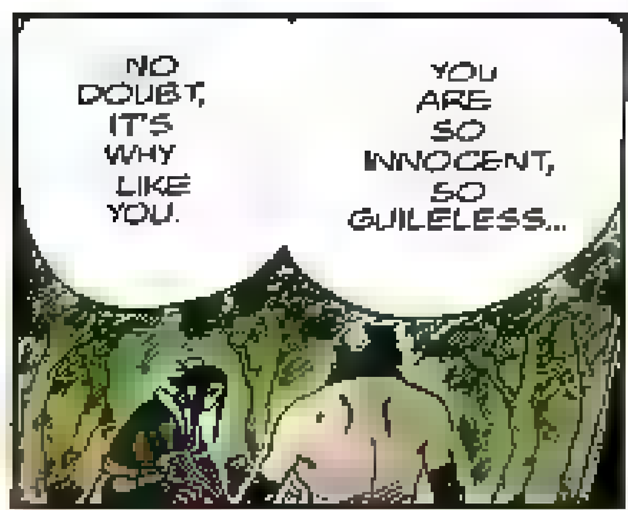

...




AND BESIDES, THE NECK IS SO MUCH LESS MUSCULAR THAN THE REST OF THE BODY..
I CAN MORE PRECISELY TARGET THE POINTS --

DIDN'T WANT TO MAR YOUR PERFECT BODY, ZABUZA, SIR.

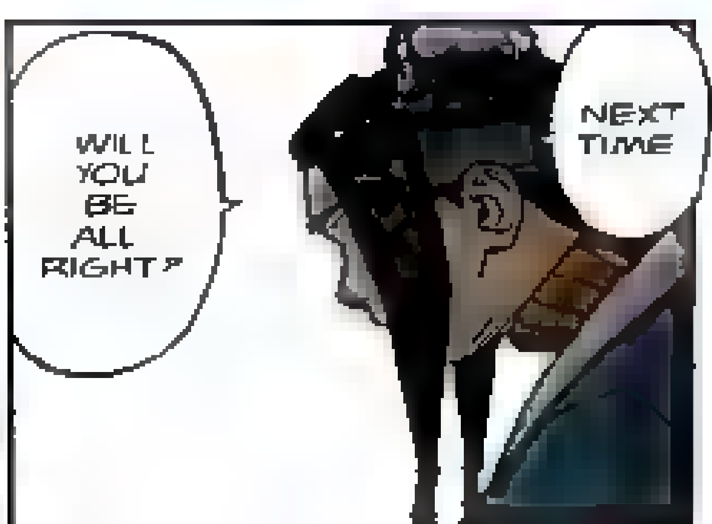
BUT OF COURSE, SOMEONE L KE YOU WILL RECOVER MUCH MORE QU CKLY, RIGHT?


..THAT WILL LEAVE AN ORDINARY TARGET PARALYZED AND APPARENTLY DEAD FOR A FULL WEEK..

HEH..
WELL, 'M ONLY A CHILD.

YOU ARE SO INNOCENT, SO GUILELESS...
NO DOUBT, IT'S WHY LIKE YOU.

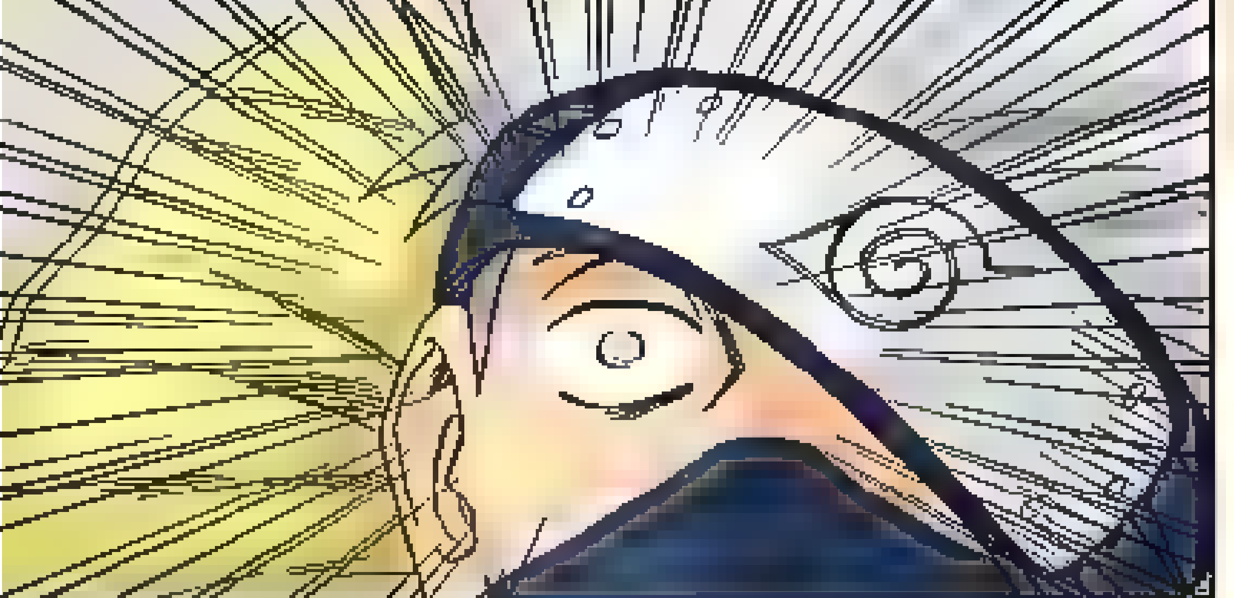
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...THE MIST HAS LIFTED...
WITHOUT US EVEN NOTICING

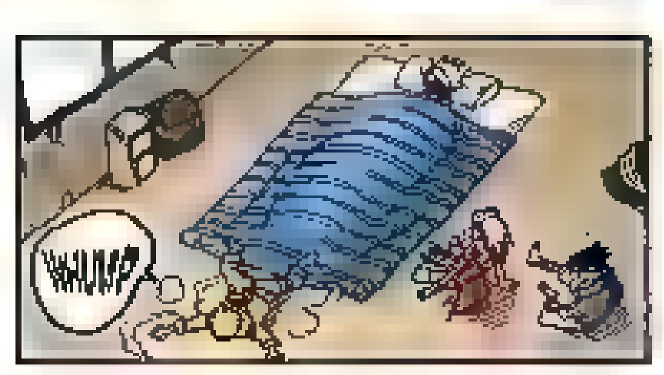








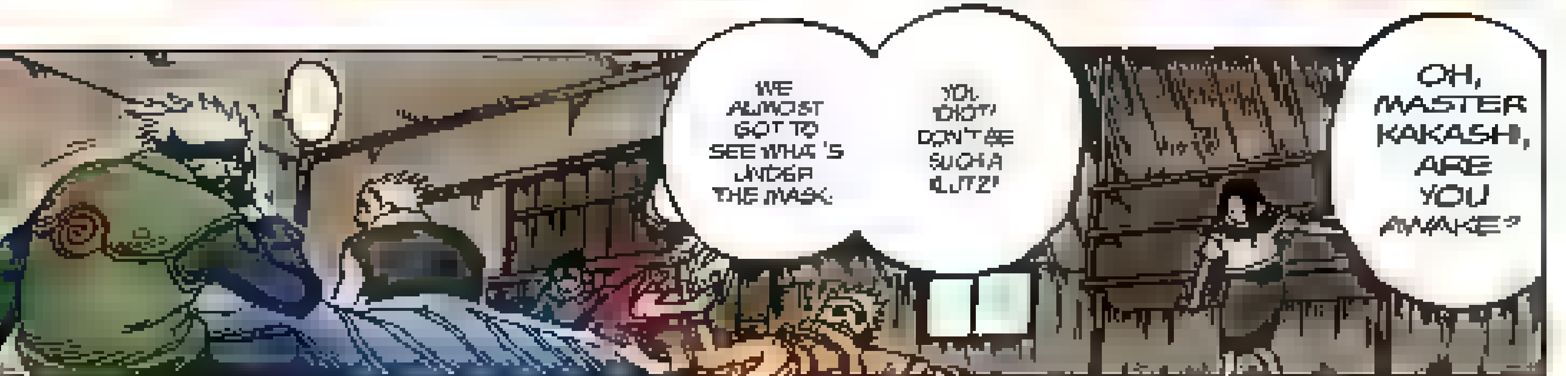




WHUMP



!!
EEEEK-!!



OH, MASTER KAKASHI, ARE YOU AWAKE?
YOU IDIOT! DON'T BE SUCH A KLUTZ!
WE ALMOST GOT TO SEE WHAT'S UNDER THE MASK.



IT'S ODD... I KNOW THAT SCUMBAG ZABUZA'S DEAD BUT I STILL CAN'T SHAKE THE STRONGEST FEELING...
THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE OVERLOOKED! SOMETHING BIG!

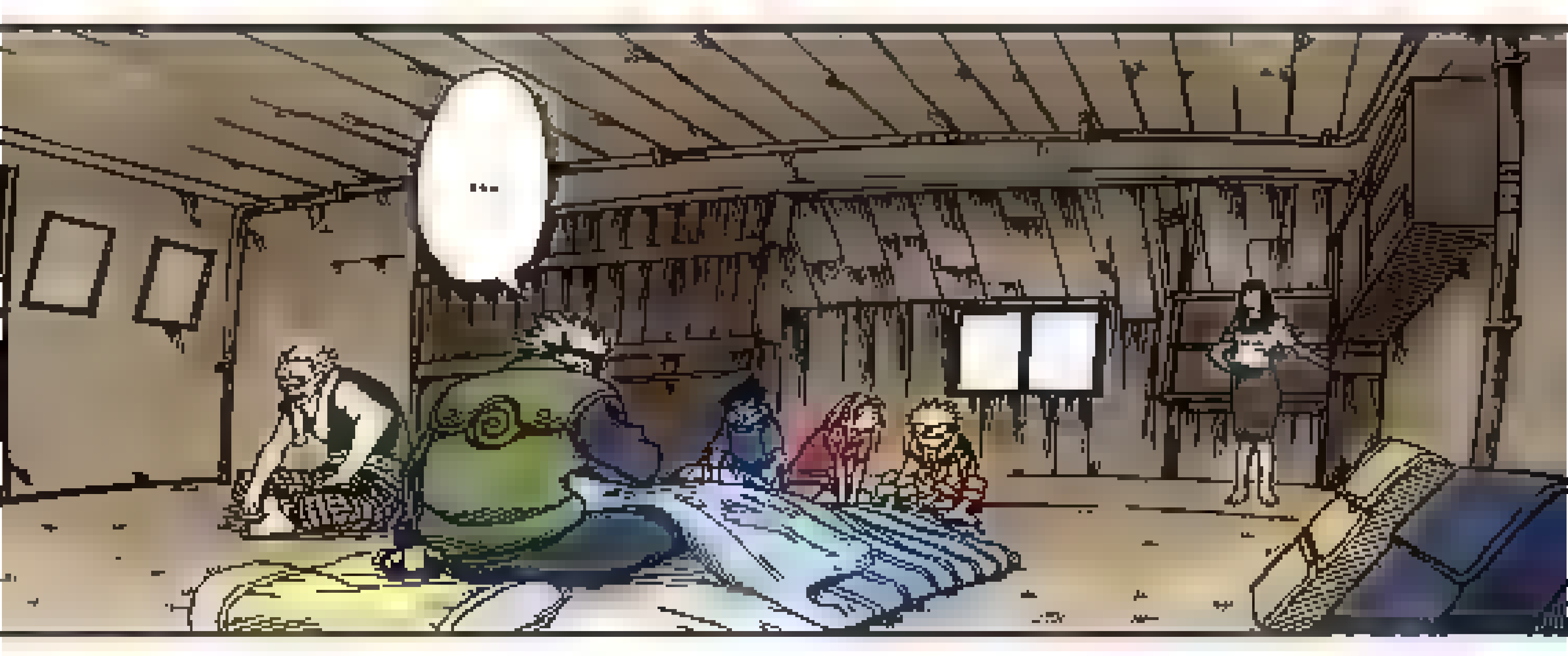


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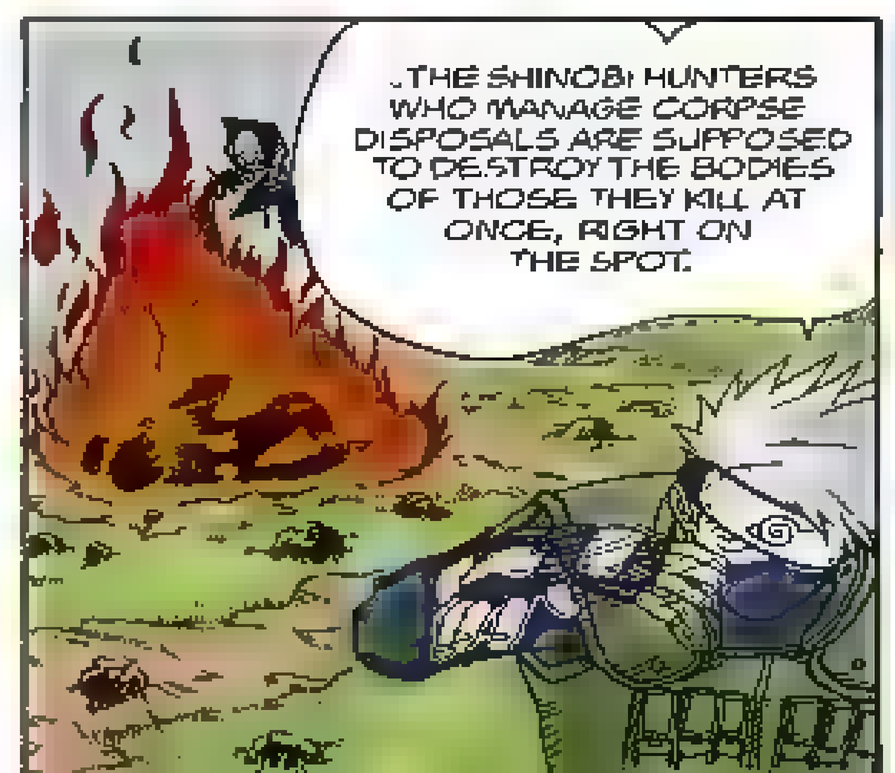

ナンバー
17：闘いの準備!!
PREPARATIONS FOR BATTLE!!
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SOMETHING JUST DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT...
COULD IT BE...? IS IT POSSIBLE I'VE OVERLOOKED SOMETHING?!

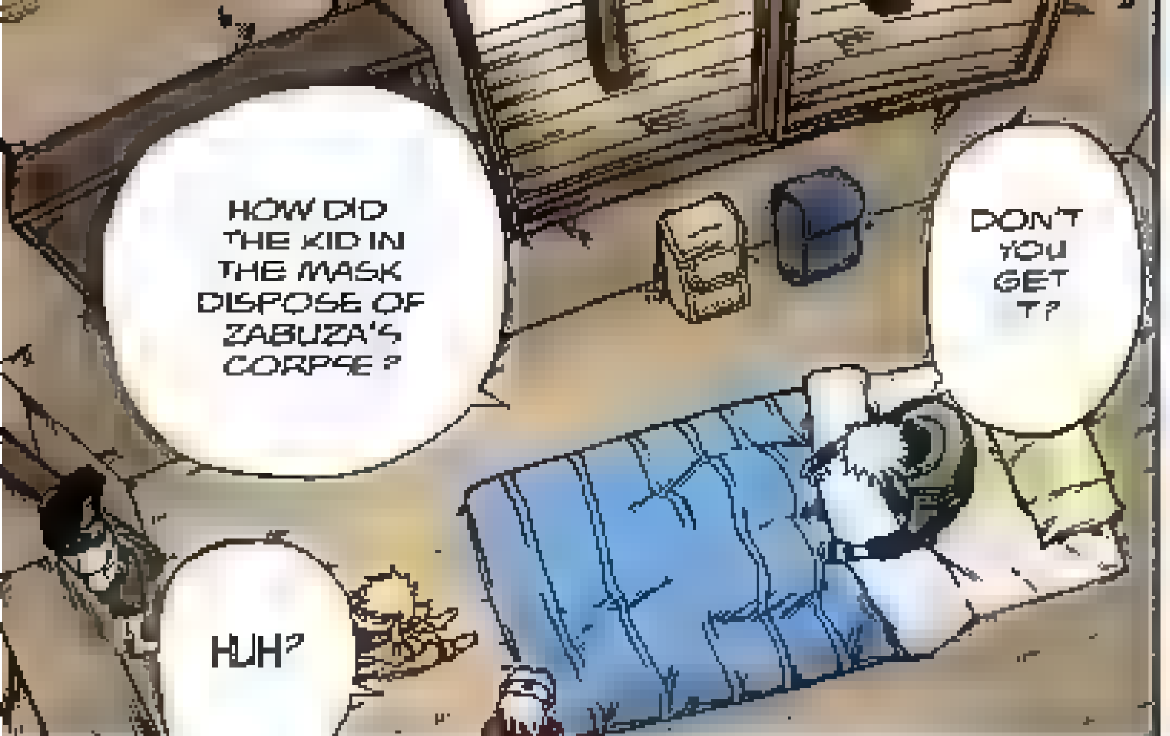
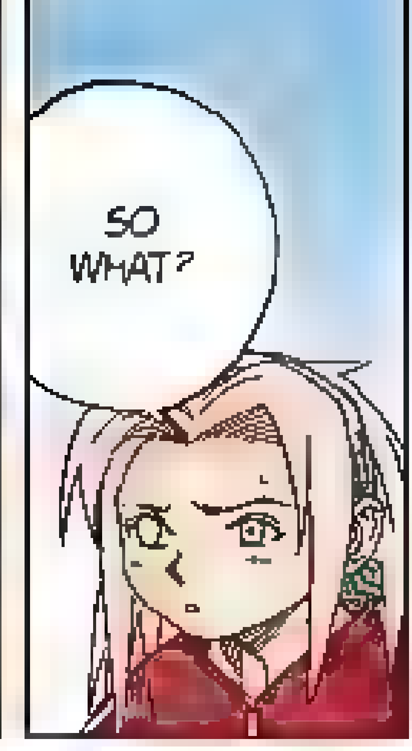
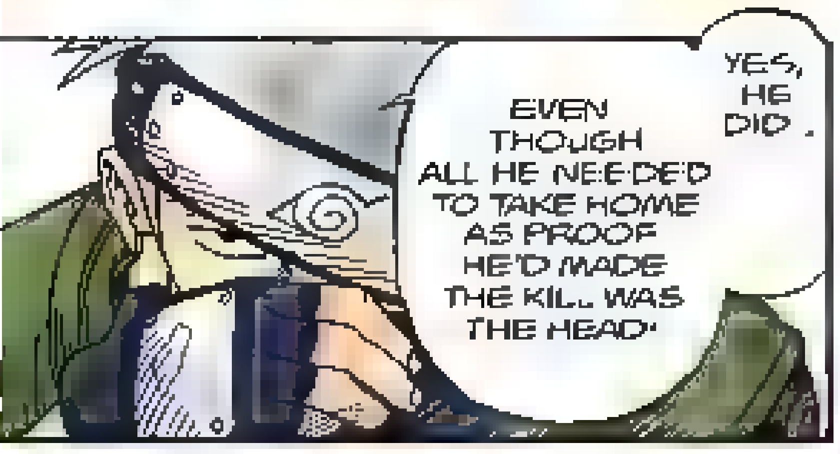
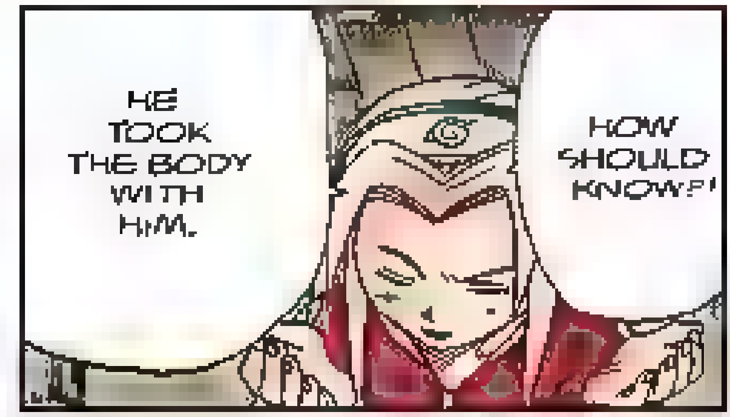
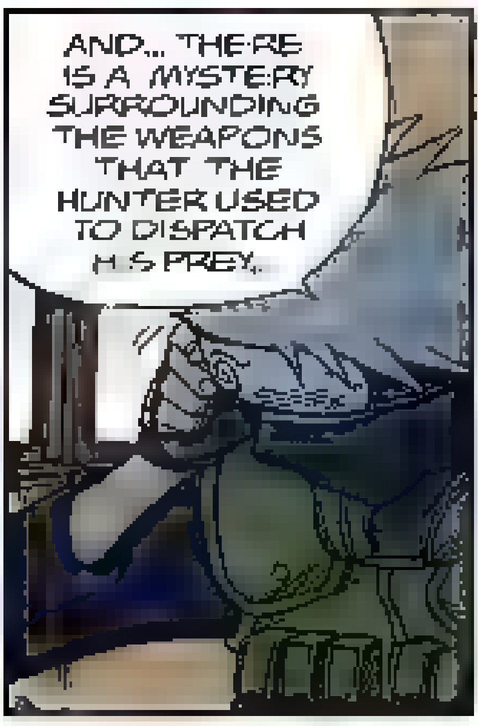

...


WHAT'S WRONG MASTER KAKASHI?


HMM.
OF COURSE...


...THE SHINOBI HUNTERS WHO MANAGE CORPSE DISPOSALS ARE SUPPOSED TO DESTROY THE BODIES OF THOSE THEY KILL AT ONCE, RIGHT ON THE SPOT.

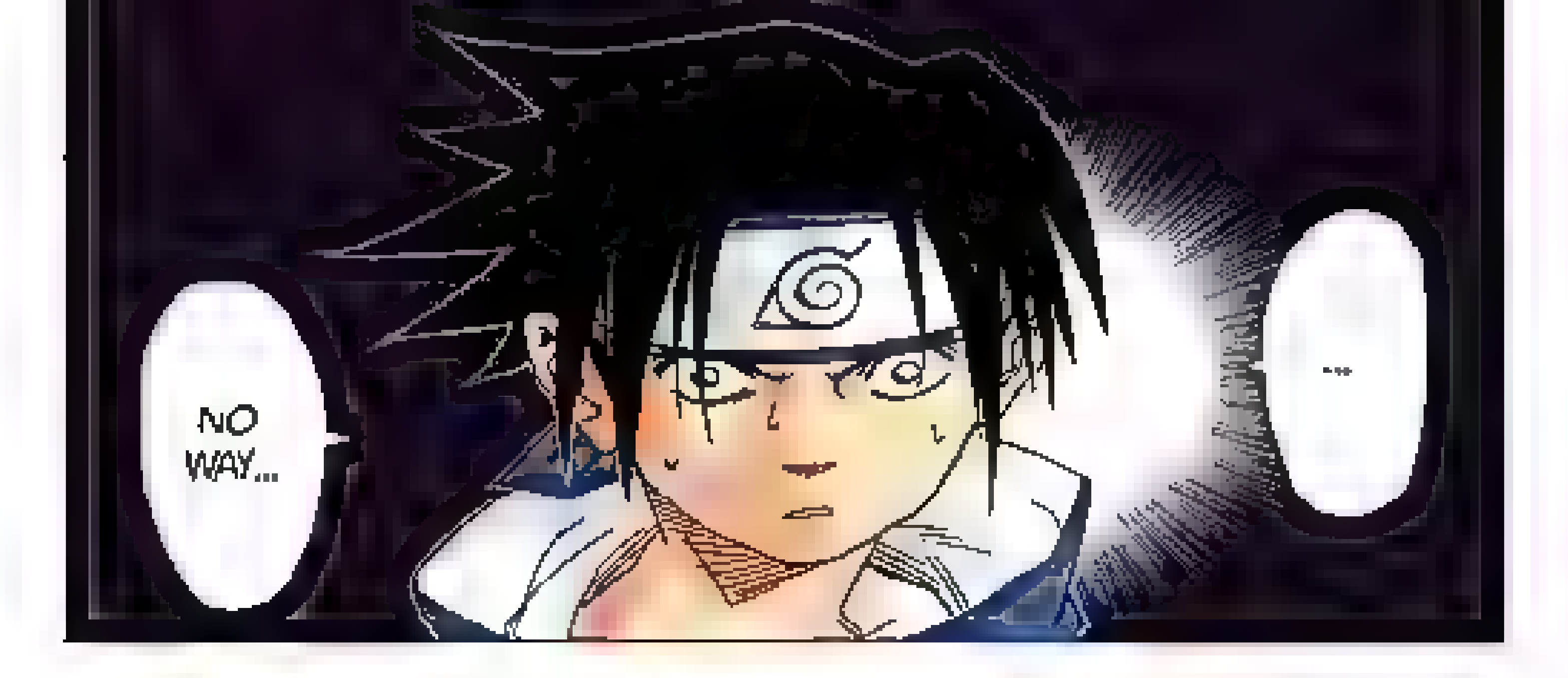


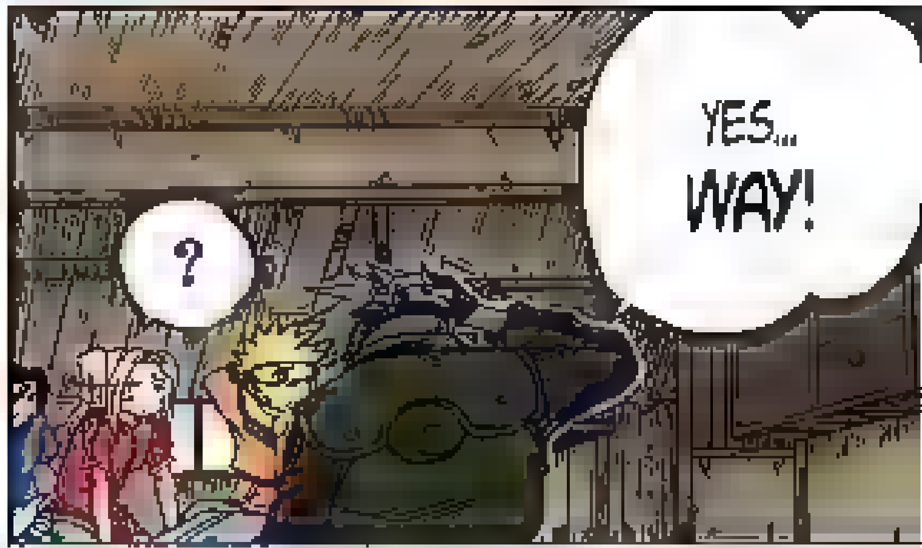

HOW DID THE KID IN THE MASK DISPOSE OF ZABUZA'S CORPSE?
HUH?
DON'T YOU GET IT?

SO WHAT?

YES, HE DID.
EVEN THOUGH ALL HE NEEDED TO TAKE HOME AS PROOF HE'D MADE THE KILL WAS THE HEAD!

HOW SHOULD I KNOW?!
HE TOOK THE BODY WITH HIM.

AND... THERE IS A MYSTERY SURROUNDING THE WEAPONS THAT THE HUNTER USED TO DISPATCH HIS PREY.

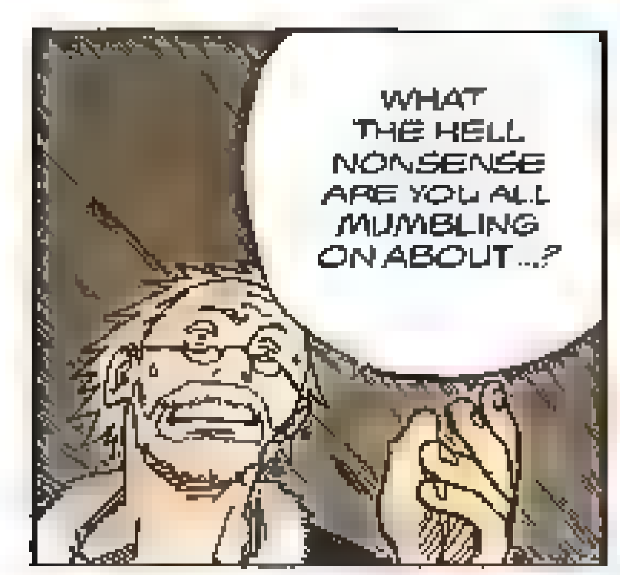
SENBON... ACUPUNCTURE NEEDLES!!
...

!!

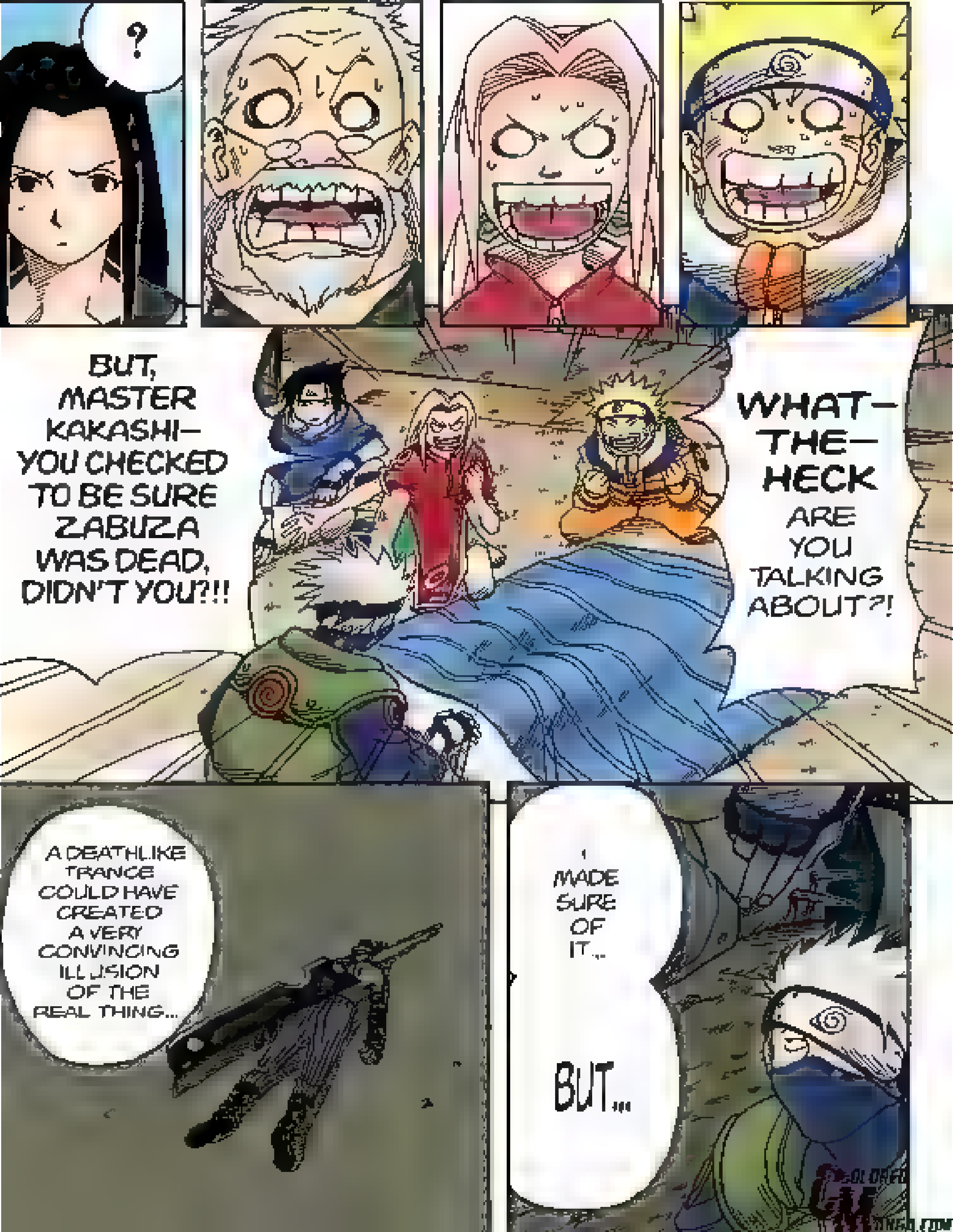
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...
NO WAY...


YES... WAY!
?


WHAT THE HELL NONSENSE ARE YOU ALL MUMBLING ON ABOUT...?

THAT IT'S LIKELY...
ZABUZA IS STILL ALIVE!


?
WHAT—THE—HECK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
BUT, MASTER KAKASHI— YOU CHECKED TO BE SURE ZABUZA WAS DEAD, DIDN'T YOU?!!
I MADE SURE OF IT...
BUT...
A DEATHLIKE TRANCE COULD HAVE CREATED A VERY CONVINCING ILLUSION OF THE REAL THING...

THOSE ACUPUNCTURE NEEDLE WEAPONS THAT SHINOBI HUNTER USED CAN BE DEADLY...

...IF THEY HIT A VITAL SPOT. IF NOT, THE MORTALITY RATE IS SURPRISINGLY LOW...

AND REMEMBER, THEY WERE ORIGINALLY DESIGNED AS MEDICAL TREATMENT TOOLS.

SHINOBI HUNTERS AND ALL MEMBERS OF ANY VILLAGE'S CORPSE DISPOSAL SQUAD MUST POSSESS AN INTIMATE AND THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY.

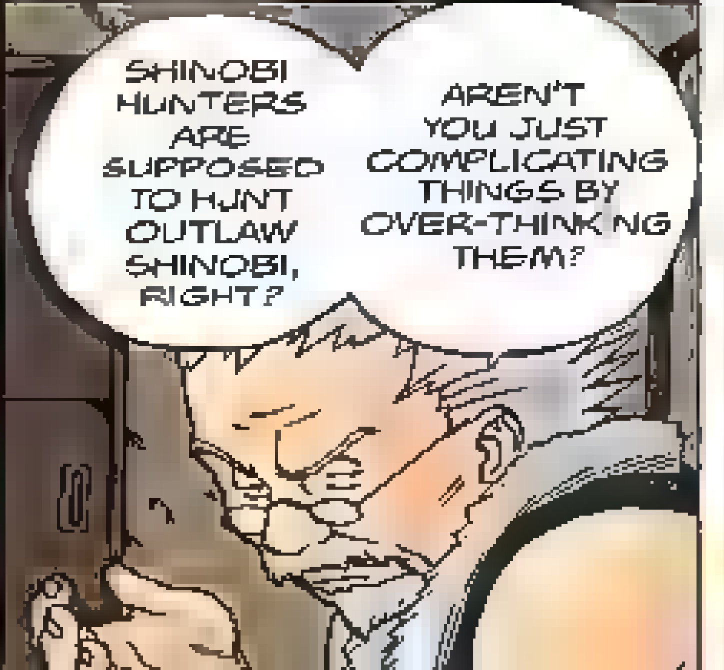
IT WOULD BE SIMPLE FOR ONE OF THEM TO PLACE A PERSON INTO A NEAR-DEATH STATE

FIRST OF ALL, THE MASKED BOY WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF LUGGING OFF ZABUZA'S HEAVY CARCASS...

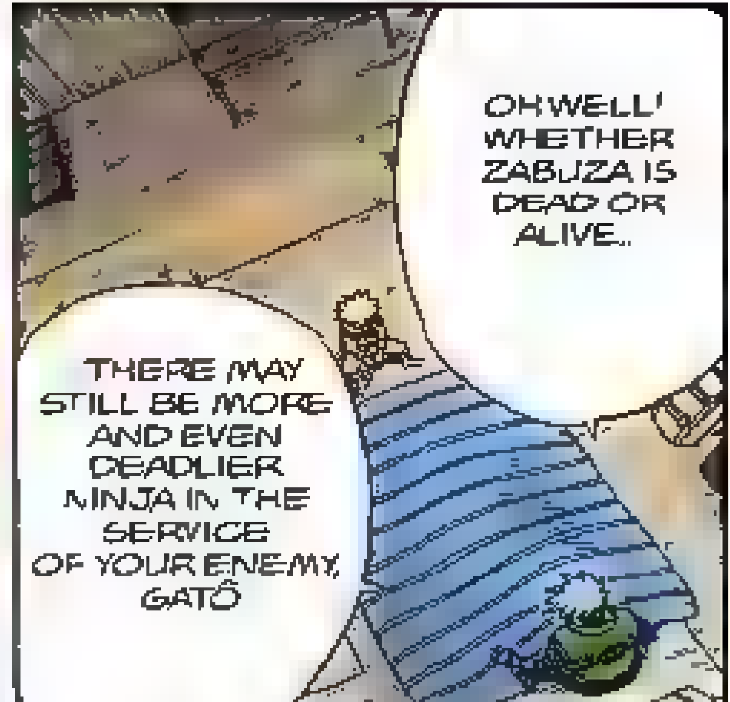
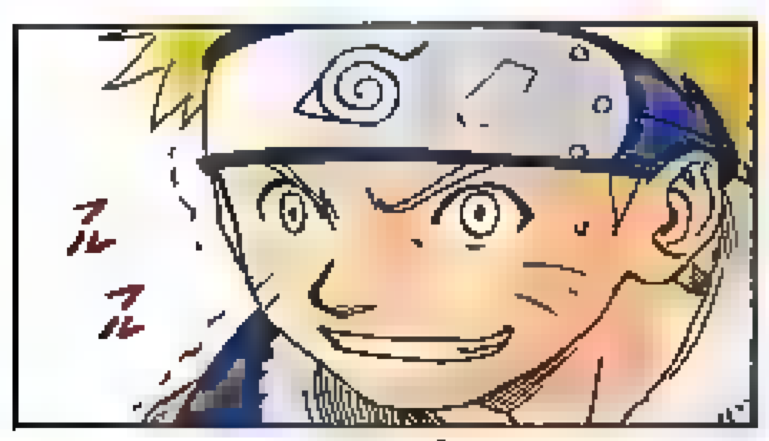
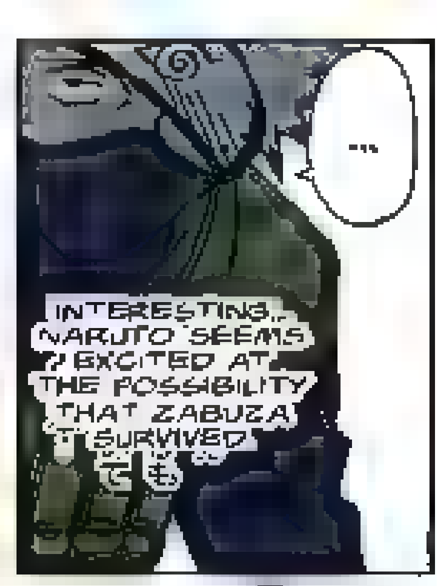
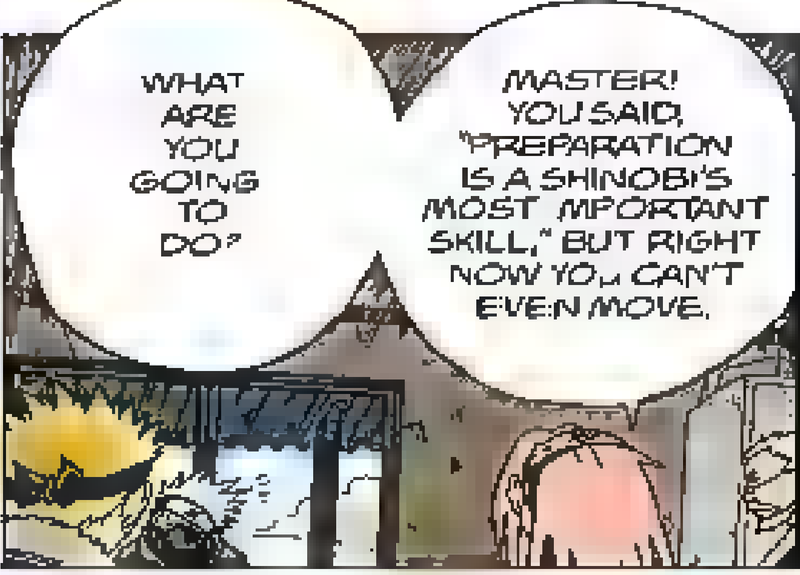
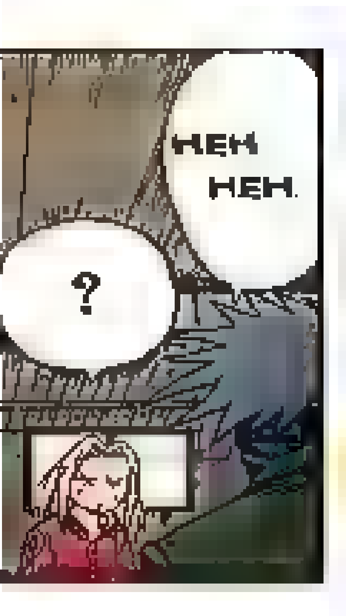
SECONDLY, THE ACUPUNCTURE NEEDLES HE USED AS WEAPONS, WHILE POTENTIALLY DEADLY, CAN ALSO BE USED TO INFLICT NON-MORTAL INJURY...

THESE TWO POINTS SUGGEST THAT THE KID'S OBJECTIVE WAS TO GIVE THE ILLUSION OF KILLING ZABUZA...



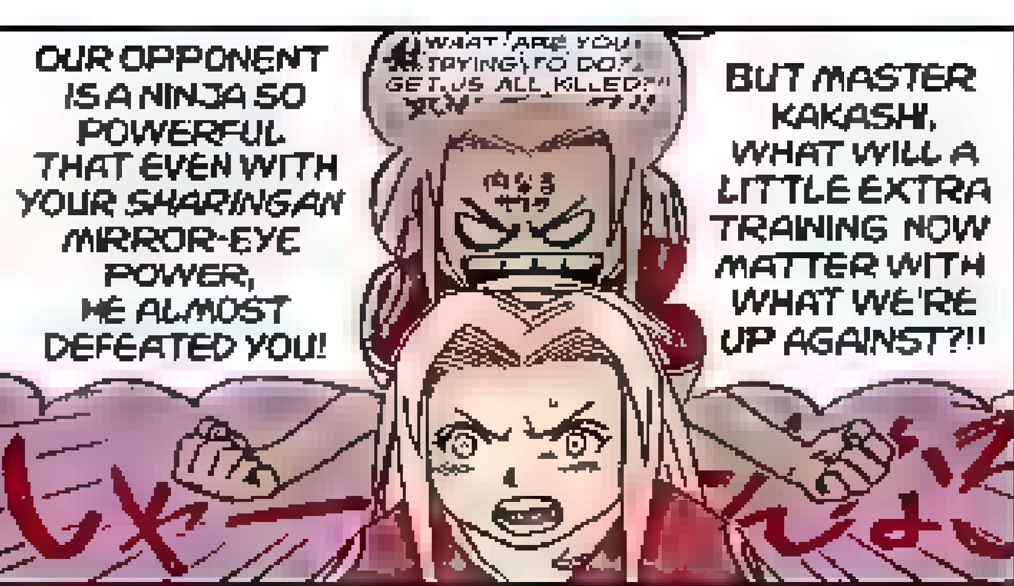


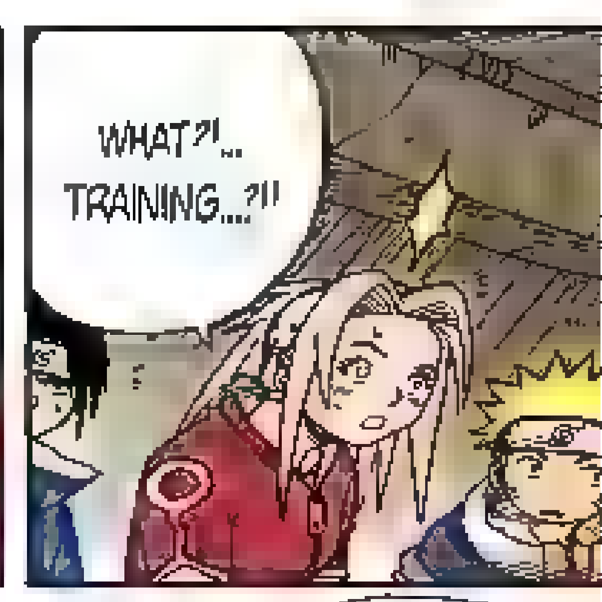

JUUUSUALLY...
BUT IGNORING SOMETHING THAT SMELLS THIS FISHY IS A GREAT FIRST STEP...
TO BEING CAUGHT COMPLETELY UNPREPARED. AND PREPARATION IS A SHINOBI'S MOST IMPORTANT SKILL!!

!

OH WELL! WHETHER ZABUZA IS DEAD OR ALIVE...
THERE MAY STILL BE MORE AND EVEN DEADLIER NINJA IN THE SERVICE OF YOUR ENEMY, GATÔ


...
INTERESTING... NARUTO SEEMS EXCITED AT THE POSSIBILITY THAT ZABUZA SURVIVED

MASTER! YOU SAID, "PREPARATION IS A SHINOBI'S MOST IMPORTANT SKILL," BUT RIGHT NOW YOU CAN'T EVEN MOVE.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

HEH HEH.
?

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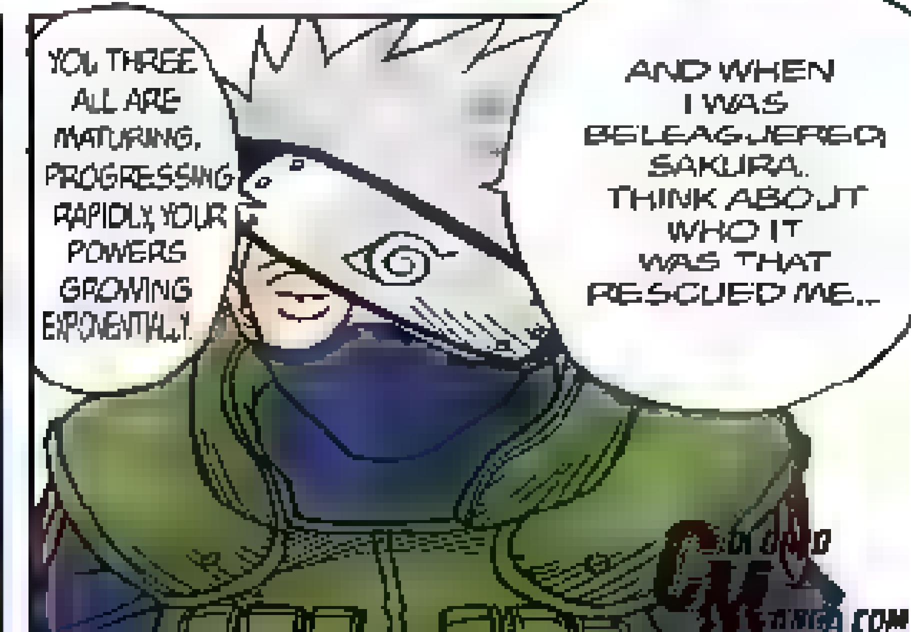
I'M GOING TO INCREASE YOUR TRAINING SCHEDULE!



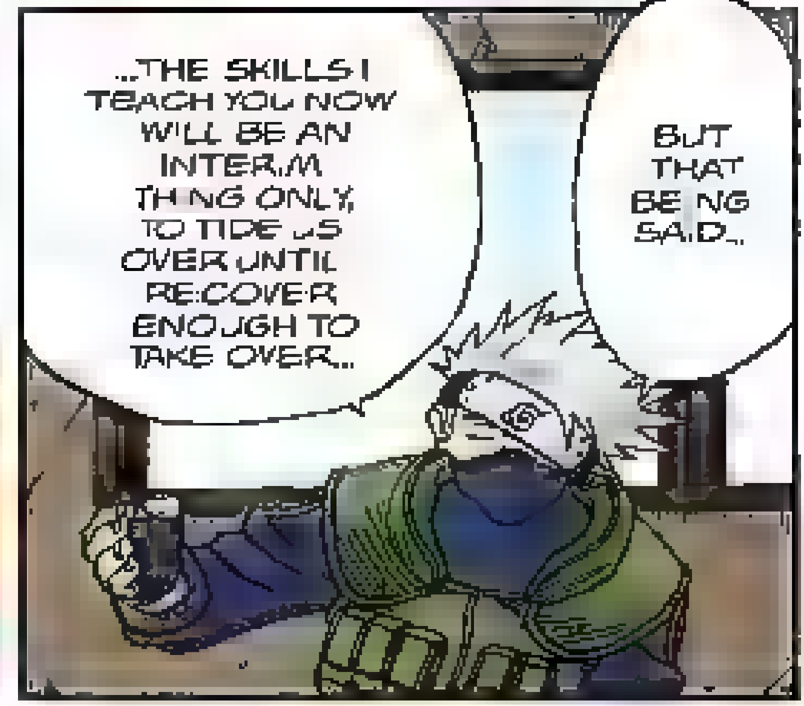


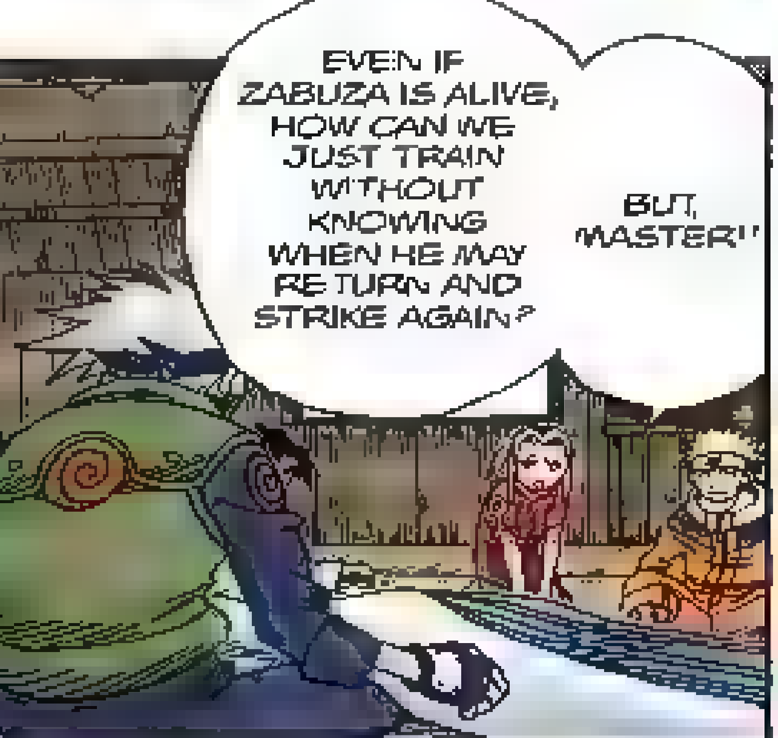


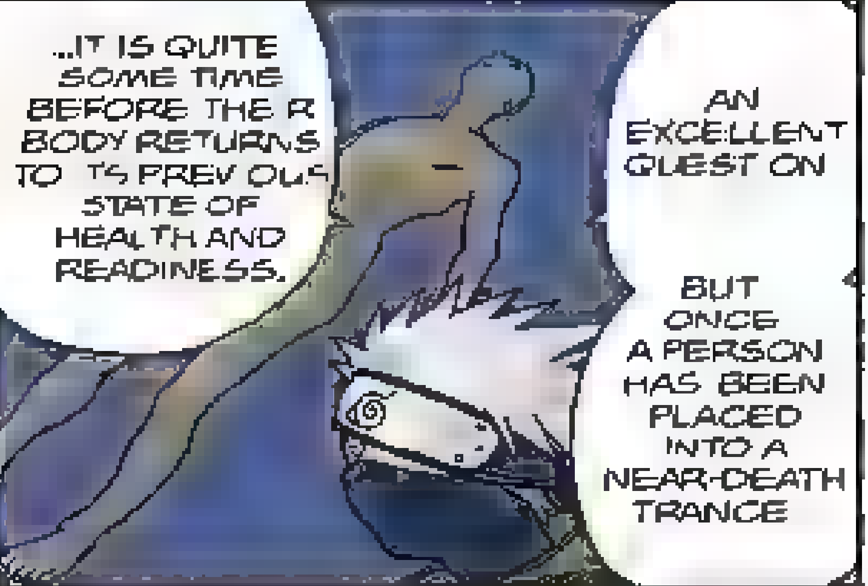


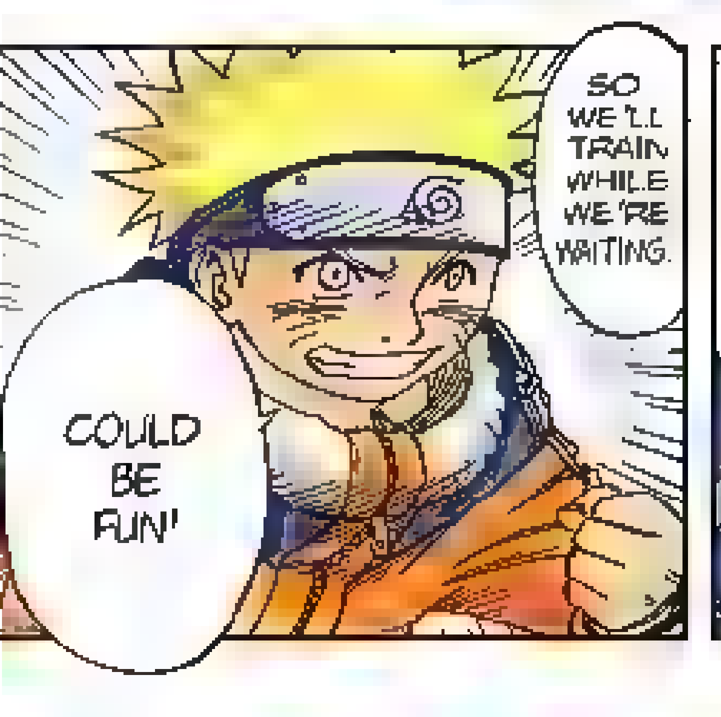


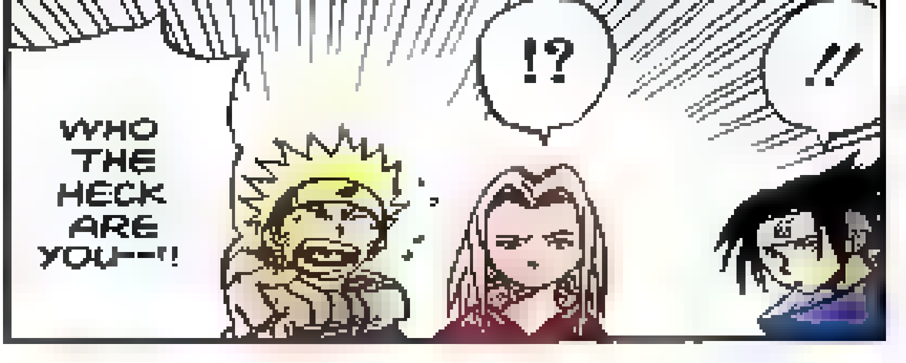

...NARUTO ..? WELL, HE SEEMS A LOT MORE GROWN-UP THAN HE USED TO, BUT...

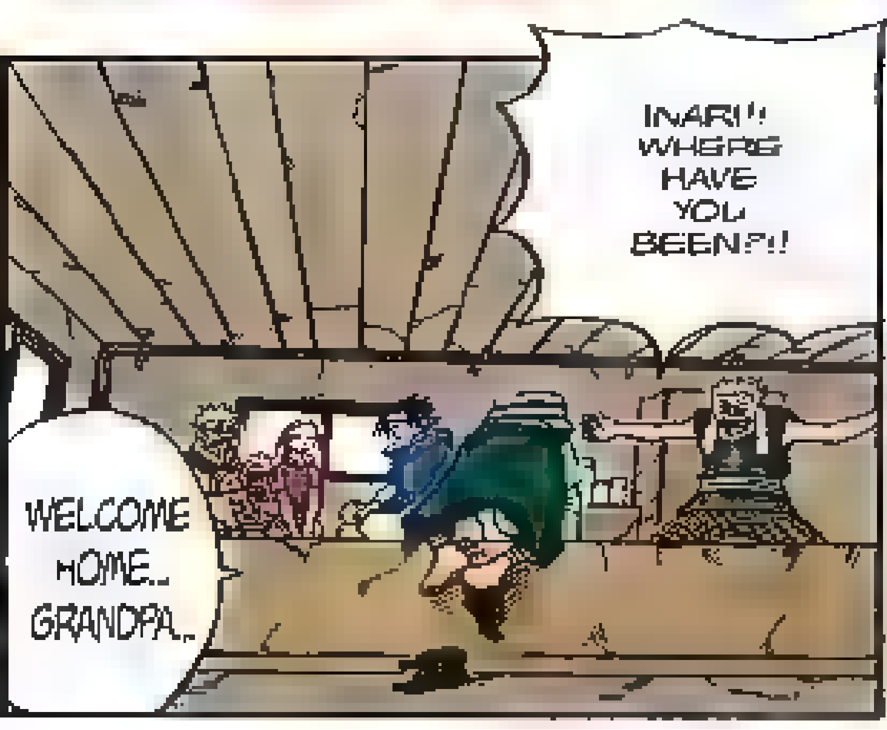

BUT THAT BEING SAID...
...THE SKILLS I TEACH YOU NOW WILL BE AN INTERIM THING ONLY, TO TIDE US OVER UNTIL RECOVER ENOUGH TO TAKE OVER...


BUT, MASTER!!
EVEN IF ZABUZA IS ALIVE, HOW CAN WE JUST TRAIN WITHOUT KNOWING WHEN HE MAY RETURN AND STRIKE AGAIN?


AN EXCELLENT QUESTION
BUT ONCE A PERSON HAS BEEN PLACED INTO A NEAR-DEATH TRANCE
...IT IS QUITE SOME TIME BEFORE THEIR BODY RETURNS TO ITS PREVIOUS STATE OF HEALTH AND READINESS.


SO WE'LL TRAIN WHILE WE'RE WAITING.
COULD BE FUN!

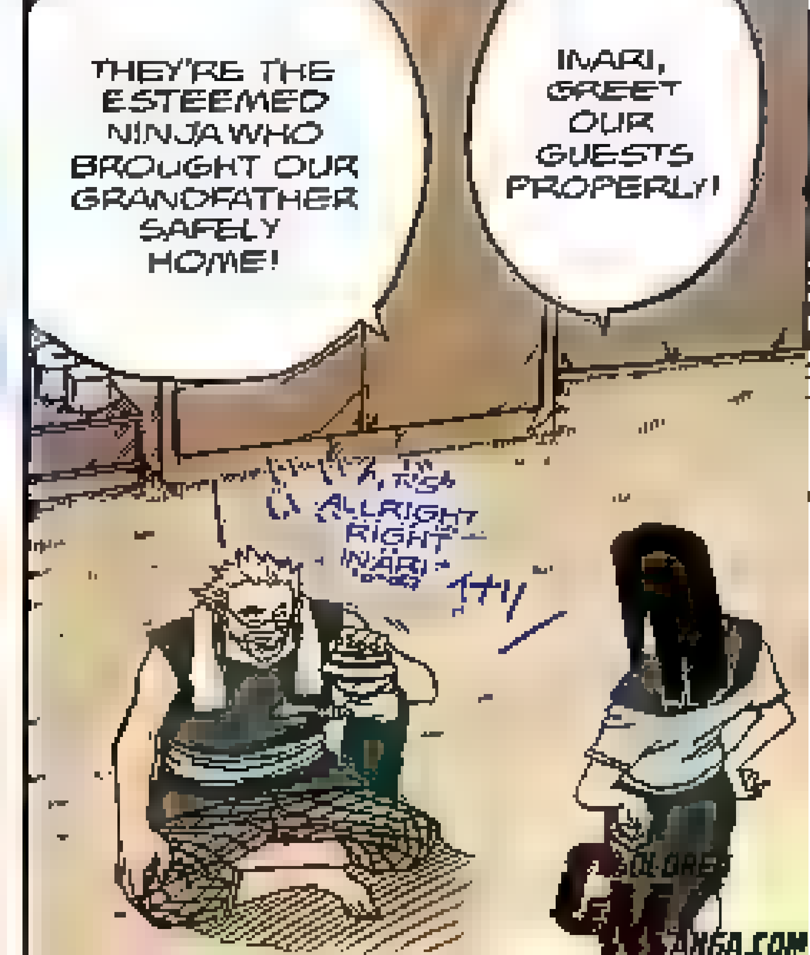

WHO THE HECK ARE YOU--!!
!?
!!


INARI!! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!!
WELCOME HOME.. GRANDPA..


IT WON'T BE FUN FOR YOU.



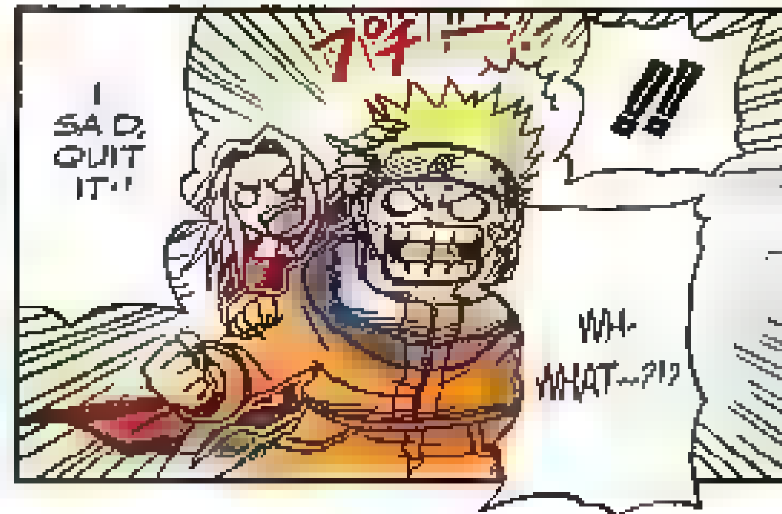



INARI, GREET OUR GUESTS PROPERLY!
THEY'RE THE ESTEEMED NINJA WHO BROUGHT OUR GRANDFATHER SAFELY HOME!
IT'S ALLRIGHT RIGHT INARI


BUT, MAMA, THEY'RE ALL GONNA DIE
!!
LISTEN, YOU LITTLE TWERP--!!!
NO ONE CAN BEAT GATÔ AND HIS MEN.
...
...
YOU BRAT--!!
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, NARUTO. HE'S JUST A LITTLE BOY.
RIGHT HEY, PAY ATTENTION, LITTLE GUY.
I'M A SUPERHERO WHO'LL SOMEDAY BECOME THE MOST EXTREME NINJA. MY NAME WILL BE HOKAGE, THE FIRE SHADOW!
GATÔ? "GATEAU"? THIS GUY'S NAMED "CHOCOLATE"! YOU CAN'T SERIOUSLY EXPECT ME TO BE AFRAID OF THAT!
HMMF!

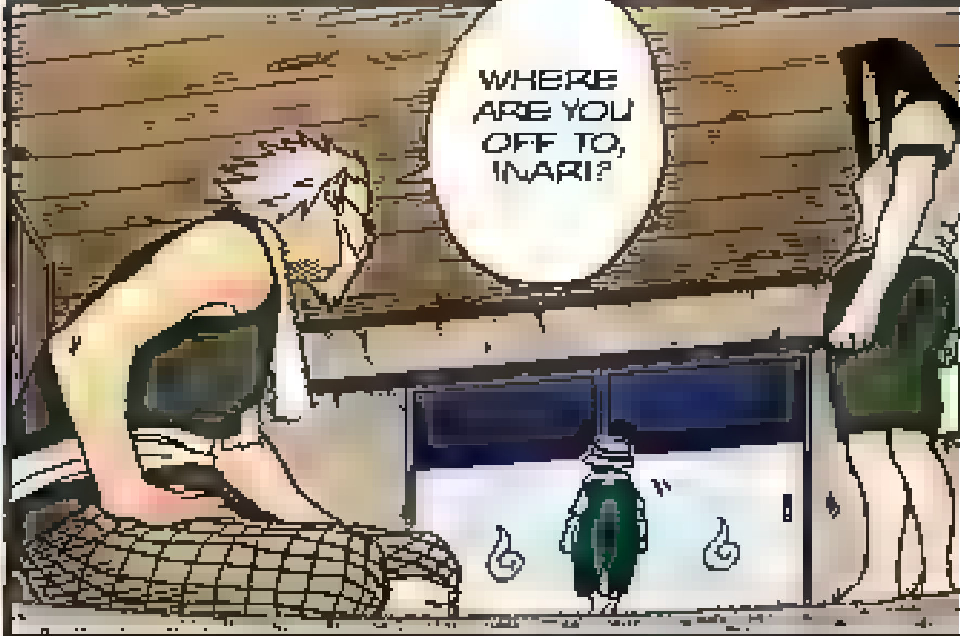
"HERO"? YOU'RE DUMB!

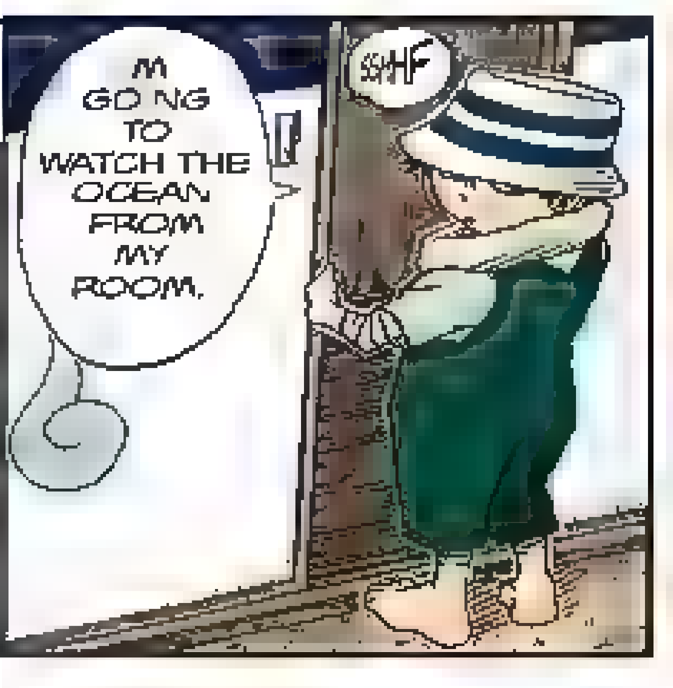
THERE'S NO SUCH THING!!!



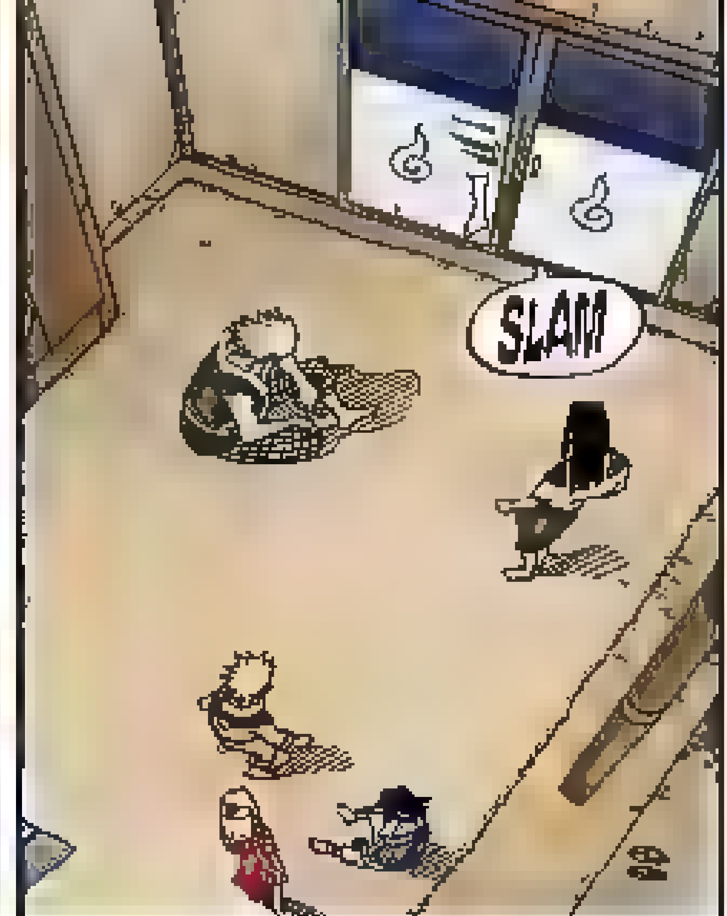


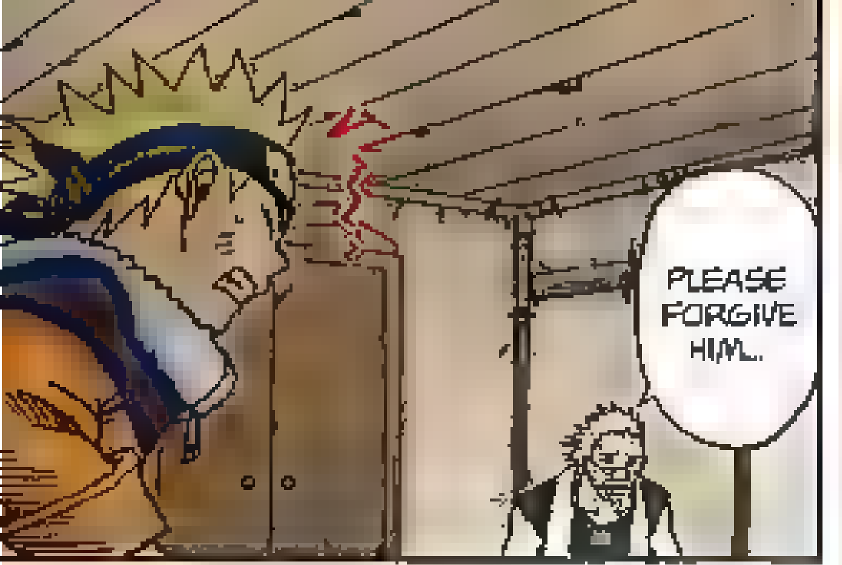




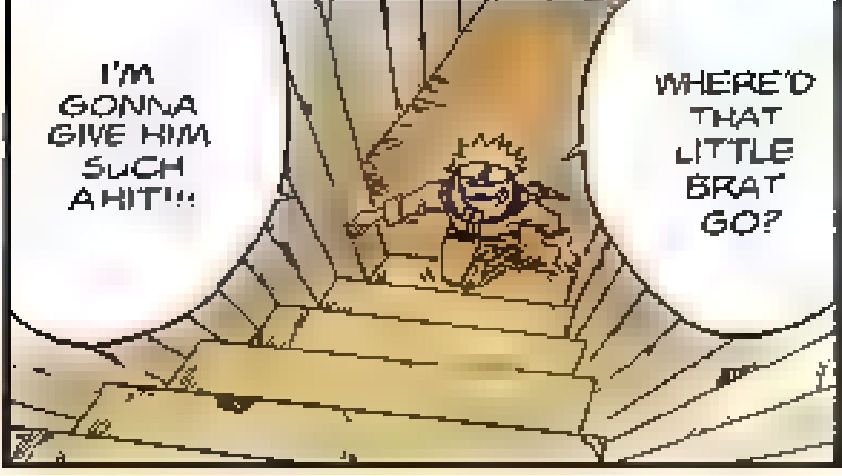


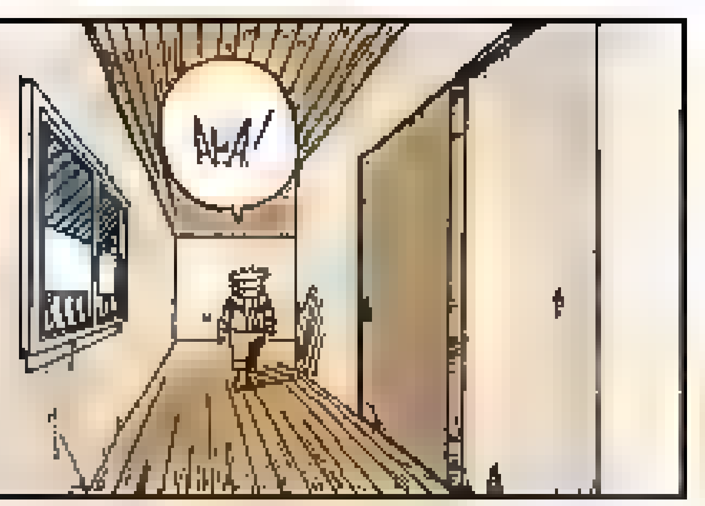


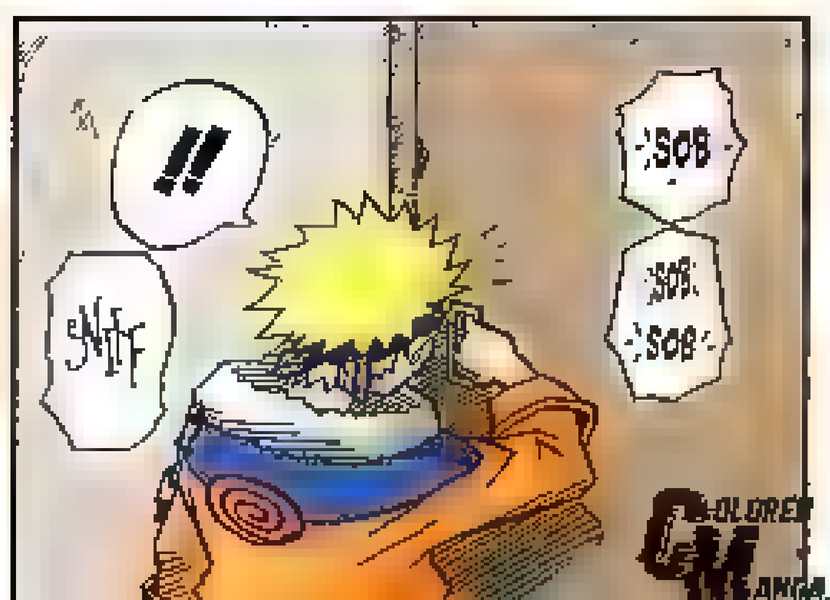

SLAM

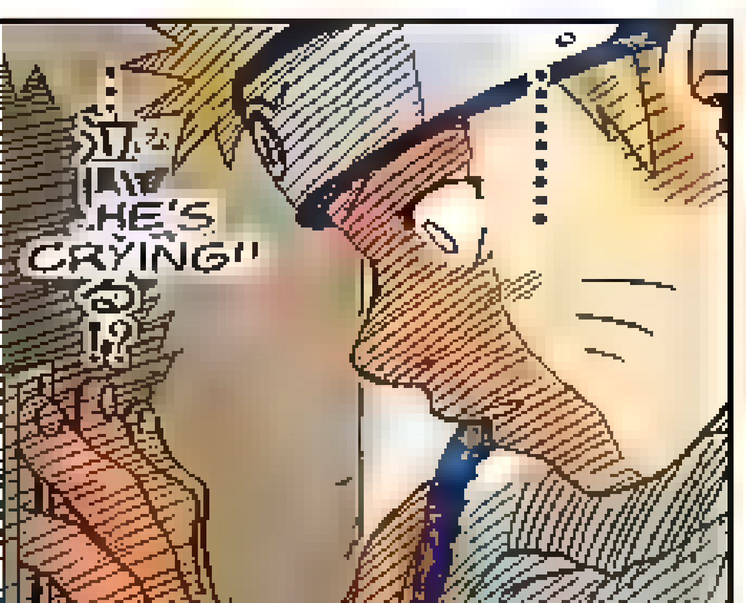

PLEASE FORGIVE HIM..


...

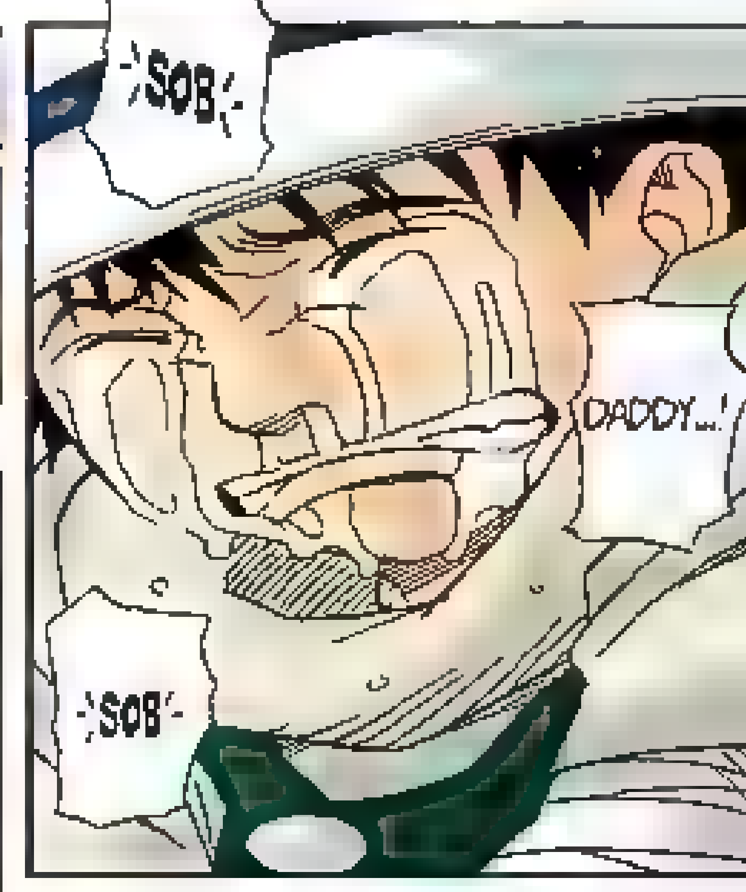

WHERE'D THAT LITTLE BRAT GO?
I'M GONNA GIVE HIM SUCH A HIT!!!

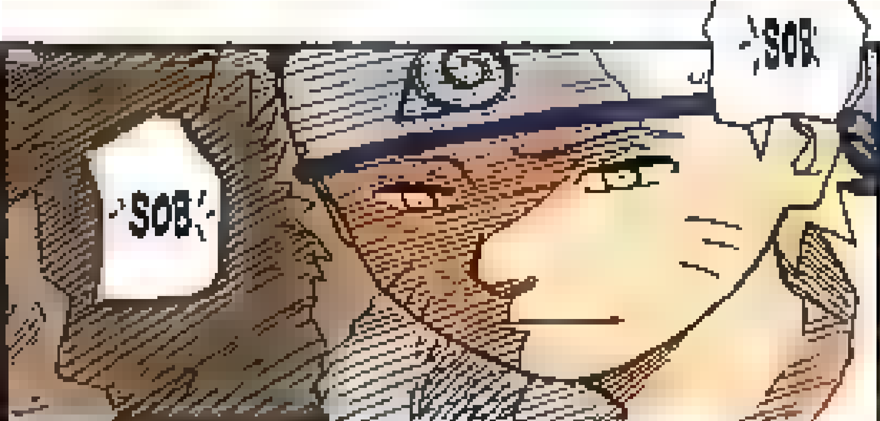



SOB
SOB
SOB
!!
SNIFF


HE'S CRYING!!


SOB
DRIP

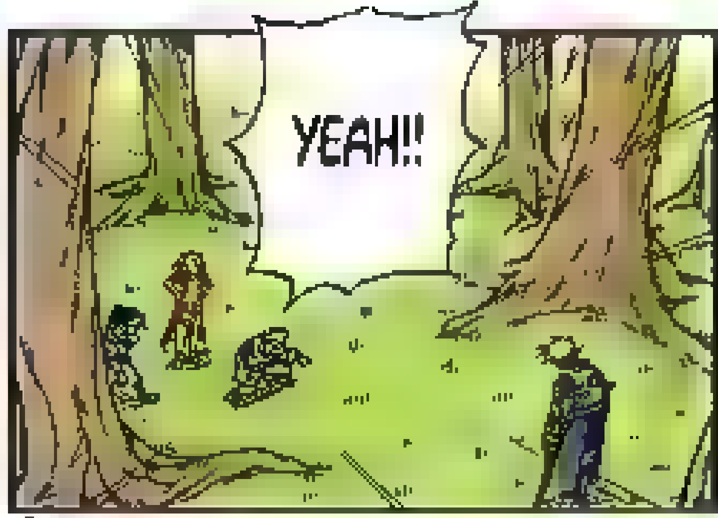

SOB
DADDY...!
SOB

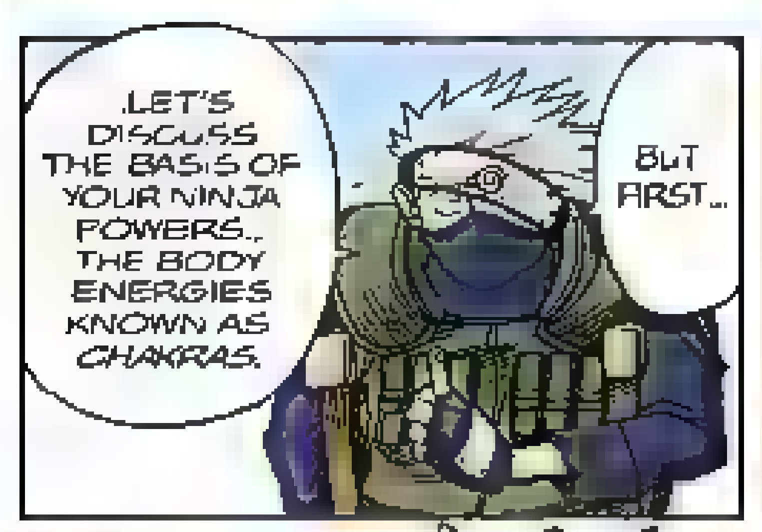

SOB
SOB

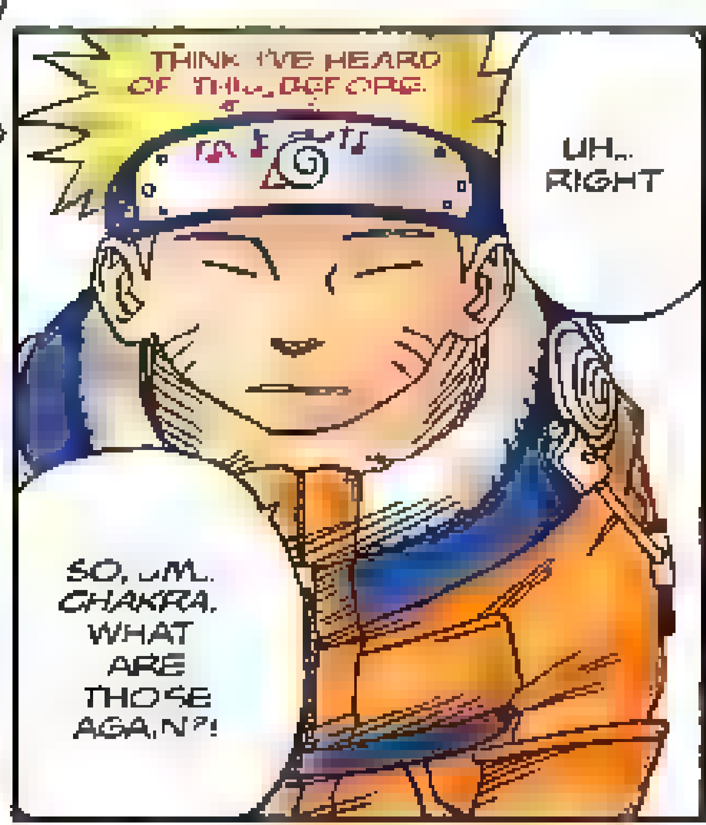

SOB
SOB




SO, IT'S DECIDED. THE NEW TRAINING REGIMEN BEGINS TODAY!


YEAH!!


BUT FIRST...
LET'S DISCUSS THE BASIS OF YOUR NINJA POWERS.. THE BODY ENERGIES KNOWN AS *CHAKRAS.*


UH.. RIGHT
THINK I'VE HEARD OF THIS BEFORE.
SO, UM.. *CHAKRA.* WHAT ARE THOSE AGAIN?!


AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A NINJA? DID YOU SLEEP THROUGH EVERY CLASS YOU EVER TOOK?

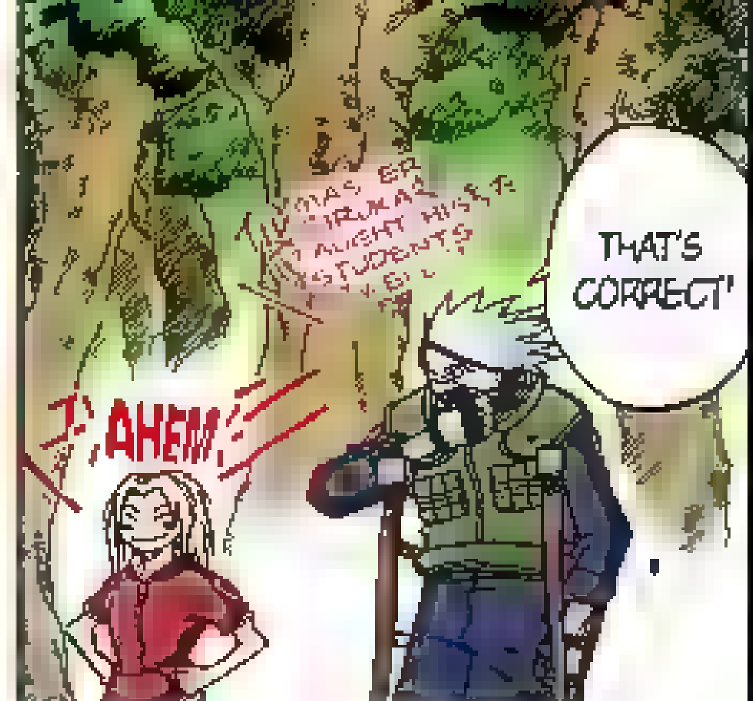

WHY DON'T YOU SAY I GOT IN SOME REALLY HIGH QUALITY NAP TIME?
THIS IS **SO** NOT GOOD..


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ALL RIGHT!
SAKURA!!
PAY ATTENTION, NARUTO!! IT'S A PAIN, BUT I'LL TRY TO KEEP IT SIMPLE! TRY TO FIND SOME STORAGE SPACE FOR THIS INFORMATION SOMEWHERE IN THAT SHINY, SMOOTH BRAIN OF YOURS.
-THE LOVELY NINJA MAIDEN SAKURA EXPLAINS IT ALL FOR YOU-
THE STORY OF CHAKRAS!!
CHAKRAS ARE, TO PUT IT SIMPLY, THE ENERGIES THAT A SHINOBI REQUIRES IN ORDER TO PERFORM NINJUTSU. BASICALLY, THESE ENERGIES ARE
(1) THOSE OF THE BODY, DRAWN FROM EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THE APPROXIMATELY 13 TRILLION CELLS THAT ARE BELIEVED TO MAKE UP THE HUMAN BODY
(2) THOSE OF THE MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL ENERGY ACQUIRED OVER THE COURSE OF MUCH TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE
TOGETHER THOSE TWO FORMS OF ENERGY ARE WHAT MAKE UP THE CHAKRAS.
IN EFFECT, ALL THE ARTS AND TECHNIQUES OF THE SHINOBI ARE BORN OF A COMBINATION OF THOSE 2 ENERGIES, BROUGHT FORTH FROM THE BODY AND THE SPIRIT -IN WHAT IS CALLED "MANIPULATING THE CHAKRAS" -AND FOCUSED IN THE MYSTIC PROCESS KNOWN AS "WEAVING THE SIGNS."
SIGN
BODY
MIND
術
NINJUTSU
"FIRE STYLE", FOR EXAMPLE
-READ AND REPEAT UNTIL YOU FIND IT STARTS TO MAKE SENSE
"LOVELY NINJA MAIDEN...?!"



I DON'T DO SO WELL WITH LONG EXPLANATIONS, BUT IF YOU COULD JUST SHOW ME, MY BODY CAN LEARN IT!!
YEAH, YEAH, WHATEVER!



THAT'S CORRECT!
AHEM



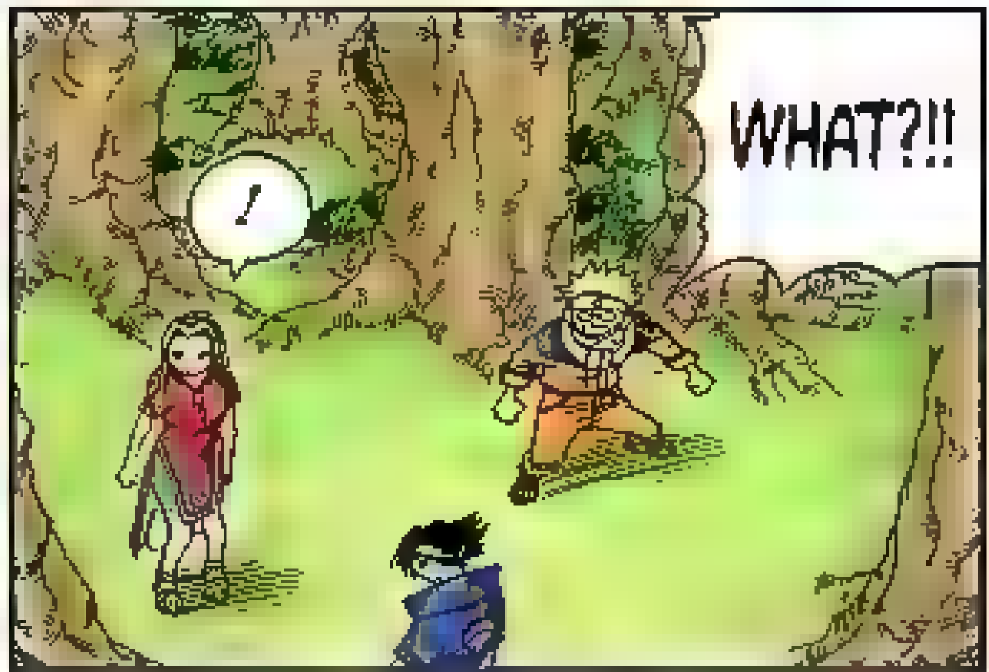
WRONG.
NONE OF YOU YET HAS FULL MASTERY OF YOUR CHAKRA!



NARUTO'S RIGHT...
WE ALL ALREADY EMPLOY THE NINJA ARTS AND TECHNIQUES...



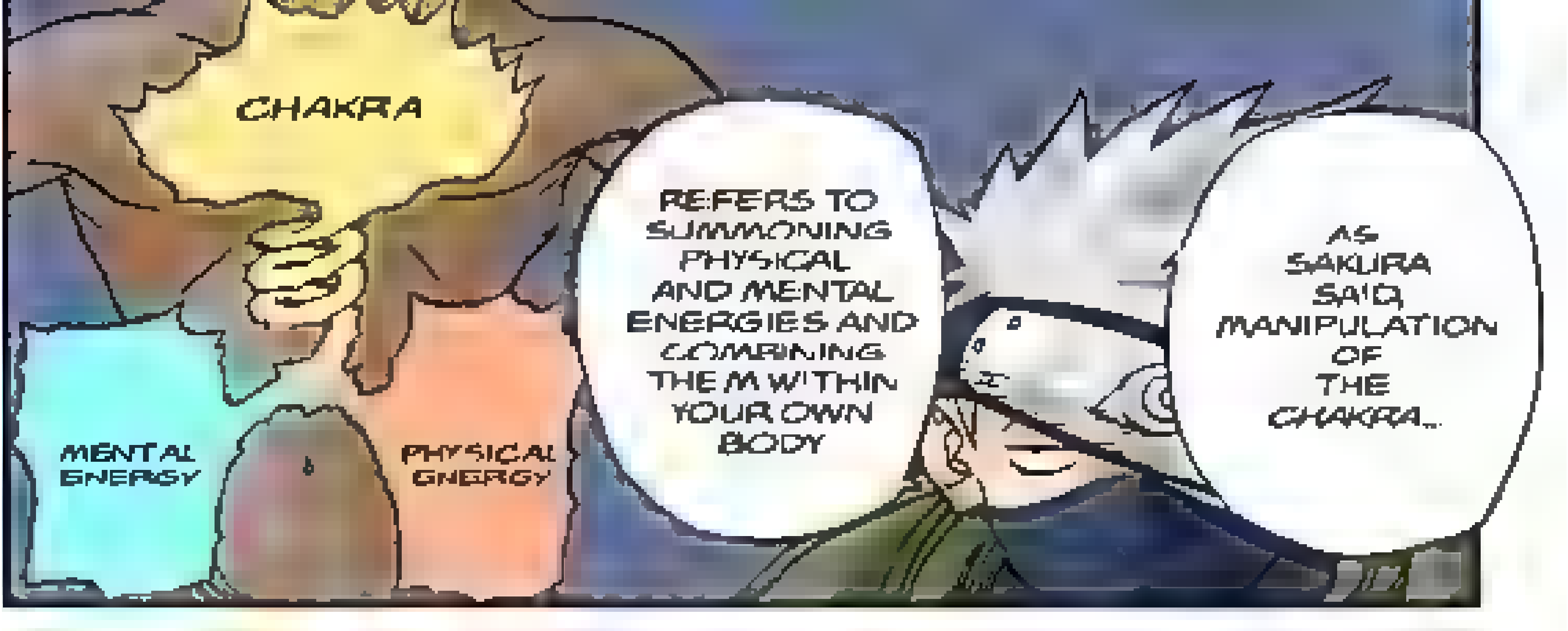
NOW, LISTEN...

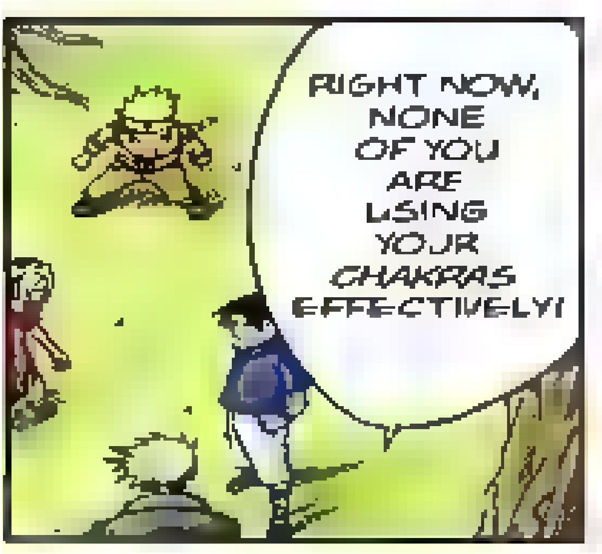


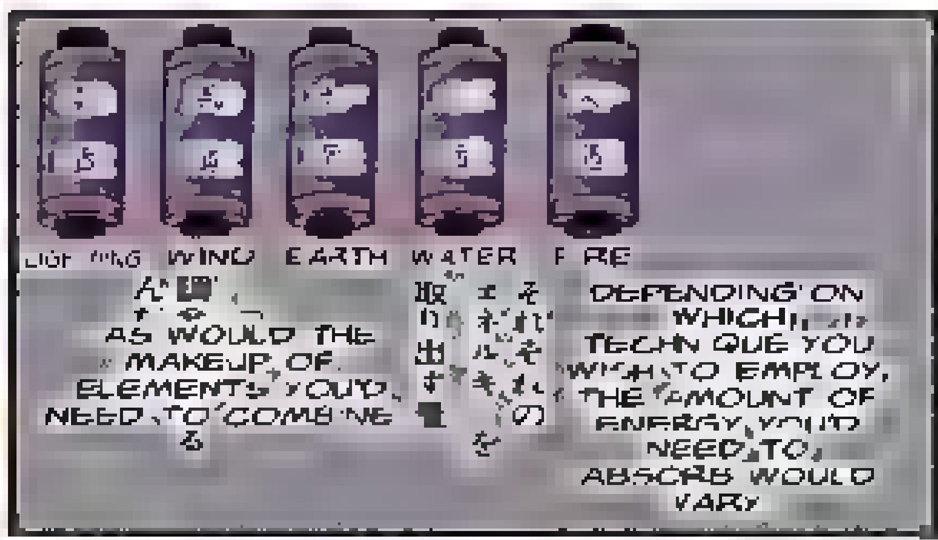
WHAT?!!
!

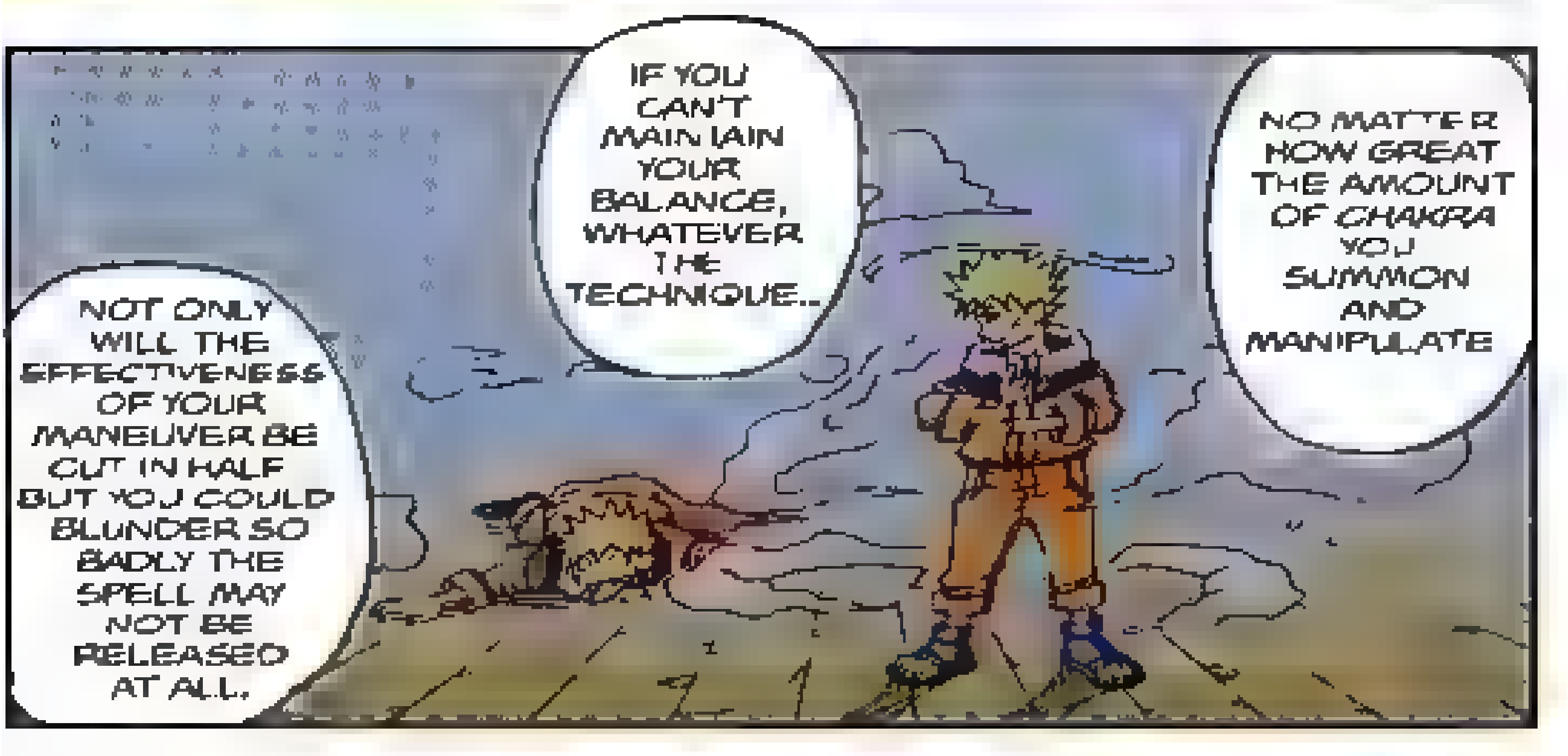


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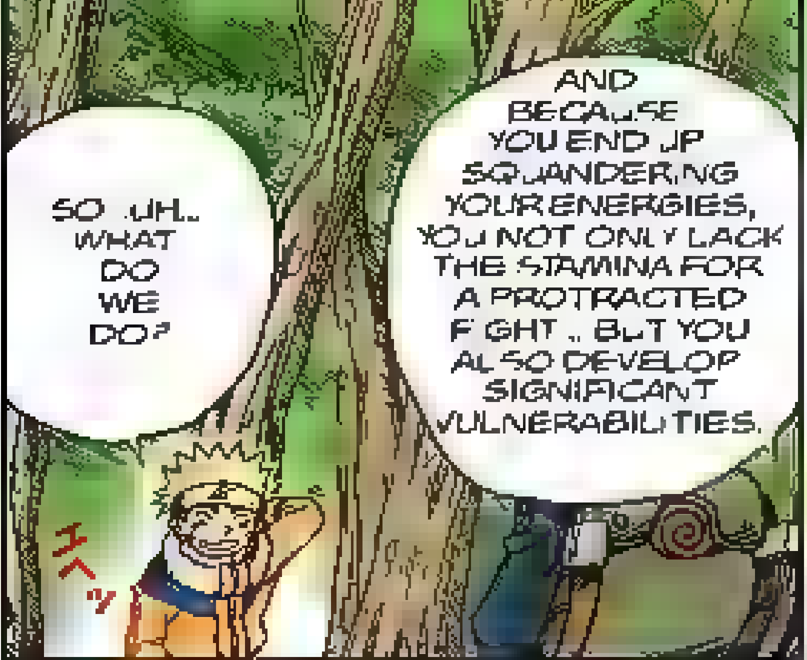

AS SAKURA SAID, MANIPULATION OF THE CHAKRA...
REFERS TO SUMMONING PHYSICAL AND MENTAL ENERGIES AND COMBINING THEM WITHIN YOUR OWN BODY
CHAKRA
MENTAL ENERGY
PHYSICAL ENERGY

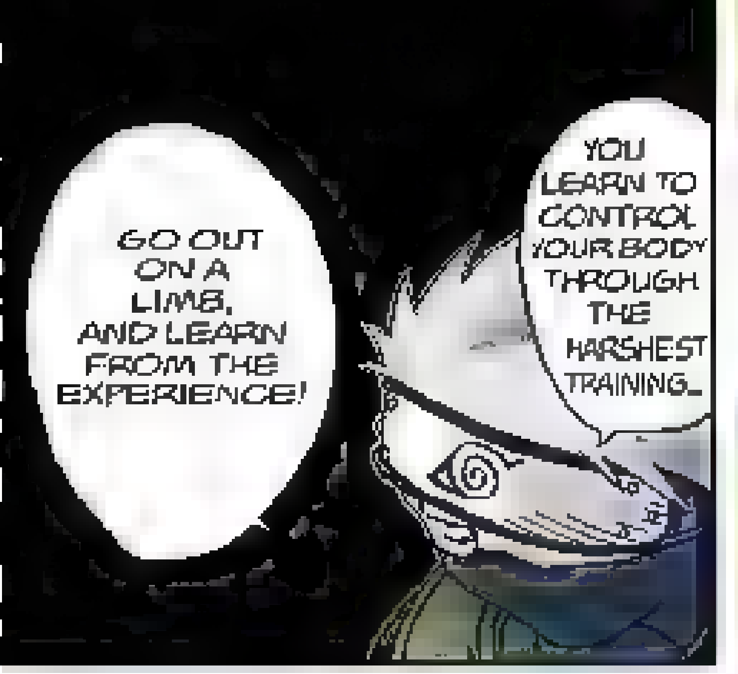

RIGHT NOW, NONE OF YOU ARE USING YOUR CHAKRAS EFFECTIVELY!

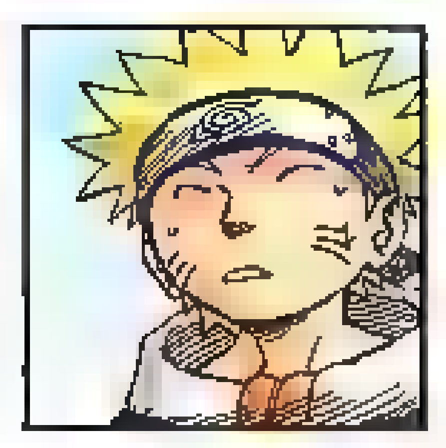

WIND
EARTH
WATER
AS WOULD THE MAKEUP OF ELEMENTS YOU'D NEED TO COMBINE
DEPENDING ON WHICH TECHNIQUE YOU WISH TO EMPLOY, THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY YOU'D NEED TO ABSORB WOULD VARY

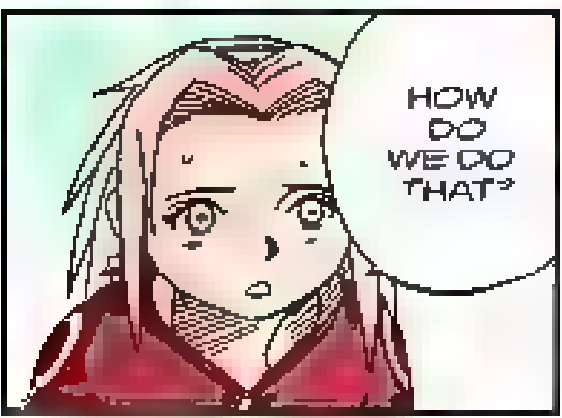

NO MATTER HOW GREAT THE AMOUNT OF CHAKRA YOU SUMMON AND MANIPULATE
IF YOU CAN'T MAINTAIN YOUR BALANCE, WHATEVER THE TECHNIQUE...
NOT ONLY WILL THE EFFECTIVENESS OF YOUR MANEUVER BE CUT IN HALF BUT YOU COULD BLUNDER SO BADLY THE SPELL MAY NOT BE RELEASED AT ALL.













HOW?

WE CLIMB TREES!





デジタルカラー版

NARUTO—ナルト—

２巻

岸本斉史

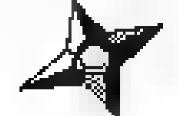
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デジタル版発行　2012 年

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http://www.shueisha.co.jp

この作品は、著者カラー原画に加え、著者の原画をもとに集英社でデジタル彩色を行った特別編集版です。




JUMP COMICS
巻ノ三
NARUTO
-ナルト-
岸本斉史
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We're in the third volume of **Naruto**. I feel like I've developed a lot working on this title, but I still have a long way to go. My heart and body are still weak! I must devote a mountain of training to my work on **Naruto**! I want everyone to join me and share in the excitement of **Naruto**!

-Masashi Kishimoto, 2000

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** ("mechanism"). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.



JUMP COMICS

NARUTO

-ナルト-

巻ノ三

夢の為に…!!

岸本斉史





主な登場人物
うずまきナルト
うちはサスケ
春野サクラ



前巻までのあらすじ

THE STORY SO FAR

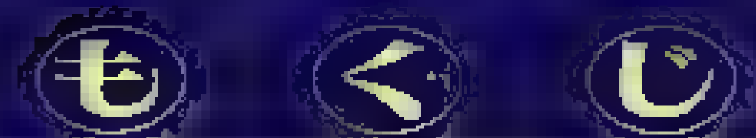
Naruto, Sasuke and Sakura are a team of apprentice ninjas from the ninja village of Konohagakure. On their first big mission, they (and their trainer Kakashi) found themselves bodyguarding the bridgebuilder Tazuna on his way back home to the Land of the Waves. But Tazuna hadn't revealed that he was the target of professional hitmen, hired by the evil millionaire Gato to keep him from finishing his bridge! In a desperate fight, the four ninja were able to defeat the assassin Zabuza—but a mysterious masked ninja stole Zabuza's body before the heroes realized he wasn't dead. Now, assassins and bodyguards are both preparing for a rematch...

NARUTO

―ナルト―

巻ノ三

夢(ゆめ)の為(ため)に…!!

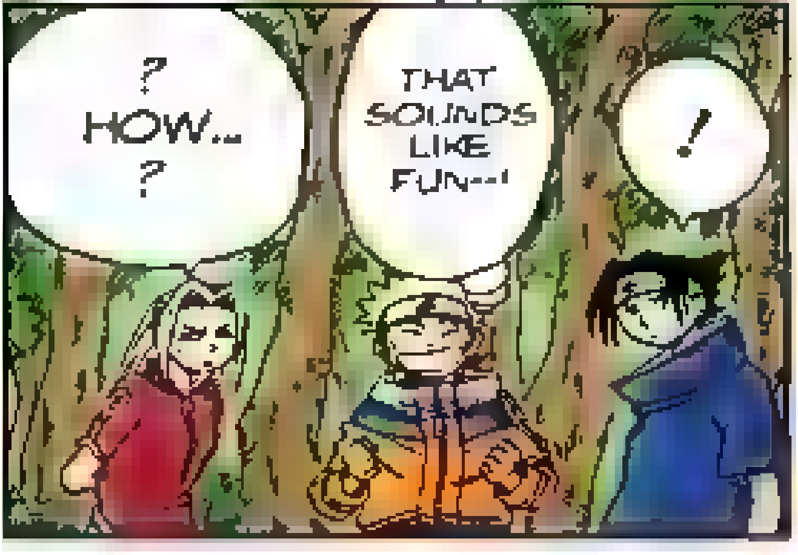


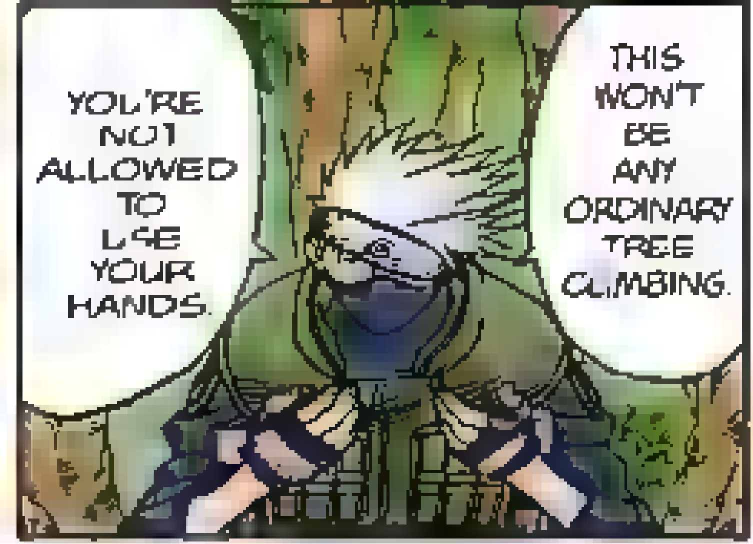
CONTENTS






18：修業開始
TRAINING DAY
CLIMB TREES --?!!
THAT'S RIGHT_
LISTEN

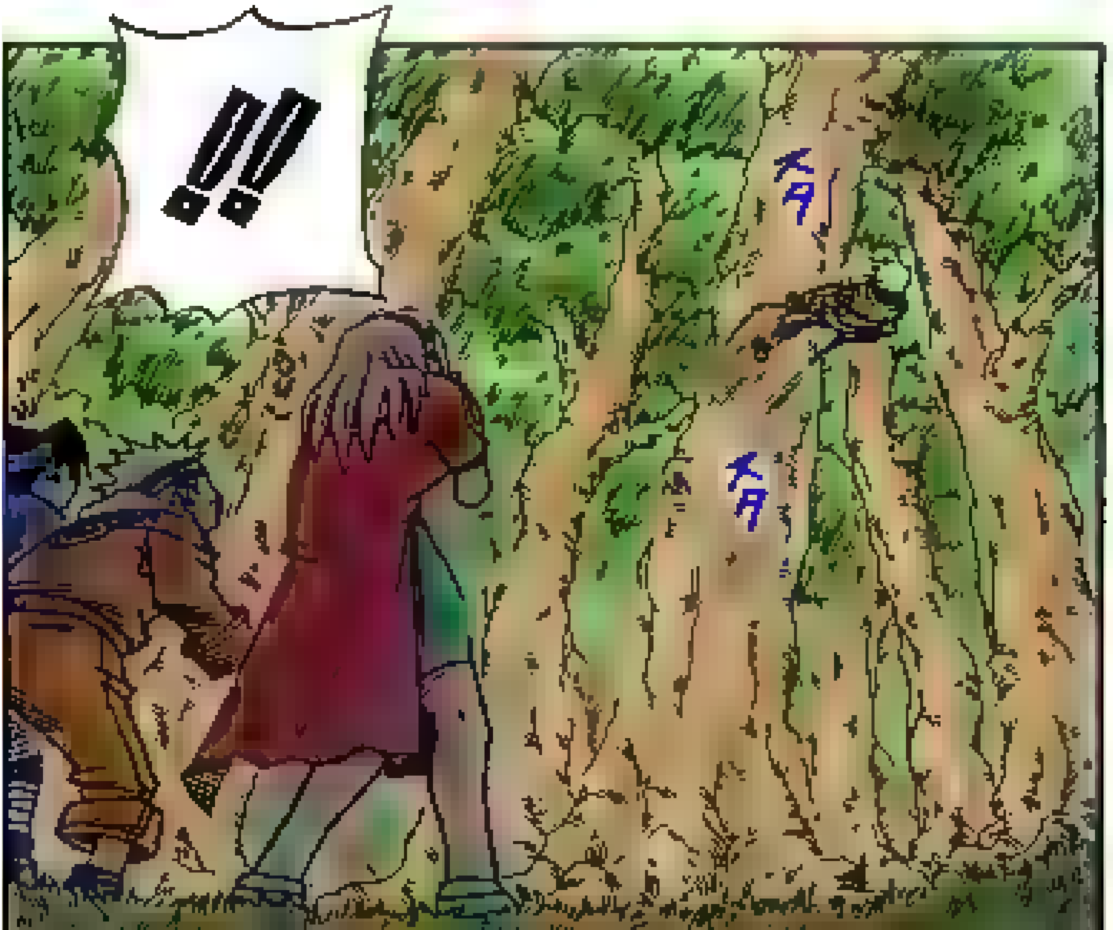

? HOW... ?
THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN--!
!

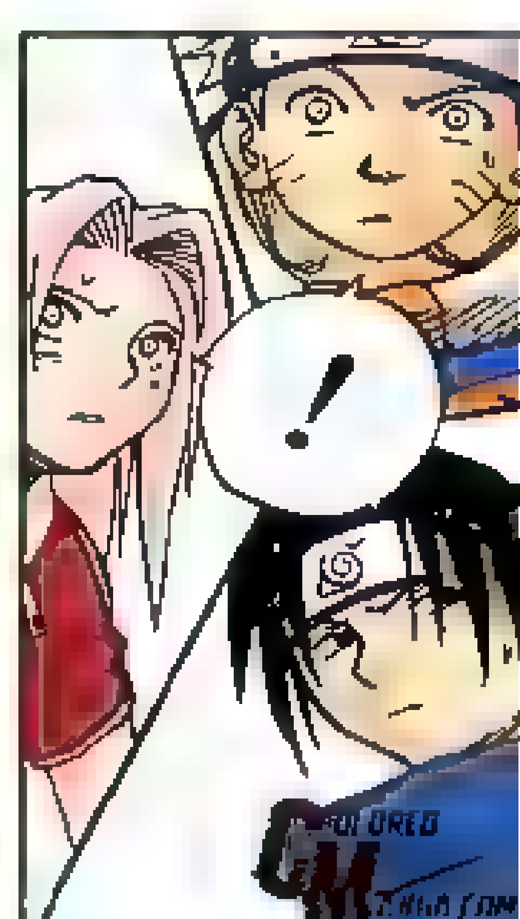

YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO USE YOUR HANDS.
THIS WON'T BE ANY ORDINARY TREE CLIMBING.

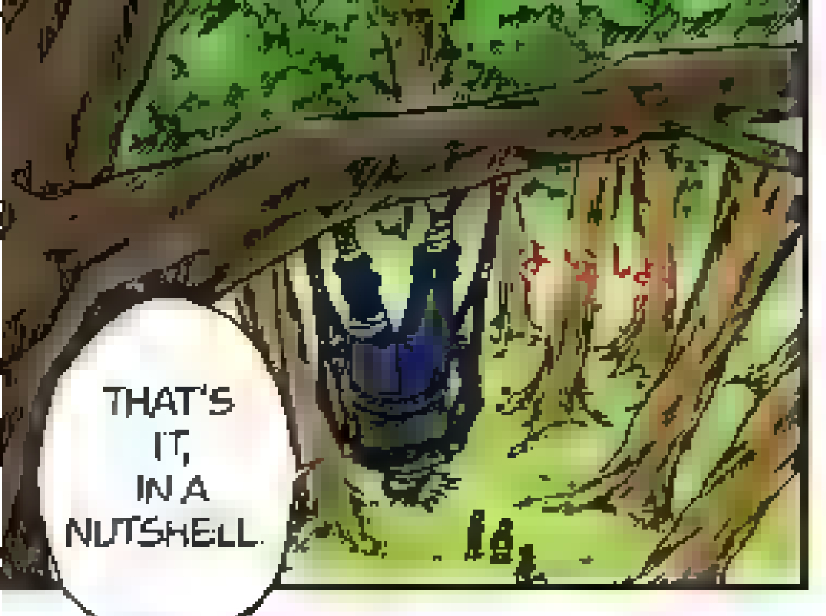

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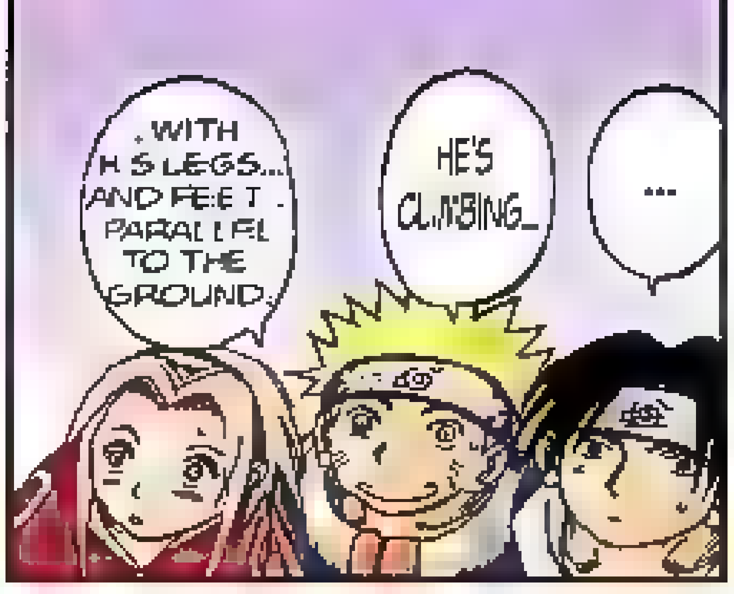


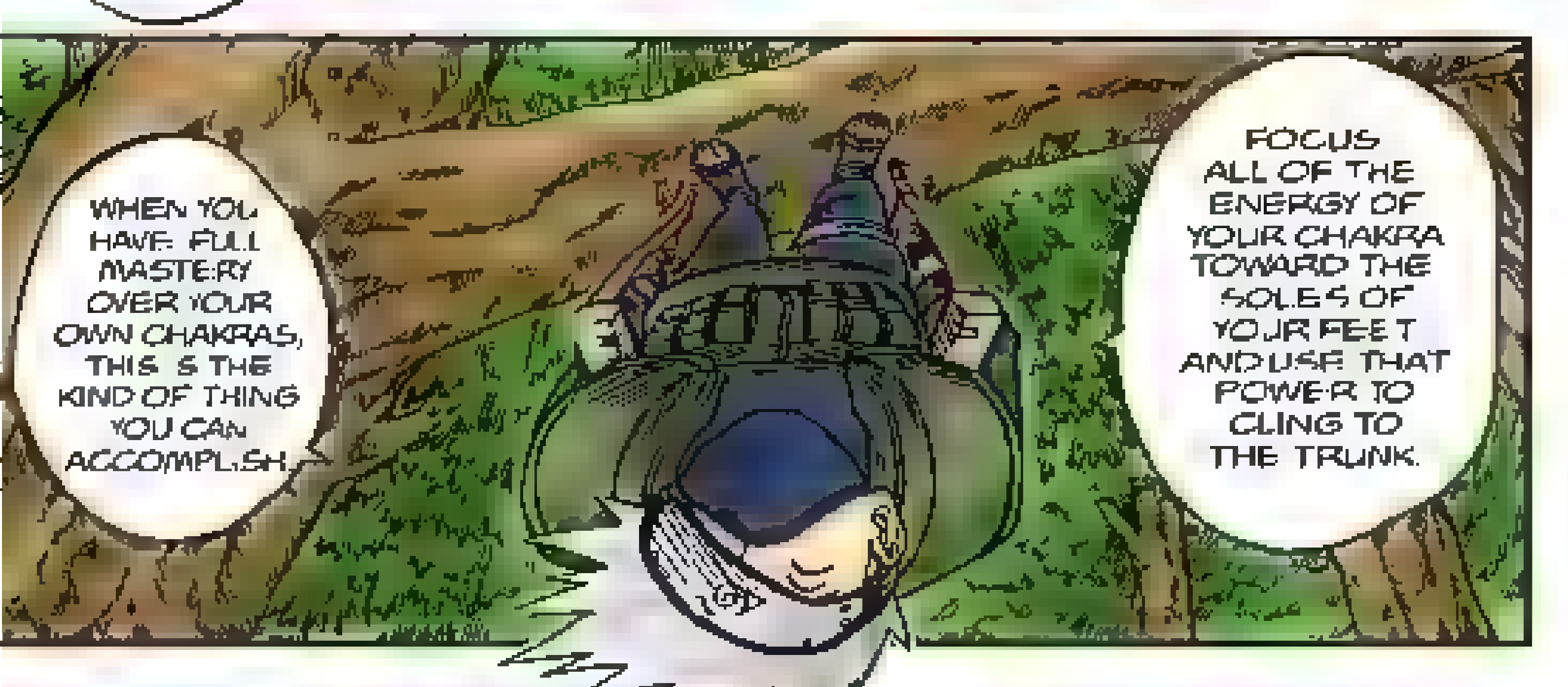

WATCH AND LEARN.
CLAP


!!
スタ
スタ

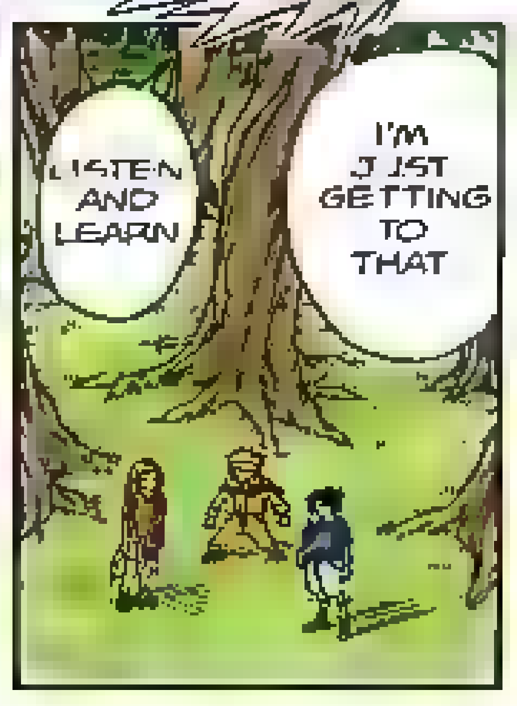

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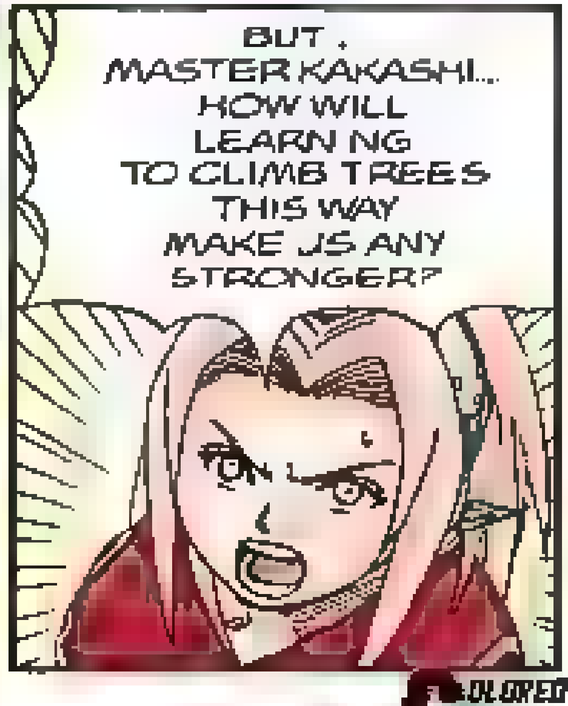

THAT'S IT, IN A NUTSHELL.

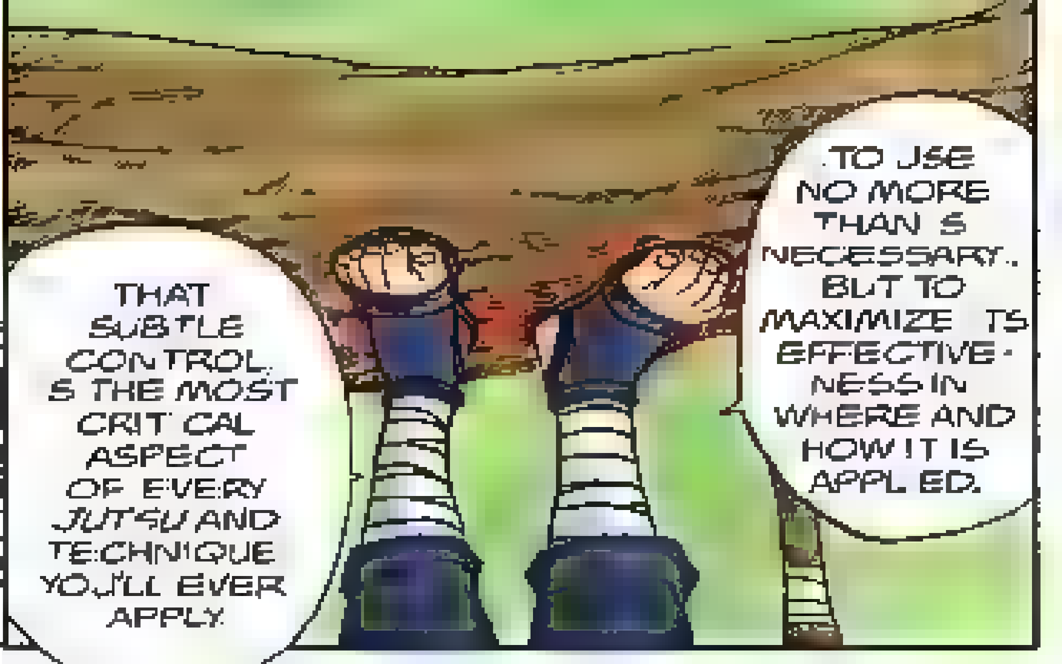

...WITH HIS LEGS... AND FEET... PARALLEL TO THE GROUND.
HE'S CLIMBING...
...

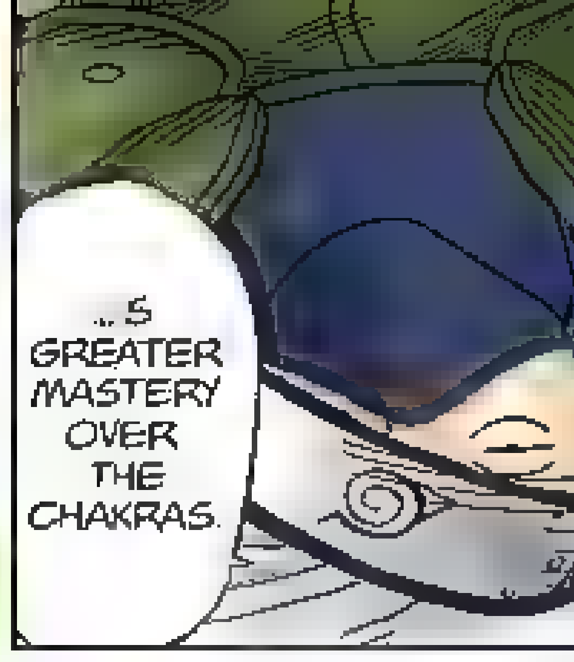

WHEN YOU HAVE FULL MASTERY OVER YOUR OWN CHAKRAS, THIS IS THE KIND OF THING YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH.
FOCUS ALL OF THE ENERGY OF YOUR CHAKRA TOWARD THE SOLES OF YOUR FEET AND USE THAT POWER TO CLING TO THE TRUNK.

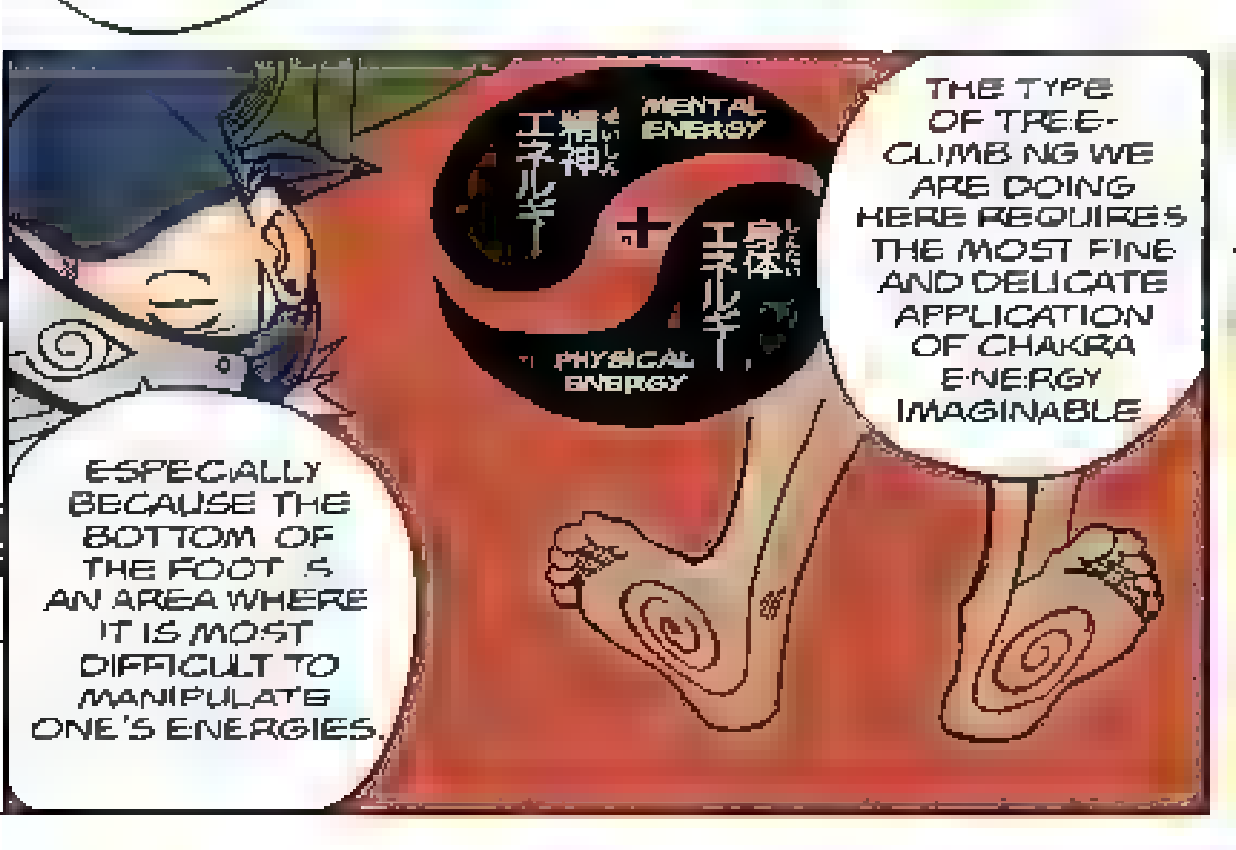

THE POINT OF IT ALL, THE GOAL.


LISTEN AND LEARN.
I'M JUST GETTING TO THAT.


BUT... MASTER KAKASHI... HOW WILL LEARNING TO CLIMB TREES THIS WAY MAKE US ANY STRONGER?


THAT SUBTLE CONTROL IS THE MOST CRITICAL ASPECT OF EVERY *JUTSU* AND TECHNIQUE YOU'LL EVER APPLY.
TO USE NO MORE THAN IS NECESSARY, BUT TO MAXIMIZE ITS EFFECTIVE-NESS IN WHERE AND HOW IT IS APPLIED.


...IS GREATER MASTERY OVER THE CHAKRAS.

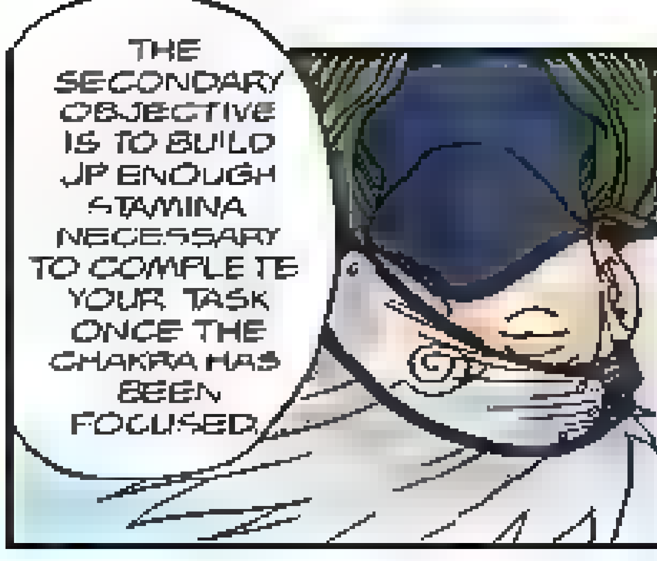

THE TYPE OF TREE-CLIMBING WE ARE DOING HERE REQUIRES THE MOST FINE AND DELICATE APPLICATION OF CHAKRA ENERGY IMAGINABLE.
精神エネルギー
MENTAL ENERGY
身体エネルギー
PHYSICAL ENERGY
ESPECIALLY BECAUSE THE BOTTOM OF THE FOOT IS AN AREA WHERE IT IS MOST DIFFICULT TO MANIPULATE ONE'S ENERGIES.

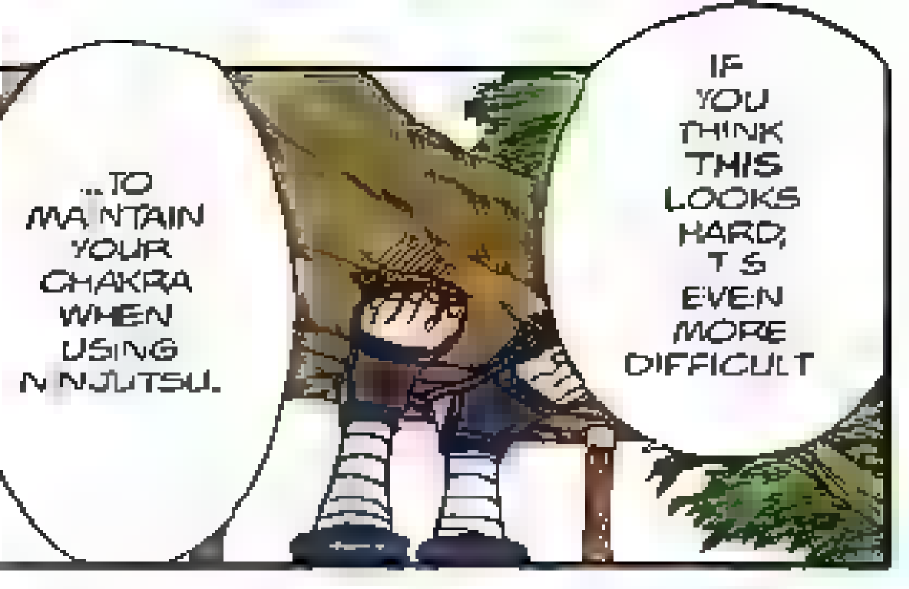

IT'S ALSO THE MOST DIFFICULT SKILL FOR EVEN A MASTER NINJA TO COMMAND.




IN OTHER WORDS --
-- IF YOU CAN MASTER THE CONTROL NEEDED FOR THIS SKILL, NO *JUTSU* SHOULD EVER BE BEYOND YOU.
IN THEORY, ANYWAY.

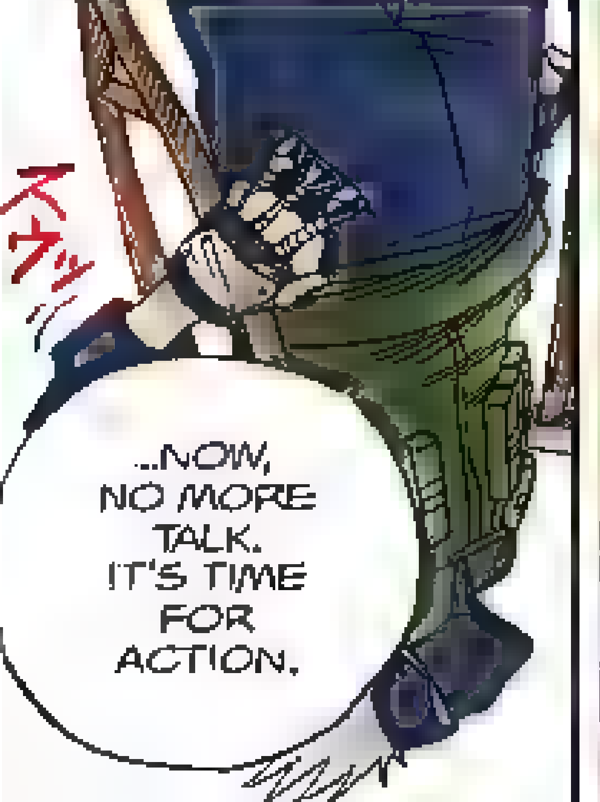

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THE SECONDARY OBJECTIVE IS TO BUILD UP ENOUGH STAMINA NECESSARY TO COMPLETE YOUR TASK ONCE THE CHAKRA HAS BEEN FOCUSED.

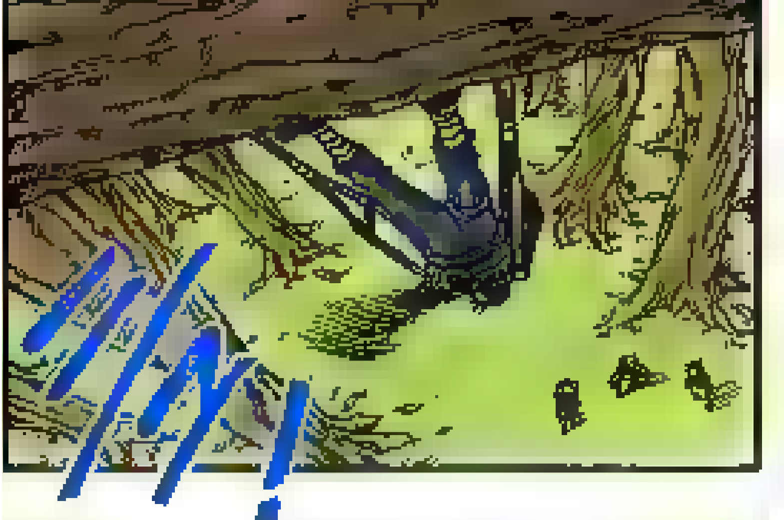

IF YOU THINK THIS LOOKS HARD, IT'S EVEN MORE DIFFICULT
...TO MAINTAIN YOUR CHAKRA WHEN USING NINJUTSU.

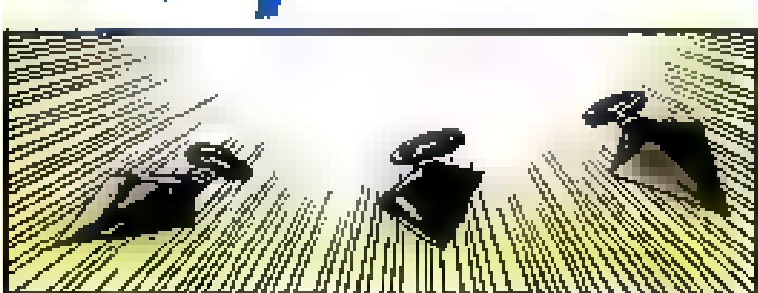

IN BATTLE, CIRCUMSTANCES ARE CONSTANTLY CHANGING, AND A TRUE SHINOBI HAS TO BE ABLE TO MANIPULATE AND MAINTAIN HIS CHAKRAS ON THE FLY, IF HE EVER HOPES TO PREVAIL.
THE TIME YOU NEED TO JUST STAND AROUND TRYING TO SUMMON AND CONTROL YOUR OWN POWERS IS A LUXURY YOU WON'T HAVE.

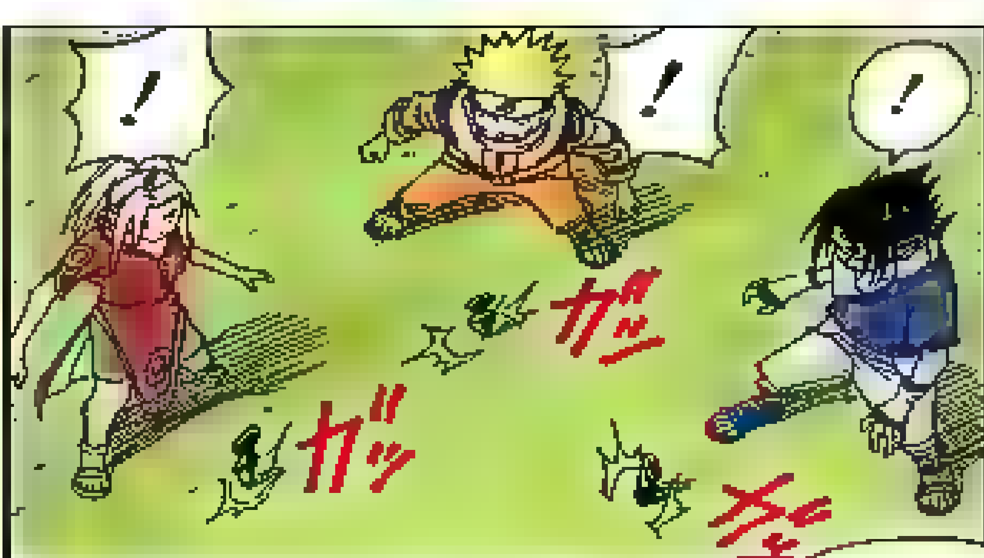

SO WHILE YOU'RE CLIMBING THOSE TREES...
...YOU'LL ALSO BE MASTERING SKILLS THAT WILL PROBABLY SAVE YOUR LIVES.

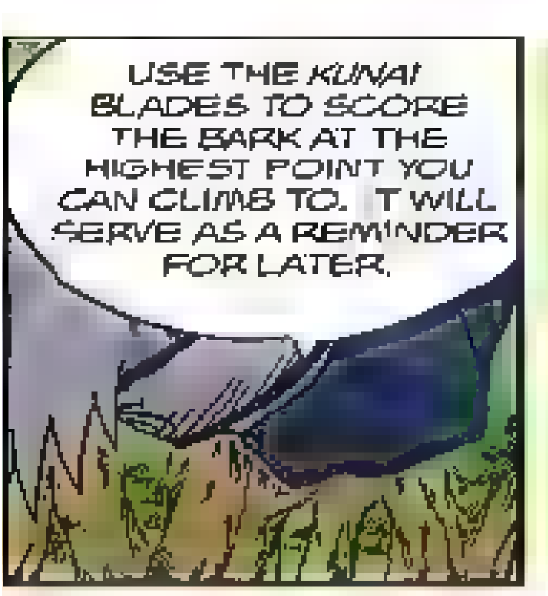

...NOW, NO MORE TALK. IT'S TIME FOR ACTION.


THE ONLY WAY TO LEARN IS BY DOING.






!
!
!
ガッ
ガッ


USE THE *KUNAI* BLADES TO SCORE THE BARK AT THE HIGHEST POINT YOU CAN CLIMB TO. IT WILL SERVE AS A REMINDER FOR LATER.

I DON'T EXPECT ANY OF YOU TO REACH THE TREETOP ON YOUR FIRST TRY.
YOUR GOAL IS TO MAKE A MARK ON A HIGHER SPOT EACH TIME YOU CLIMB.


A RUNNING START WILL PROBABLY GIVE ENOUGH MOMENTUM FOR A GOOD FIRST EFFORT ALL RIGHT?




NO SWEAT!!
I COULD DO THIS ONE BEFORE BREAKFAST!
I'M THE FASTEST-DEVELOPING NINJA ON THIS TEAM!
LESS TALK AND MORE ACT ON
CHOOSE YOUR TREES AND UP YOU GO!
FOCUS MY CHAKRA N' MY FEET
RIGHT
...
AA~!!
READY OR NOT, HERE I COME!!
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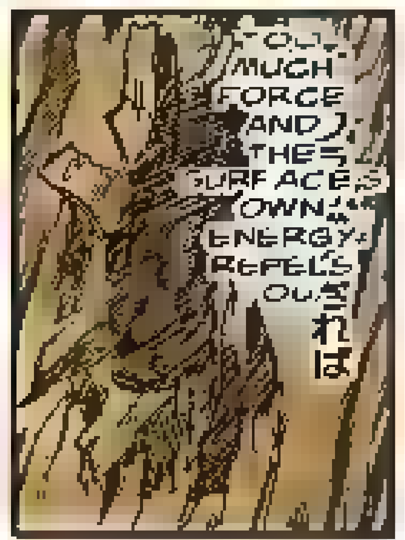
WHOOP
OWWW..!!

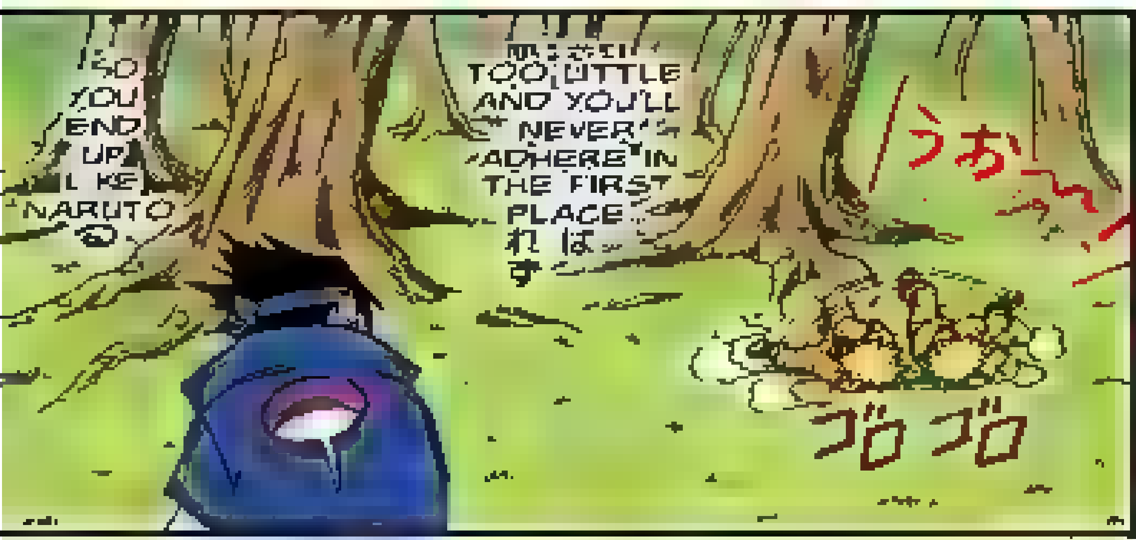

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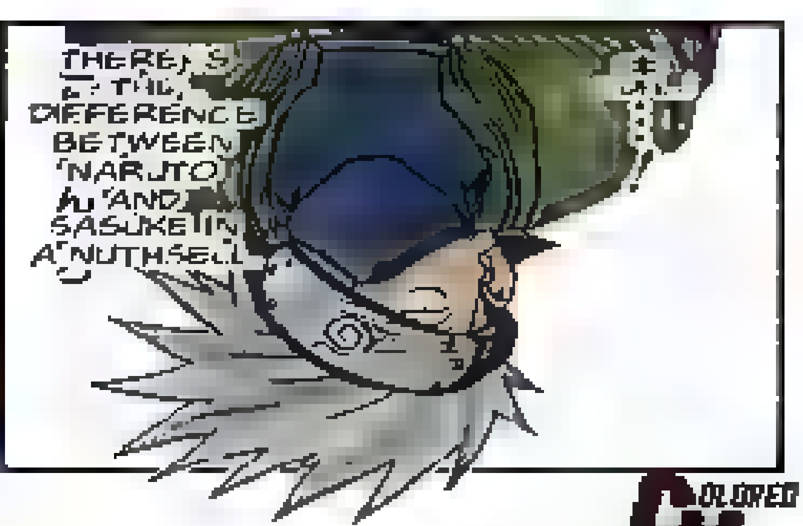

バキ
ACK..!
バチィ!

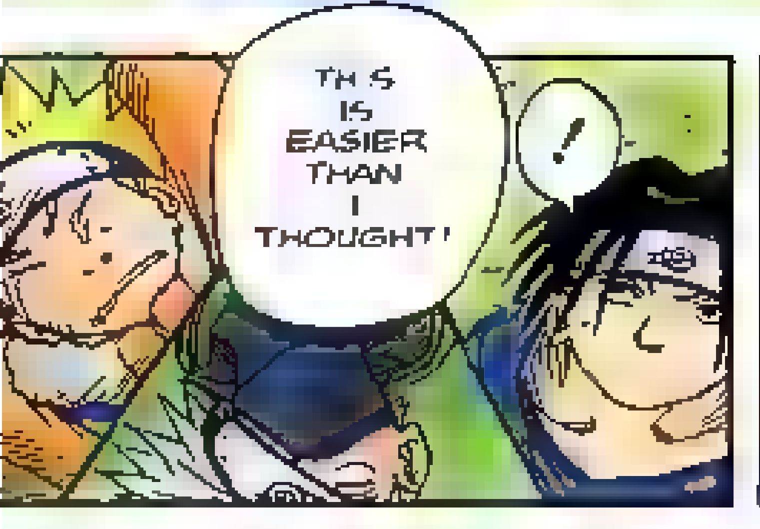

RRR..

MAINTAINING FOCUS IS A LOT HARDER THAN EXPECTED.







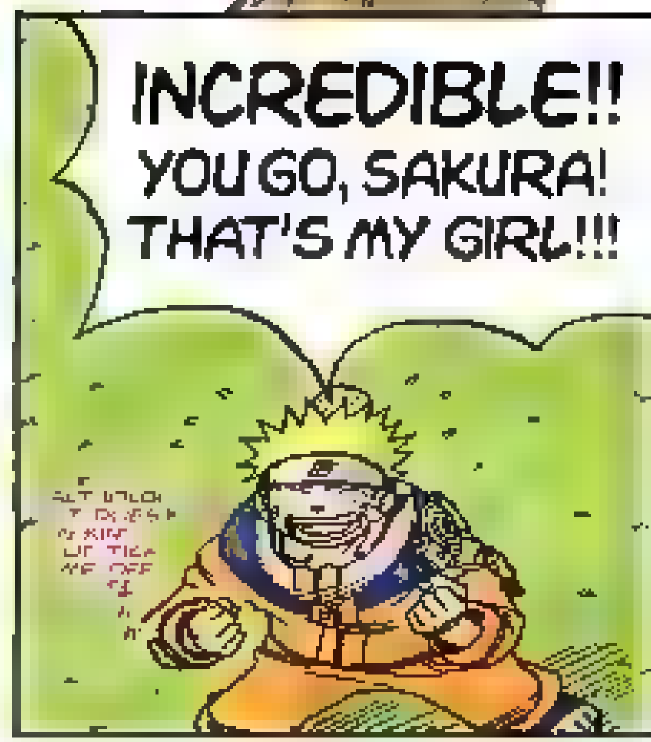


SAKURA...?!

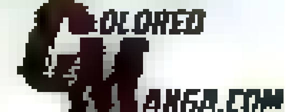
WELL, NOW WE KNOW WHICH OF YOU THREE HAS THE BEST CONTROL OVER HER CHAKRAS.

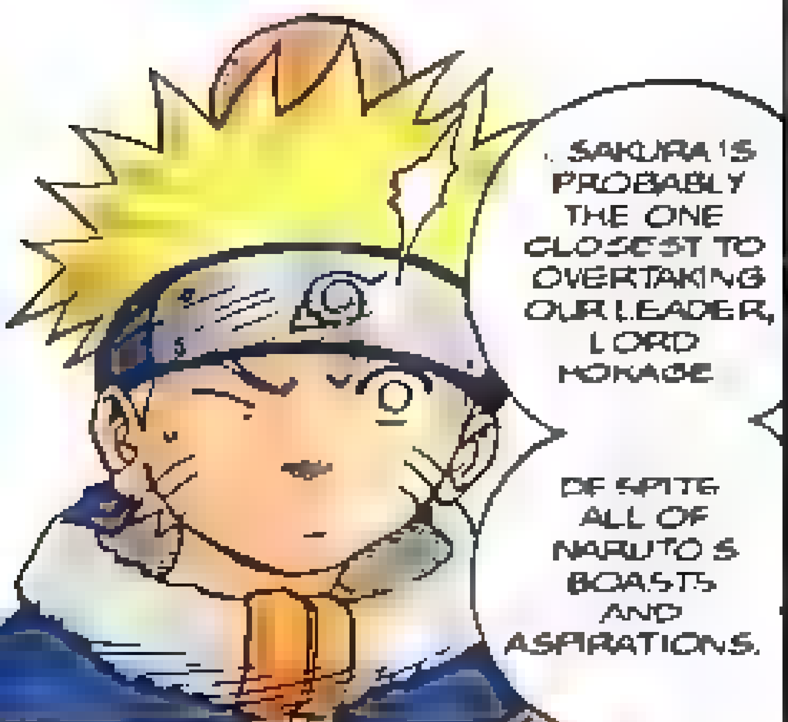
OUR YOUNG LADY.

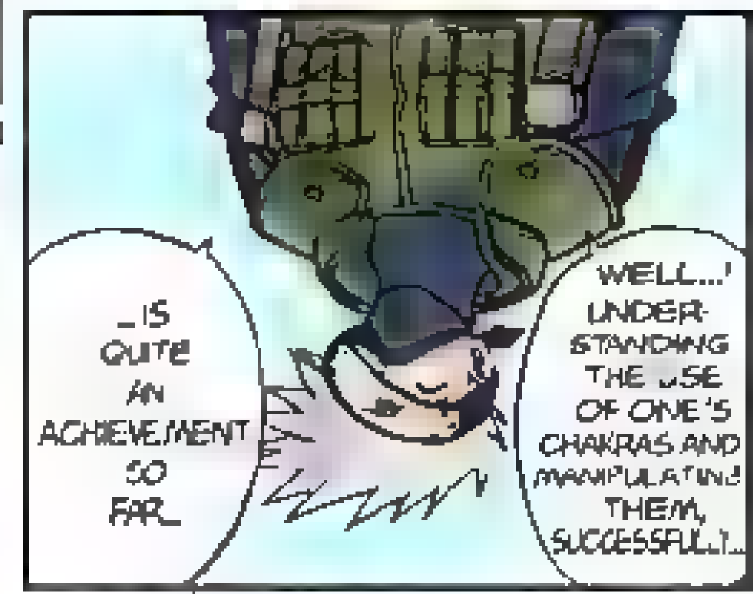






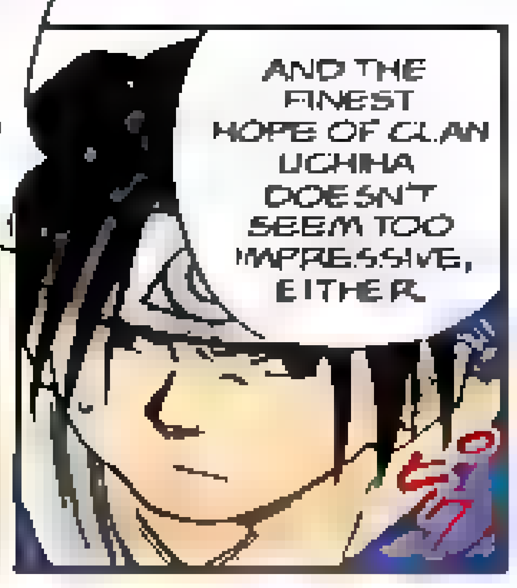


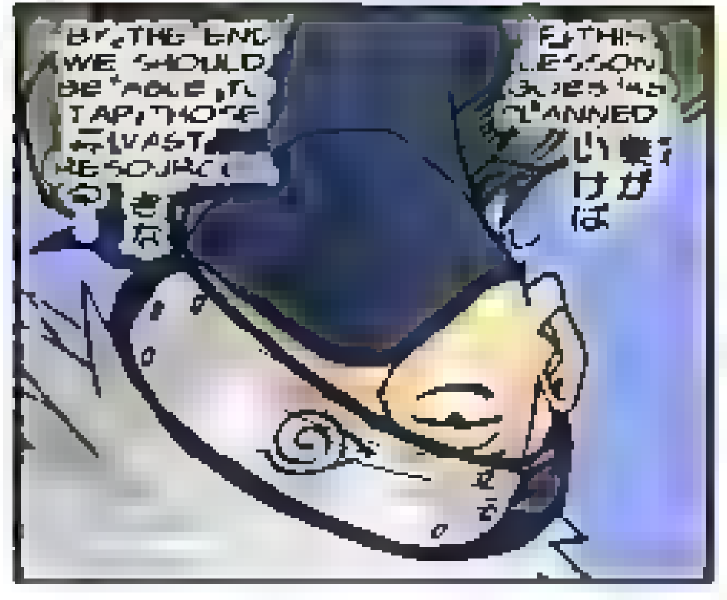

SAKURA IS PROBABLY THE ONE CLOSEST TO OVERTAKING OUR LEADER, LORD HOKAGE.
DESPITE ALL OF NARUTO'S BOASTS AND ASPIRATIONS.

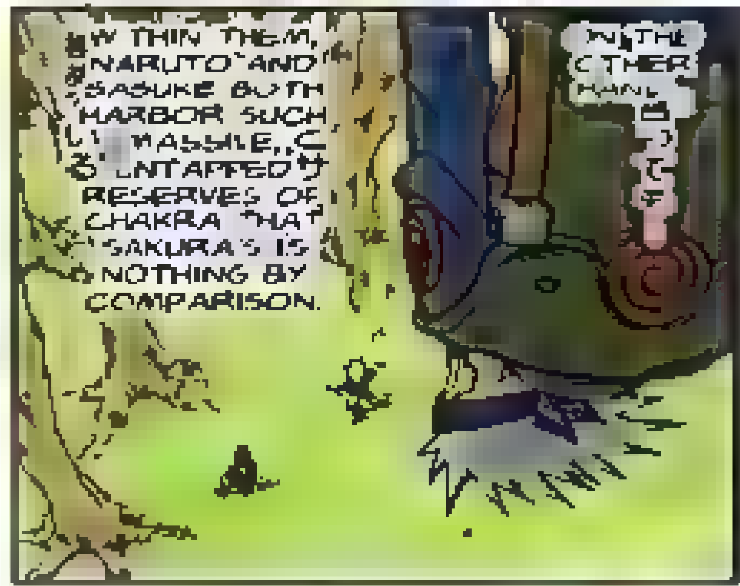

WELL...! UNDERSTANDING THE USE OF ONE'S CHAKRAS AND MANIPULATING THEM, SUCCESSFULLY...
...IS QUITE AN ACHIEVEMENT SO FAR...



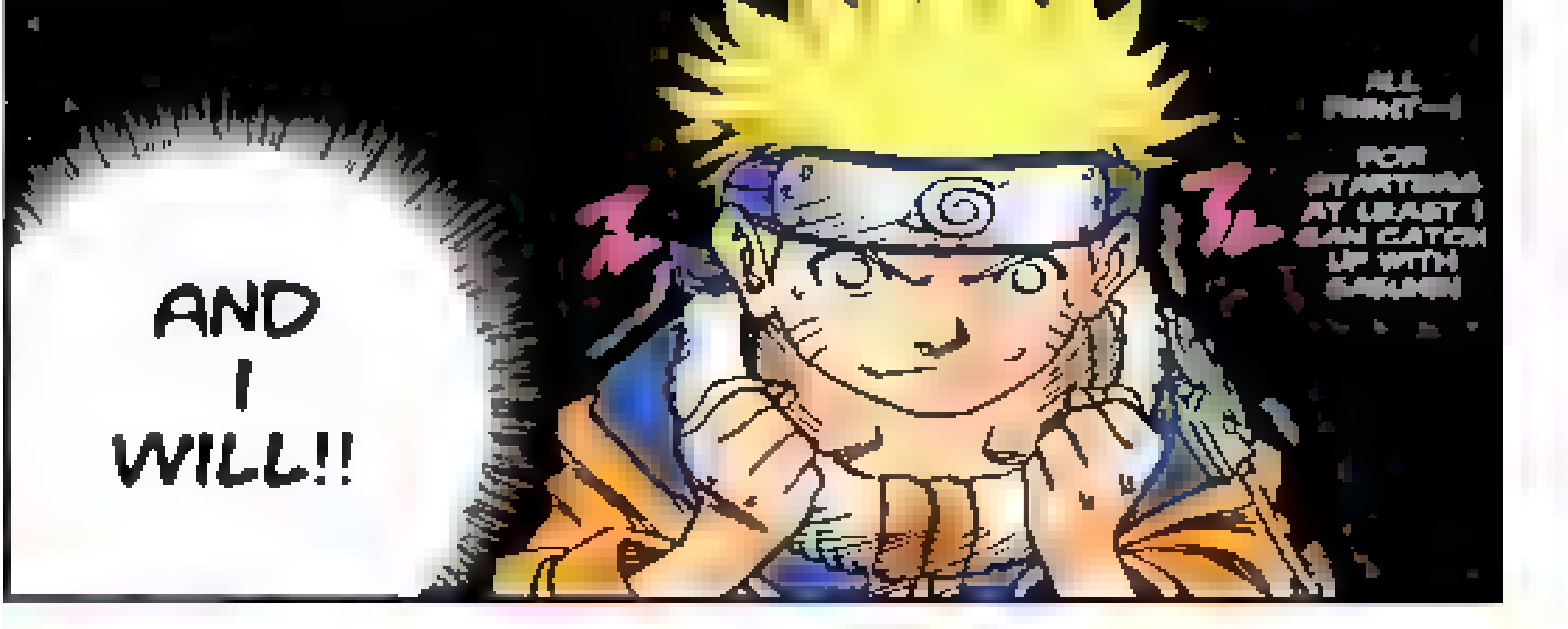

MASTER KAKASHI, HOW COULD YOU?!


AND THE FINEST HOPE OF CLAN UCHIHA DOESN'T SEEM TOO IMPRESSIVE, EITHER.


THIS LESSON GOES AS PLANNED
BY THE END WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAP THOSE VAST


WITHIN THEM, NARUTO AND SASUKE BOTH HARBOR SUCH MASSIVE, UNTAPPED RESERVES OF CHAKRA THAT SAKURA'S IS NOTHING BY COMPARISON.
ON THE OTHER HAND




ALL RIGHT— FOR STARTERS AT LEAST I CAN CATCH UP WITH SASUKE!
AND I WILL!!




...

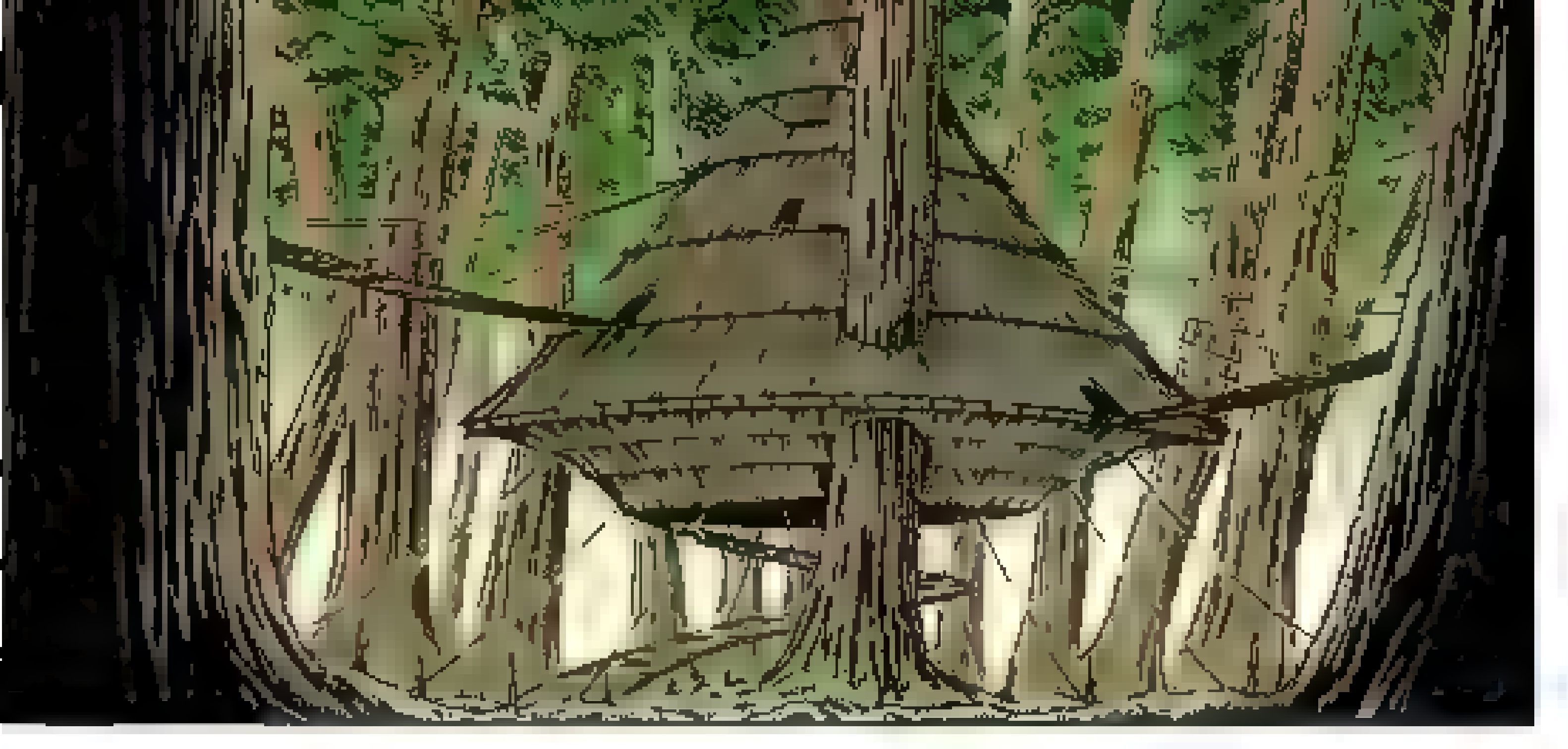

THEY'RE WASTING THEIR TIME!!
HAH!!


SKUF


KRAK




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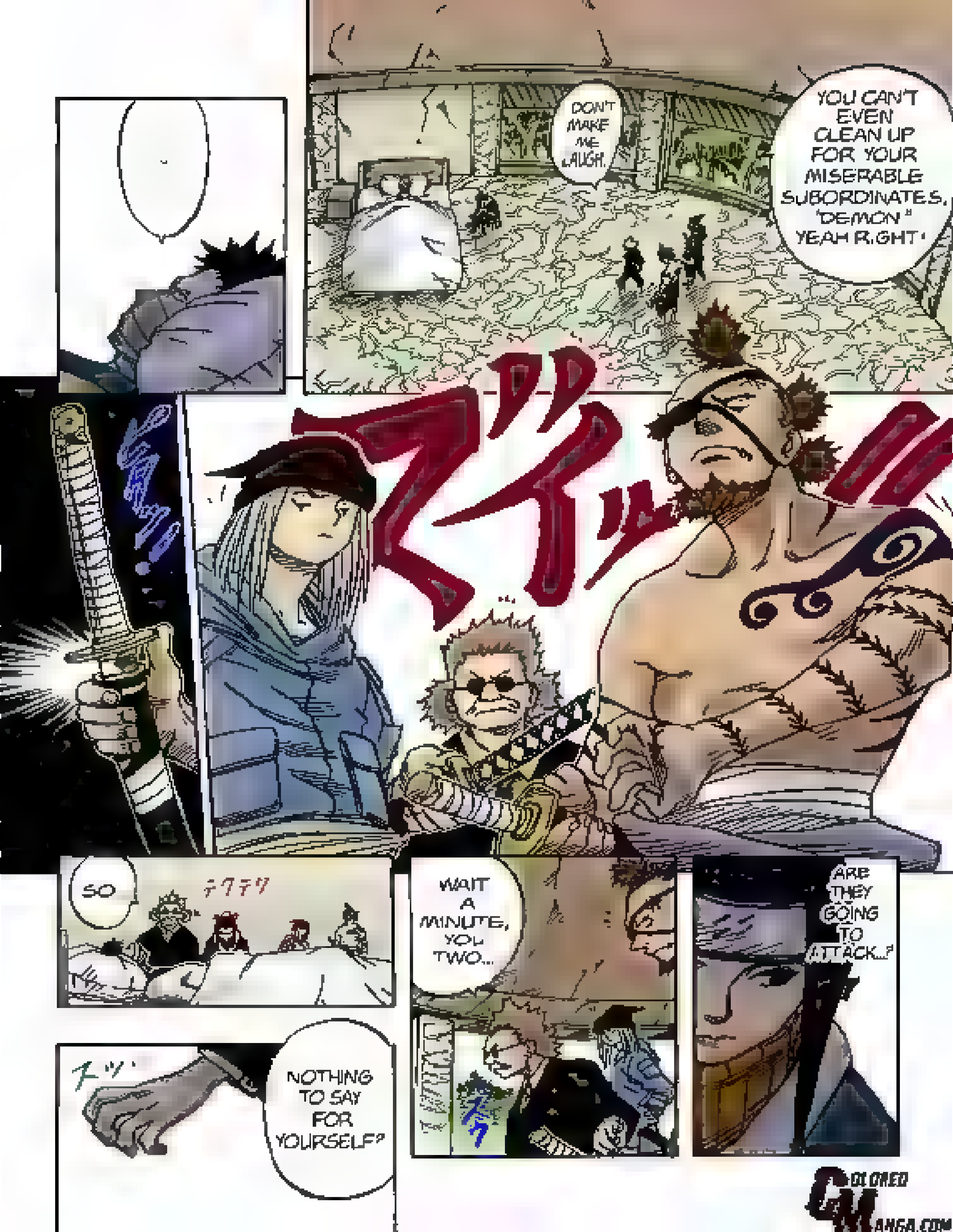
ガチャ

I'M SURPRISED YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO SHOW YOUR FACE AROUND HERE AFTER TAKING A BEATING LIKE THAT.

NINJA FROM THE LAND OF THE MIST WOULD APPEAR TO BE VASTLY OVERRATED.

WARAJI
SAMURAI BODYGUARD IN THE SERVICE OF GATÔ

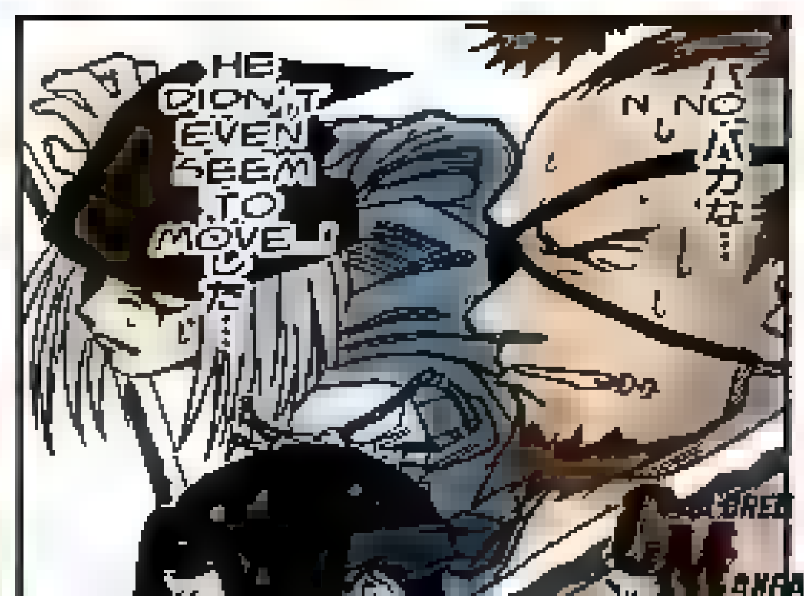
ZOURI
SAMURAI BODYGUARD IN THE SERVICE OF GATÔ

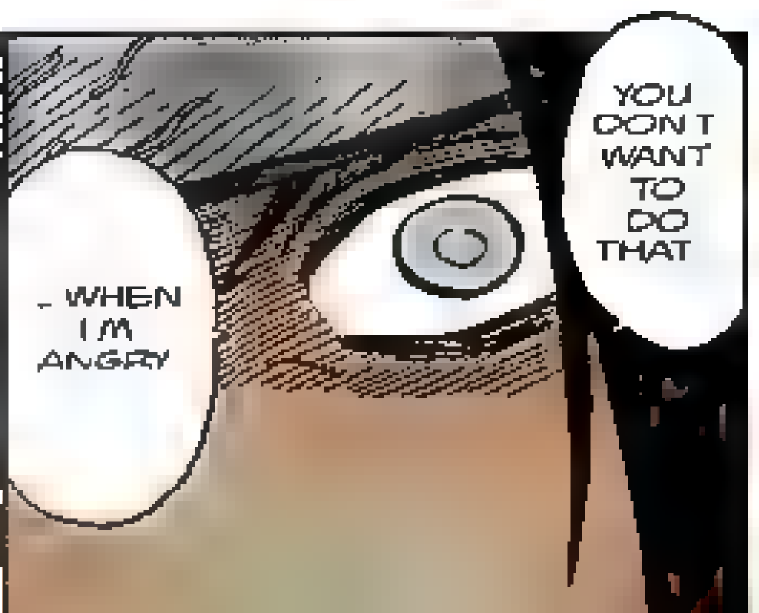

YOU CAN'T EVEN CLEAN UP FOR YOUR MISERABLE SUBORDINATES, 'DEMON' YEAH RIGHT!
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
SO
テクテク
ARE THEY GOING TO ATTACK...?
WAIT A MINUTE, YOU TWO...
NOTHING TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?
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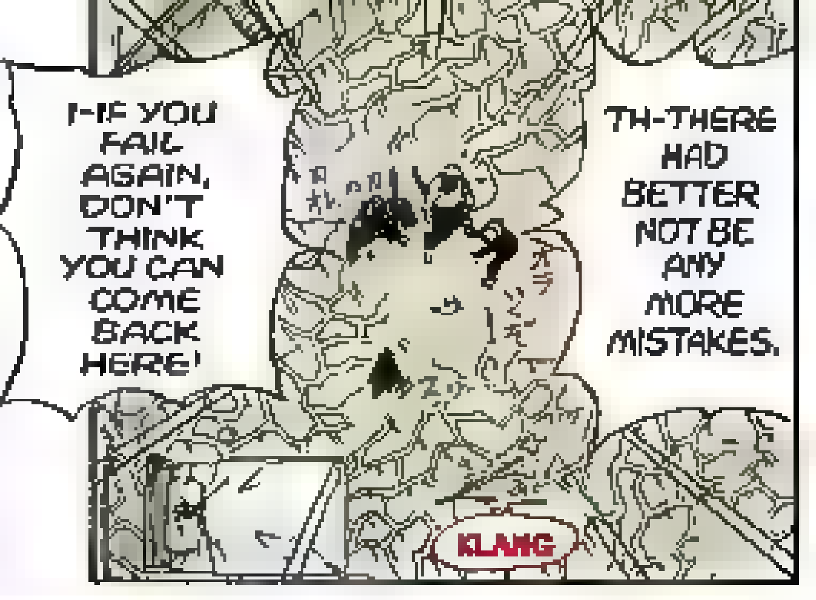

NO LAST WORDS?
DON'T DEFILE LORD ZABUZA WITH YOUR TOUCH.
HOW DARE YOU?

!!

!!


HE DIDN'T EVEN SEEM TO MOVE


YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT
...WHEN I'M ANGRY



I-IF YOU FAIL AGAIN, DON'T THINK YOU CAN COME BACK HERE!
TH-THERE HAD BETTER NOT BE ANY MORE MISTAKES.
KLANG





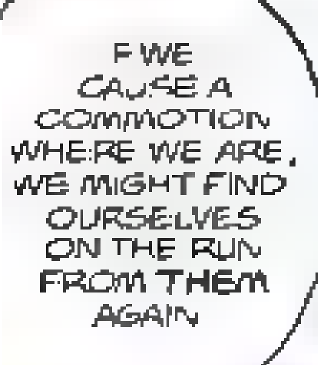
HE'S SOME KIND OF MONSTER...



HAKU... THERE WAS NO NEED FOR YOU TO...



バタン



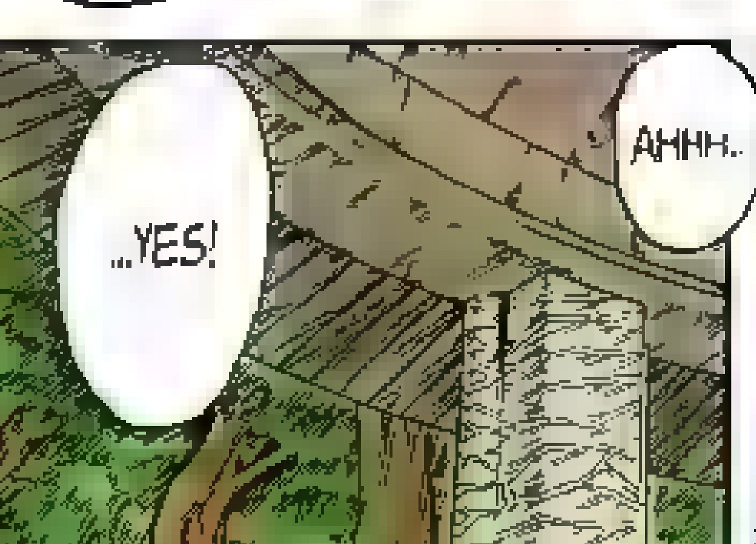
F WE CAUSE A COMMOTION WHERE WE ARE, WE MIGHT FIND OURSELVES ON THE RUN FROM THEM AGAIN



BUT T'S TOO SOON TO FINISH GATÔ OFF.



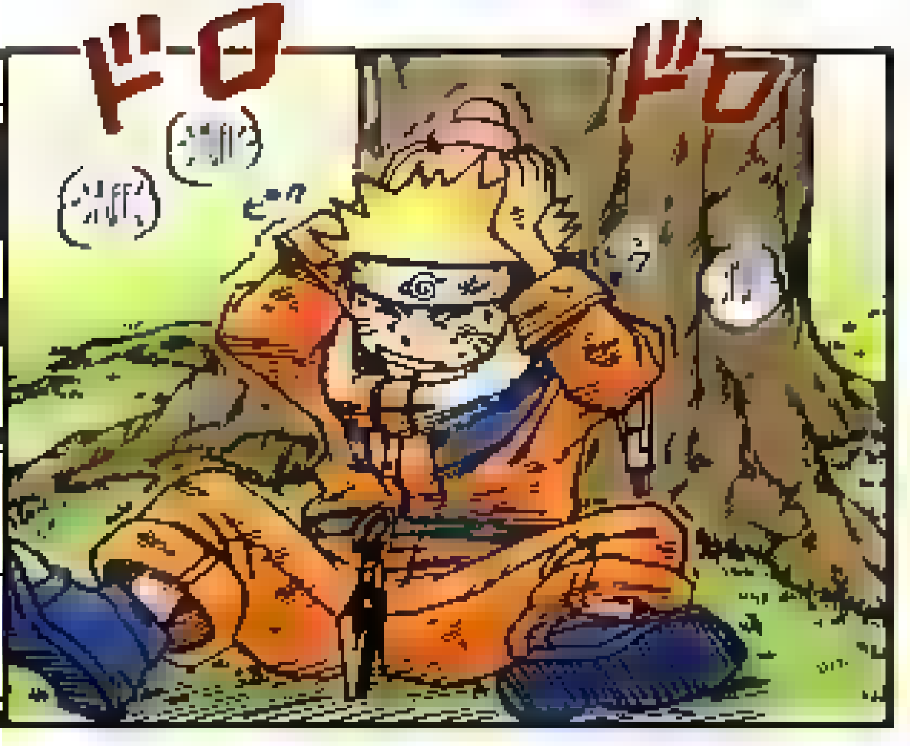
I KNOW

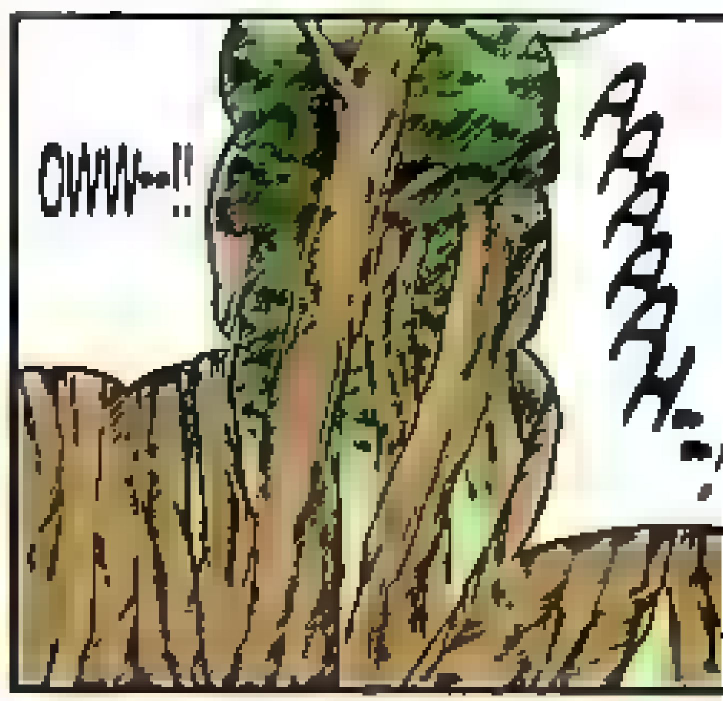


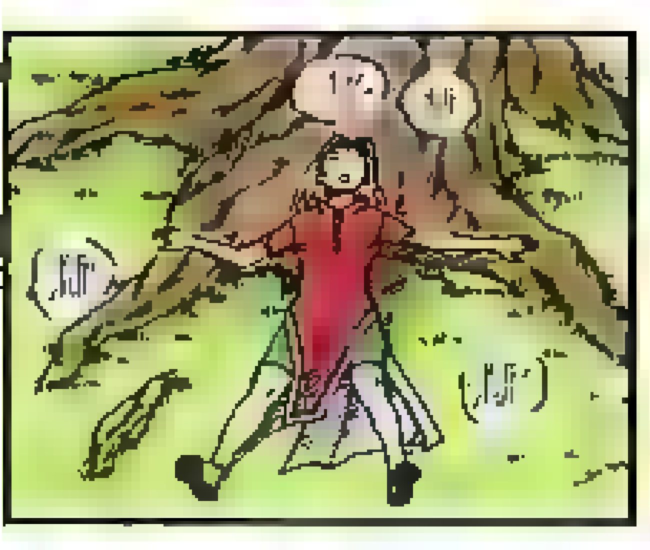
...YES!
AHHH..



FOR NOW, LET'S BE PATIENT.









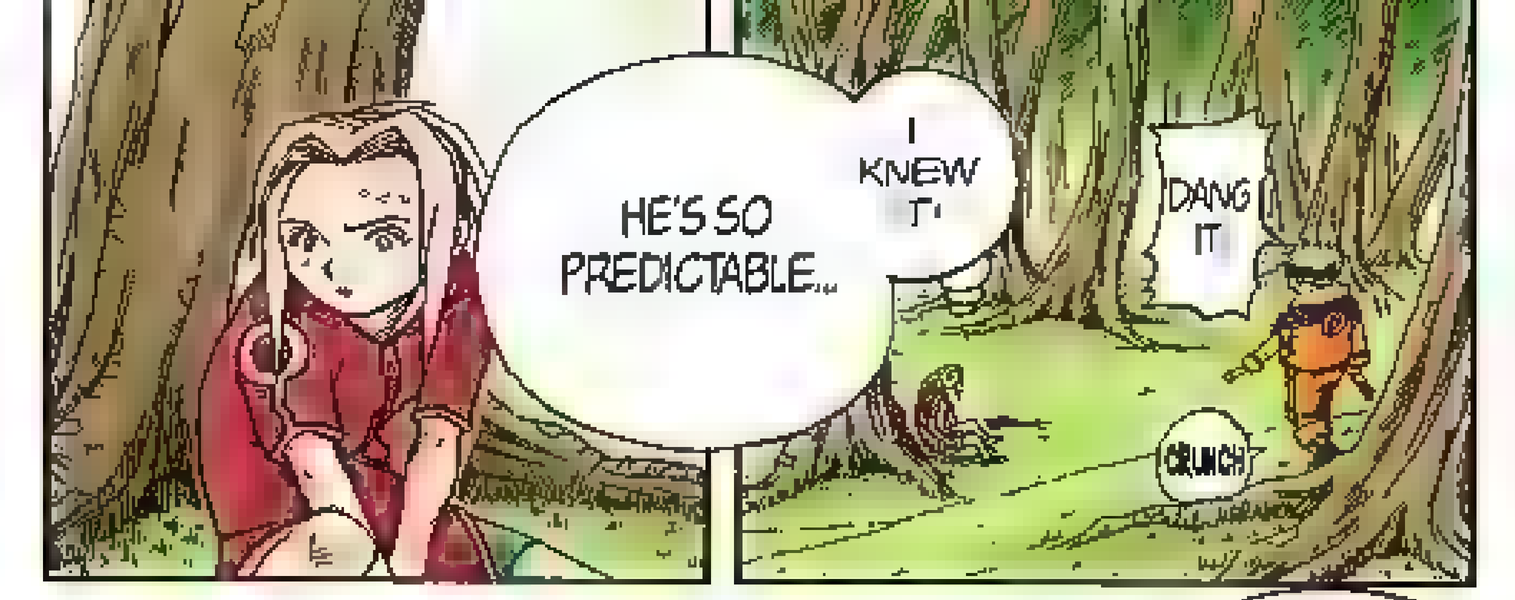


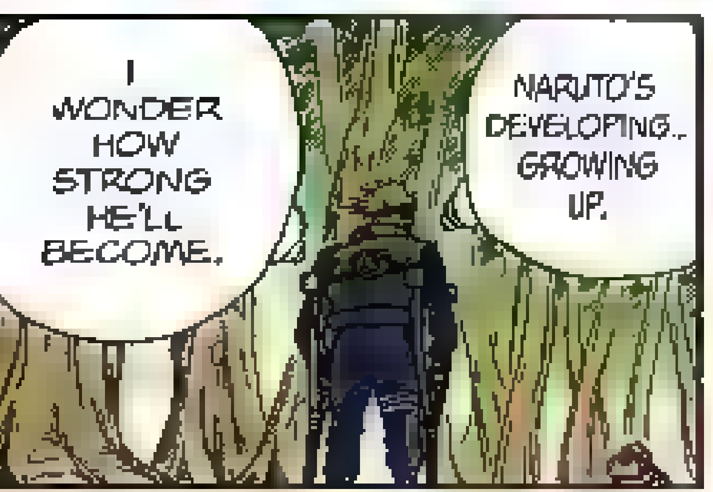
NOW, HE'LL PROBABLY HAVE A TANTRUM AND QUIT

BUT NARUTO HASN'T IMPROVED ONE BIT!

I'M EXHAUSTED

THE BOYS HAVE SO MUCH STAMINA

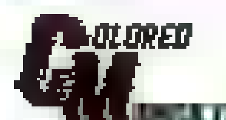

HE'S SO PREDICTABLE...
I KNEW IT!
DANG IT
CRUNCH


NARUTO'S DEVELOPING.. GROWING UP.
I WONDER HOW STRONG HE'LL BECOME.




HEY, HEY! SAKURA! COULD YOU HELP ME GET THE HANG OF THIS?
HUNH?

IF HE ONLY KNEW!
HIS LATENT ABILITIES DWARF EVEN THOSE OF SASUKE...
AND PERHAPS MINE, AS WELL
THAT WOULD BE A MARVEL... AND A PLEASURE



A boy who is as isolated and lonely as Naruto.

EARLY CHARACTER DESIGNS



This was the original design for the character of Sasuke. It's hardly changed at all over time.

The main difference is the absence of the talisman he wore around his neck. In general, whenever I come up with a new character, my initial impulse is to use as much line and ornamentation as possible until the visual concept is in danger of becoming lost amid the busy, little details.

This is especially true of principal characters. I get so caught up in what I'm doing with them, I make things much too difficult for myself, until I finally have the sense to step back and ask myself, "Am I really going to be able to draw such a fussy, complicated character over and over, panel after panel, and issue after issue, week in and week out?"

There was far too much going on visually with Sasuke and too many lines overall, so I simplified him into a good, basic contrast to Naruto's visual image.

Sasuke is a particular challenge for me to draw even now, because he is a young and rather pretty boy, but if I'm not careful he loses his youthful quality and I end up drawing him like a much older boy or a grown man. I've never had a character like him in one of my comics before—that kind of boy on the cusp of manhood, who's somehow mature and handsome beyond his years.

Keeping the visual consistently right makes him the character who takes the most work and energy from me. Maybe that's why he's become my favorite character.

19：勇気の象徴

THE EMBLEM OF COURAGE



ひまね…

YAWWWN

カン

カン

カコー

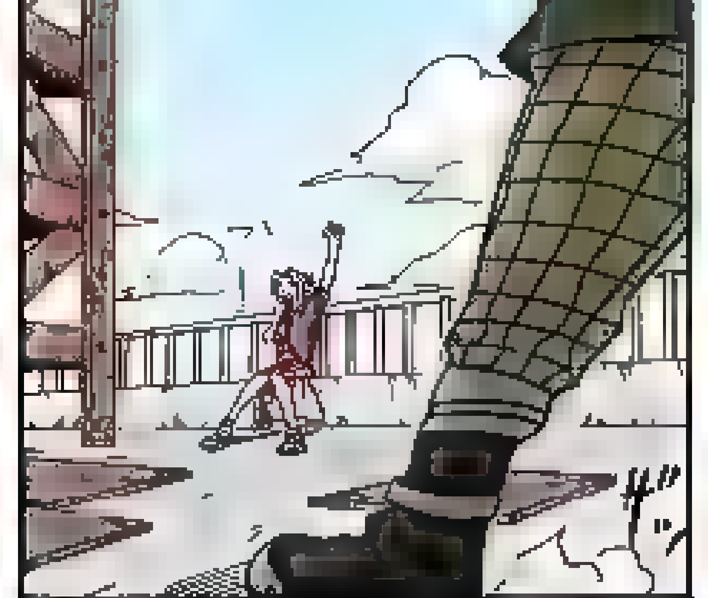
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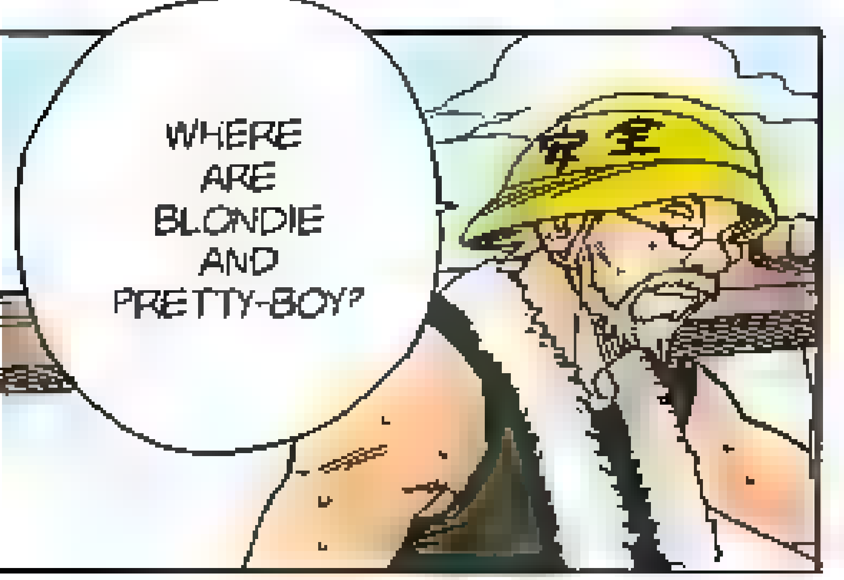
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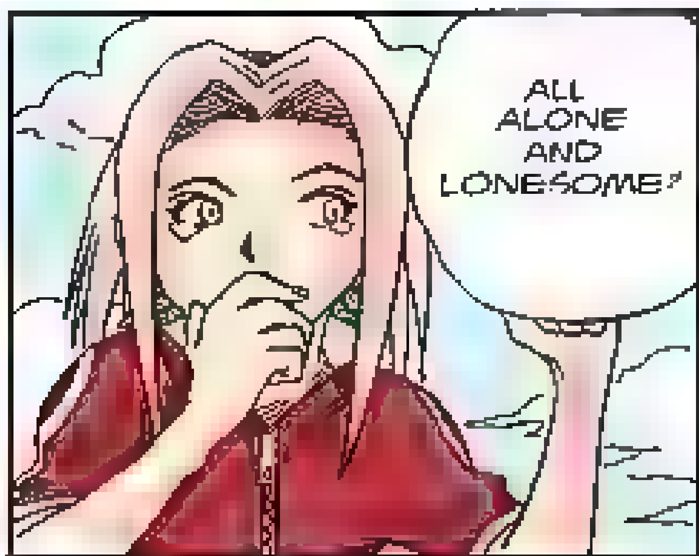
ガチャ

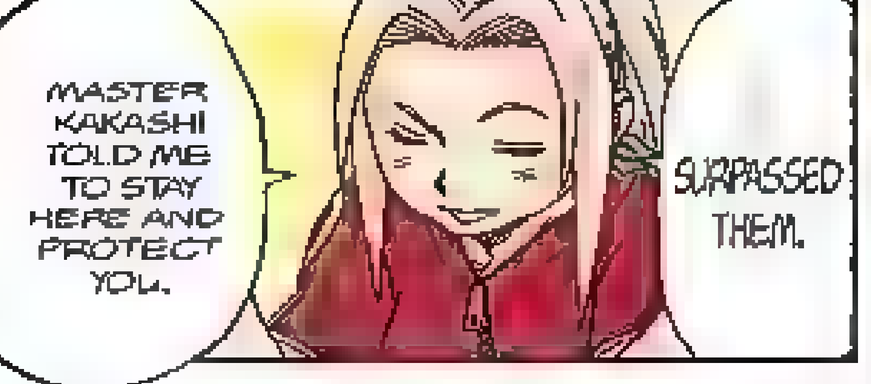


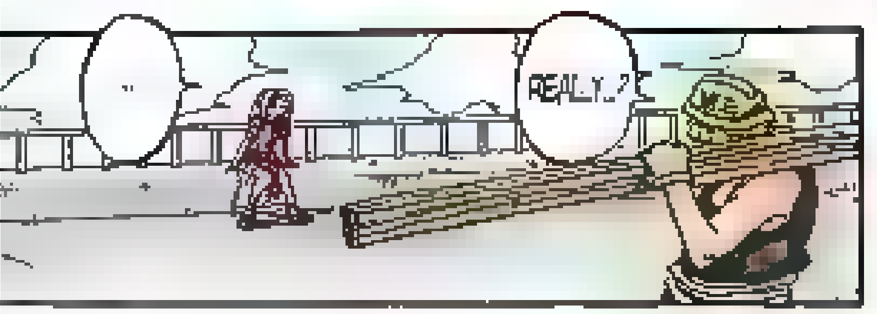


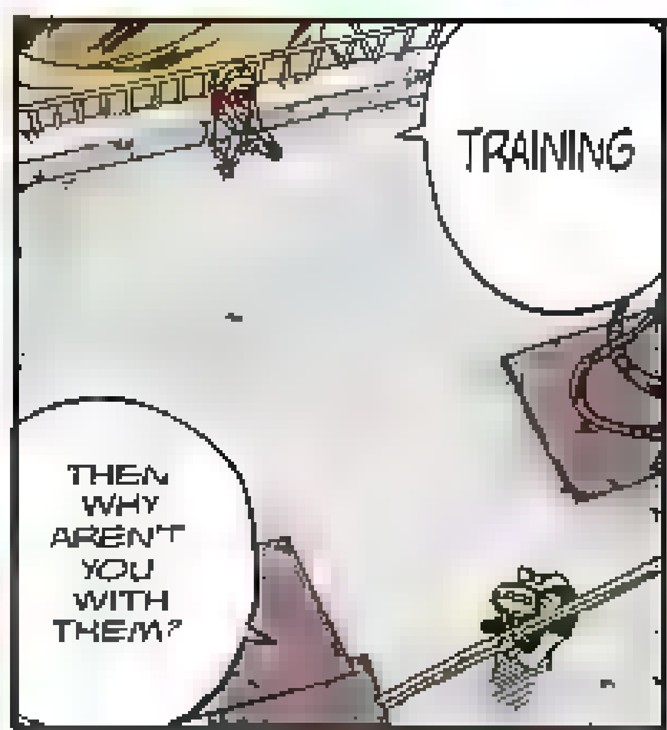



WHERE ARE BLONDIE AND PRETTY-BOY?

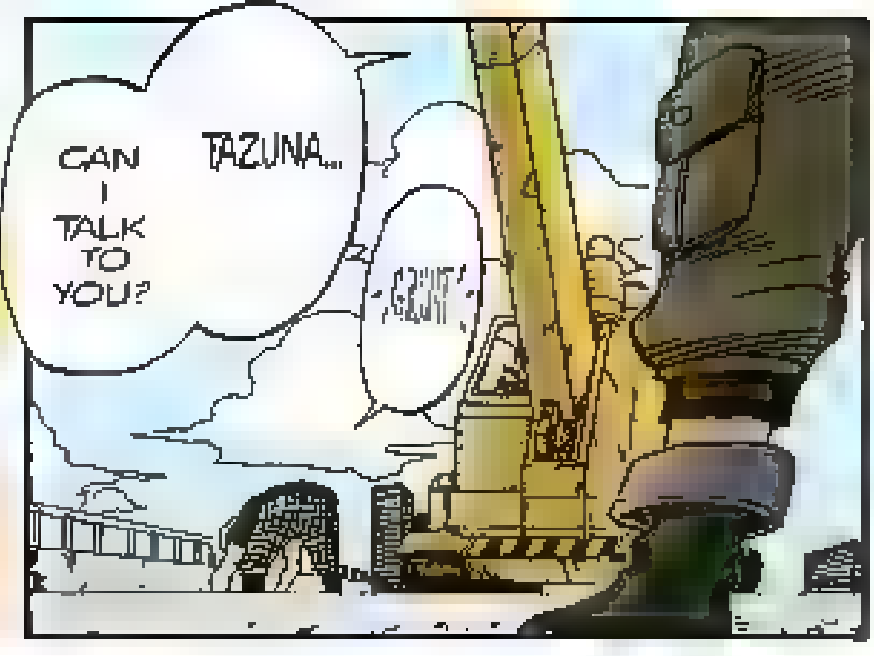

ALL ALONE AND LONESOME?


MASTER KAKASHI TOLD ME TO STAY HERE AND PROTECT YOU.
SURPASSED THEM.

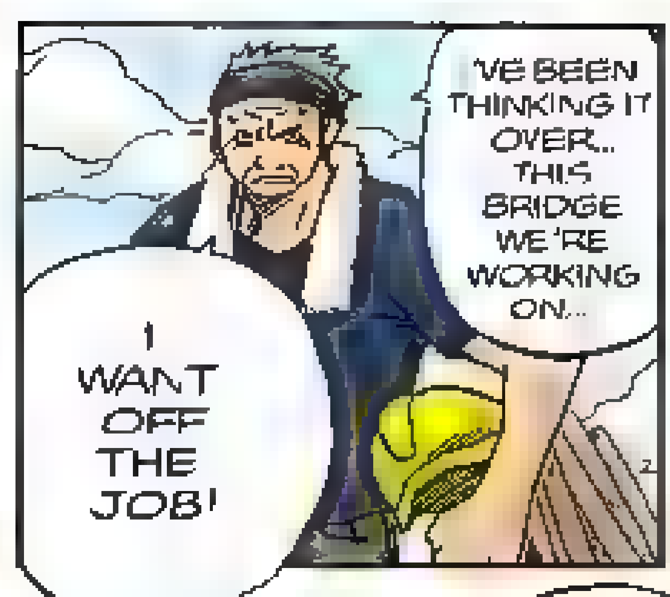

...
REALLY..?

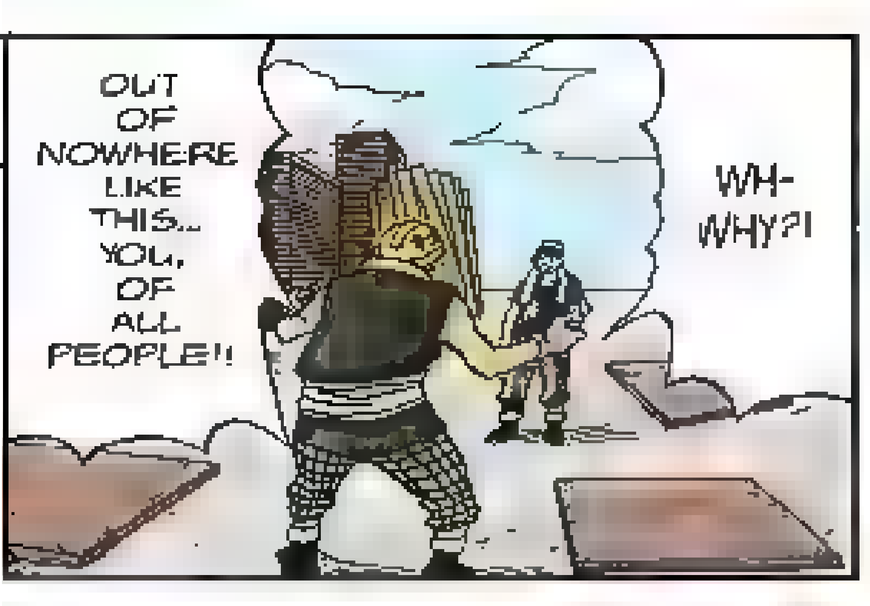

TRAINING
THEN WHY AREN'T YOU WITH THEM?

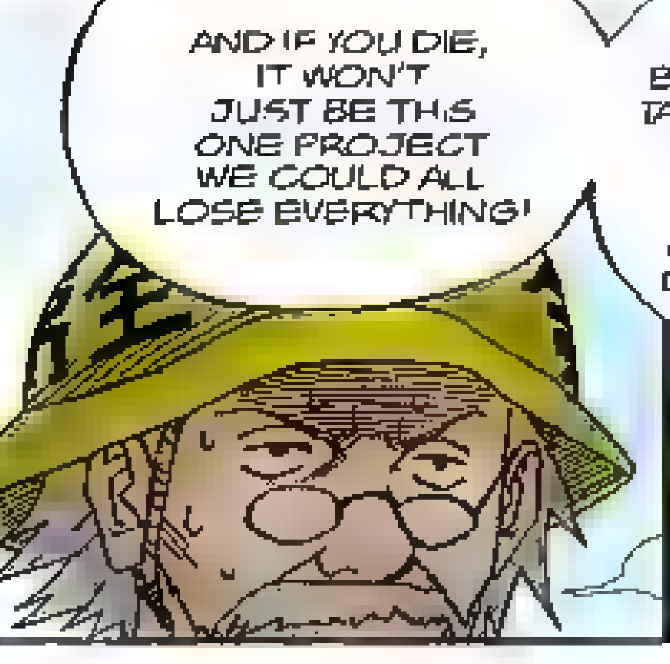



TAZUNA...
CAN I TALK TO YOU?


HUNH?
WHAT'S WRONG, GIICHI?

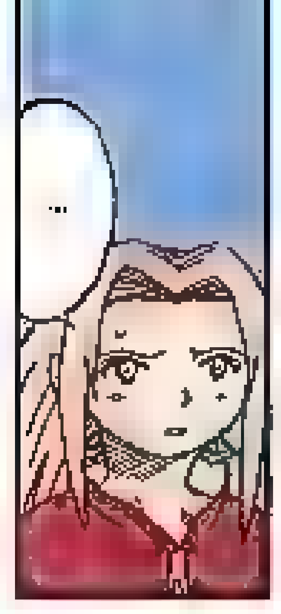

I'VE BEEN THINKING IT OVER... THIS BRIDGE WE'RE WORKING ON...
I WANT OFF THE JOB!

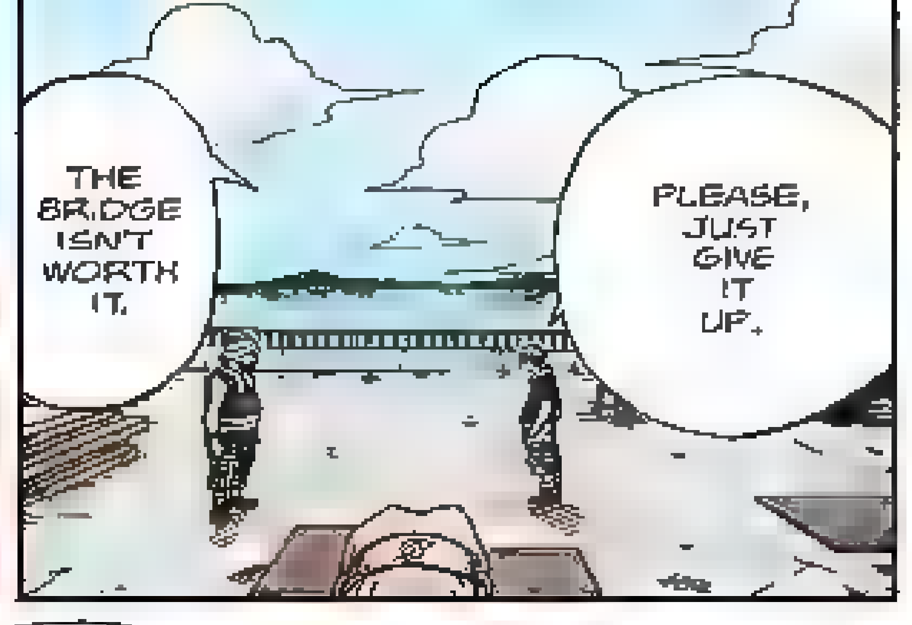

WH-WHY?!
OUT OF NOWHERE LIKE THIS... YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE!!

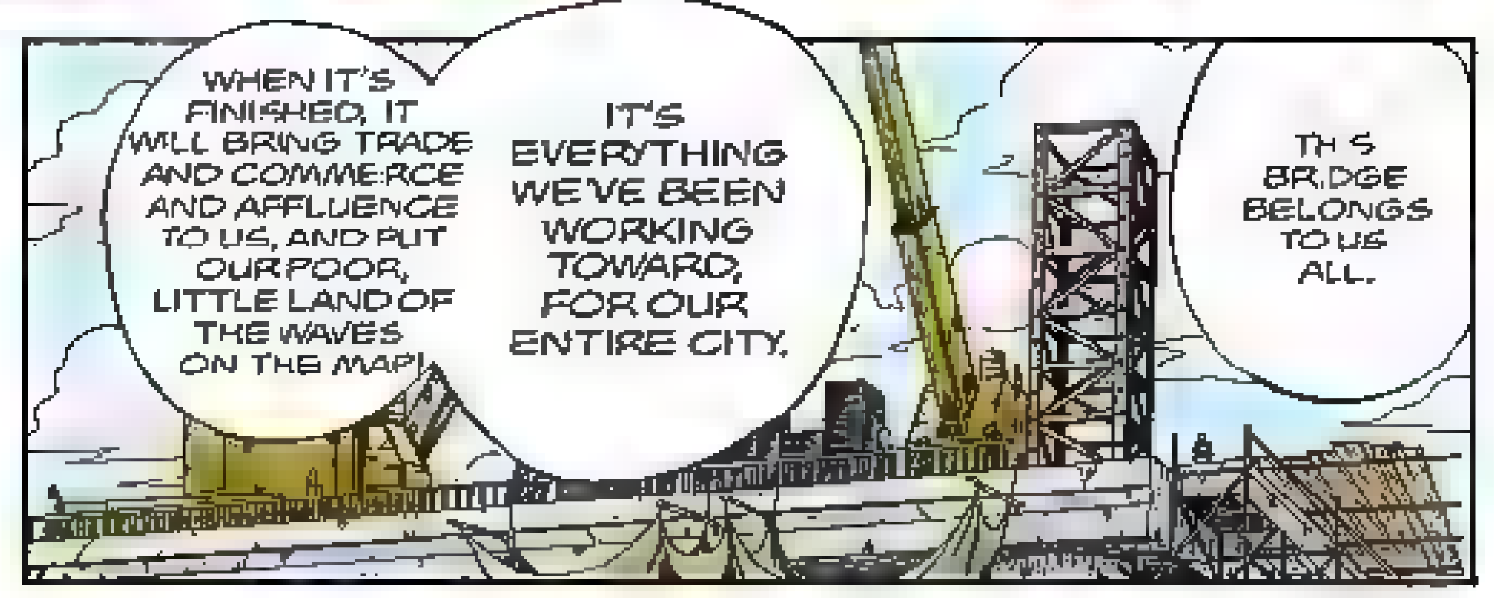

TAZUNA! WE GO BACK A LONG WAY.
I WANT TO HELP YOU, BUT WE CAN'T TAKE THIS RISK. GATÔ WILL TAKE OUT A CONTRACT ON US IF WE DON'T STOP!
AND IF YOU DIE, IT WON'T JUST BE THIS ONE PROJECT WE COULD ALL LOSE EVERYTHING!


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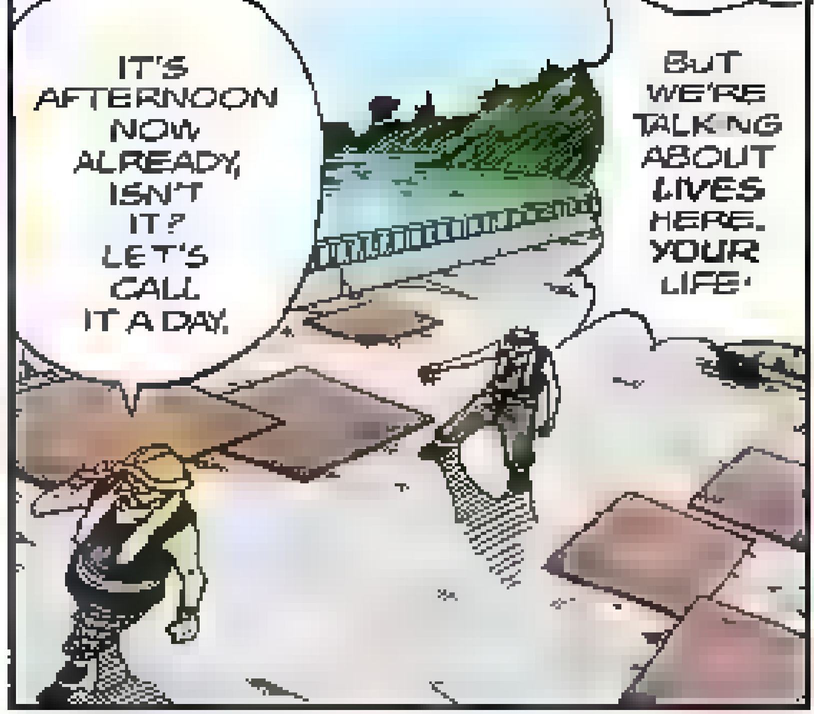

CAN'T DO THAT.


...


PLEASE, JUST GIVE IT UP.
THE BRIDGE ISN'T WORTH IT.


THIS BRIDGE BELONGS TO US ALL.
IT'S EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN WORKING TOWARD, FOR OUR ENTIRE CITY.
WHEN IT'S FINISHED, IT WILL BRING TRADE AND COMMERCE AND AFFLUENCE TO US, AND PUT OUR POOR, LITTLE LAND OF THE WAVES ON THE MAP!


GIICHI... YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME BACK.


BUT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT LIVES HERE. YOUR LIFE!
IT'S AFTERNOON NOW ALREADY, ISN'T IT? LET'S CALL IT A DAY.

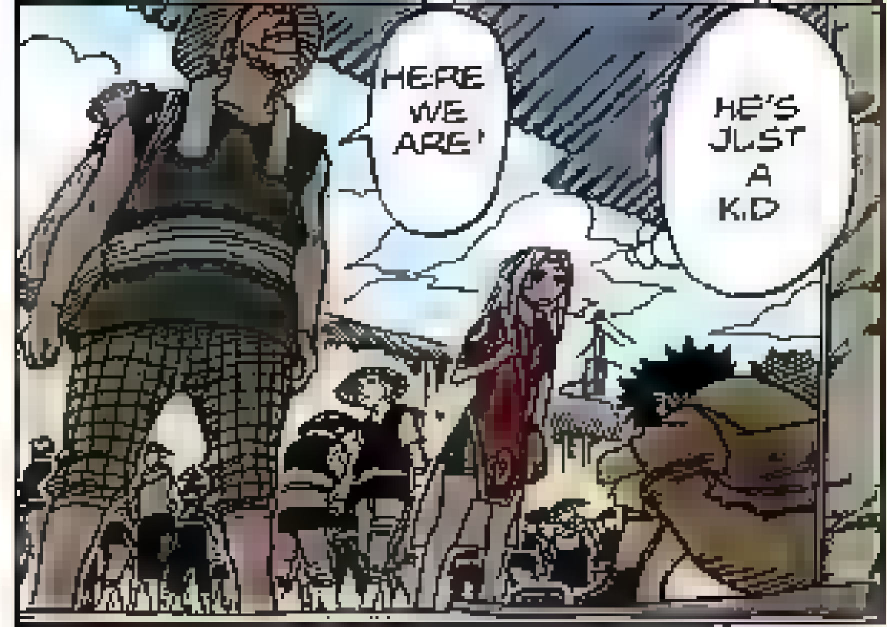



STOP, THIEF!!

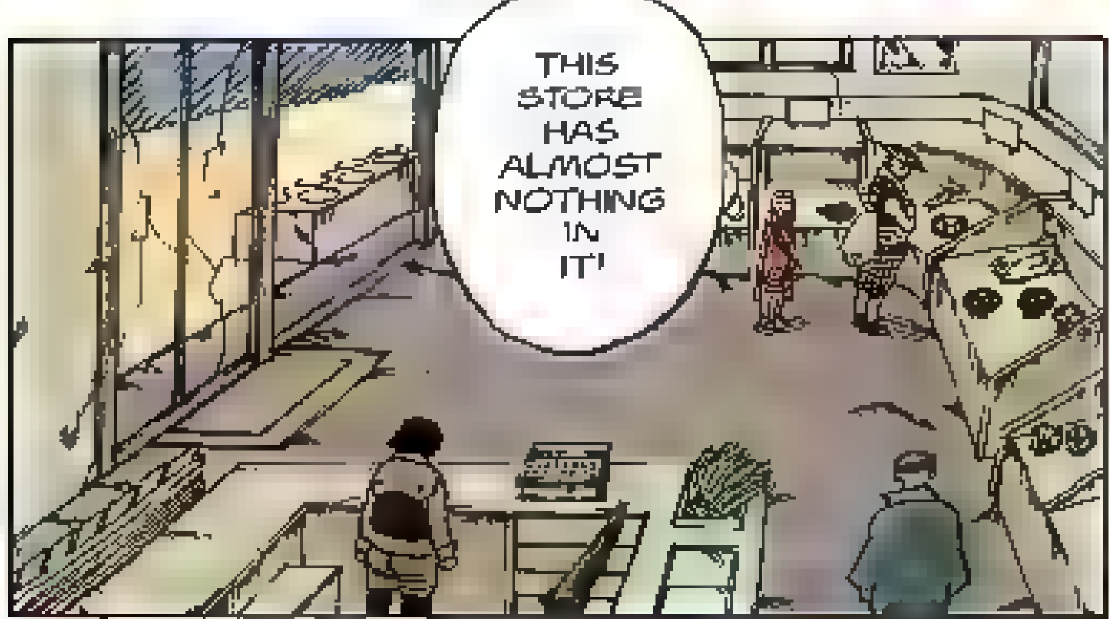

YO
YO
WILL DO ANY JOB YOU WANT




WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS TOWN?

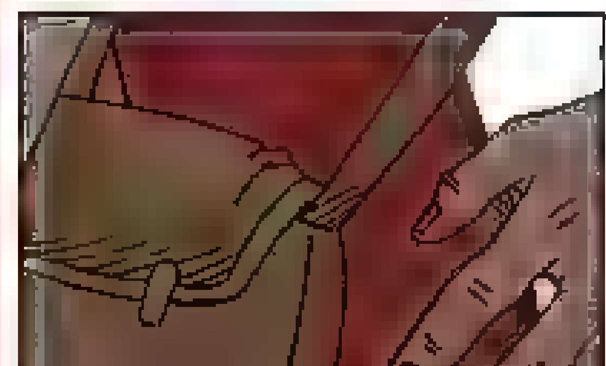

HE'S JUST A KID
HERE WE ARE!

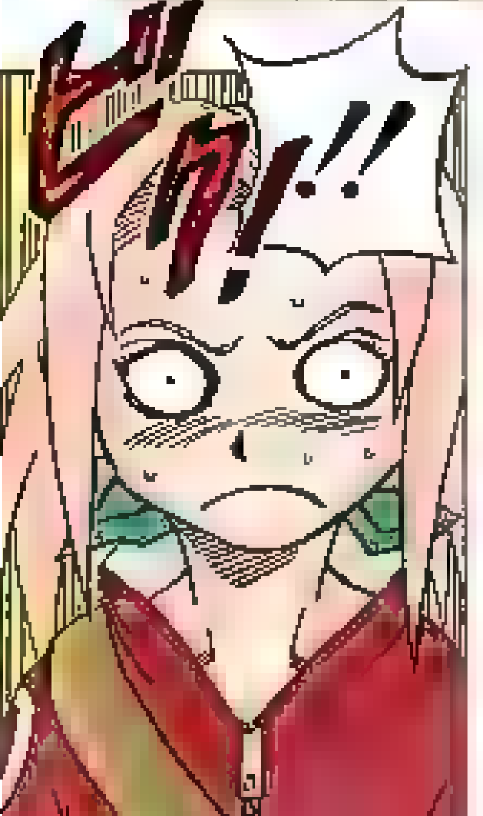

八百屋
小便するな
WELCOME.

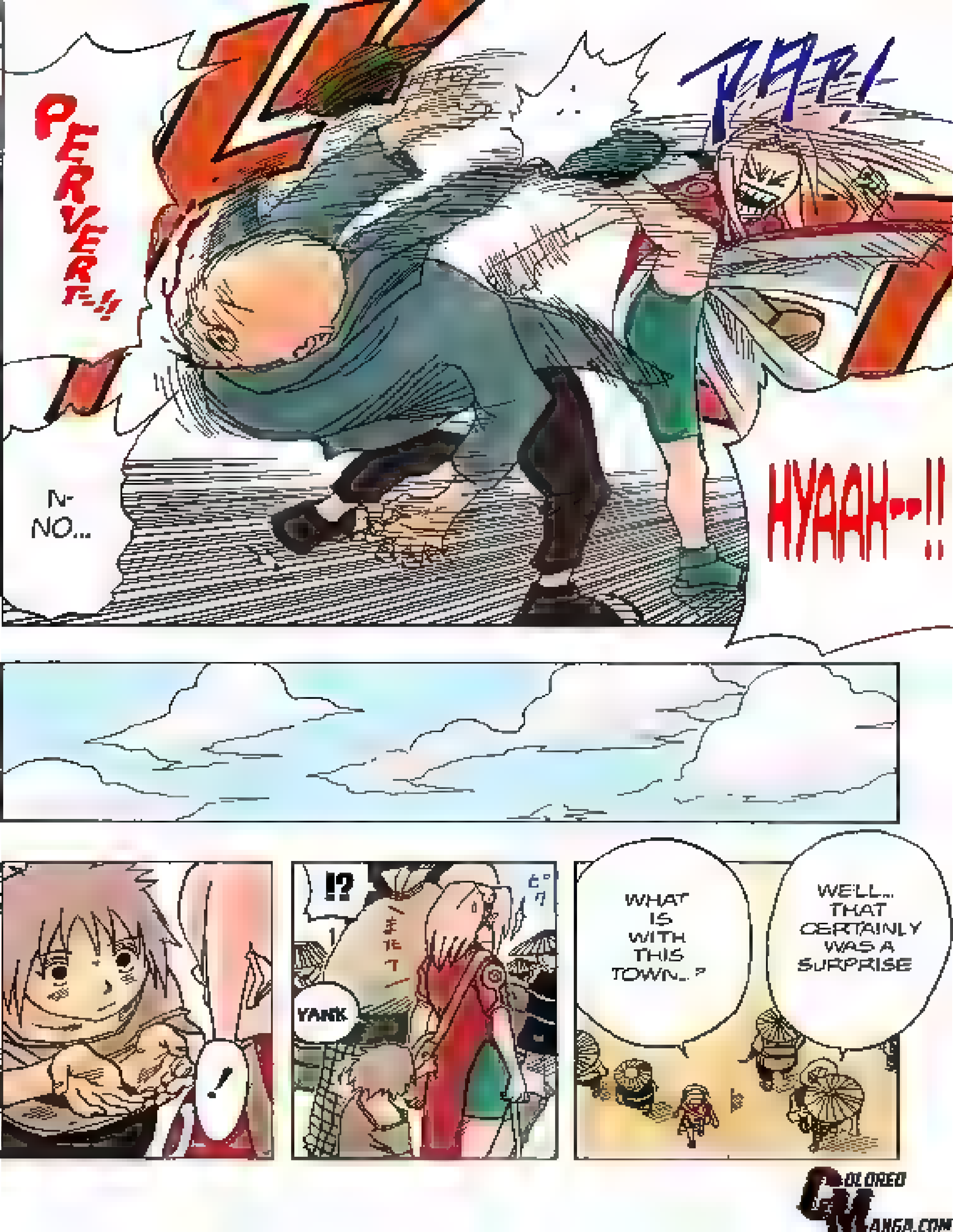

THIS STORE HAS ALMOST NOTHING IN IT!



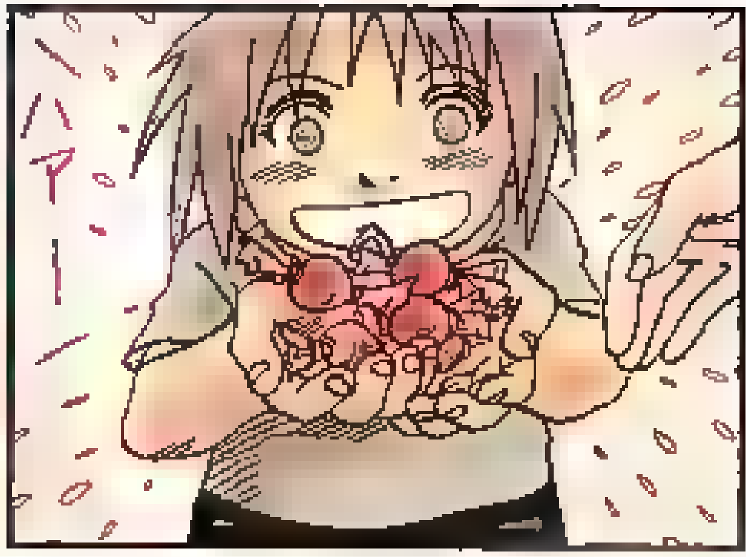


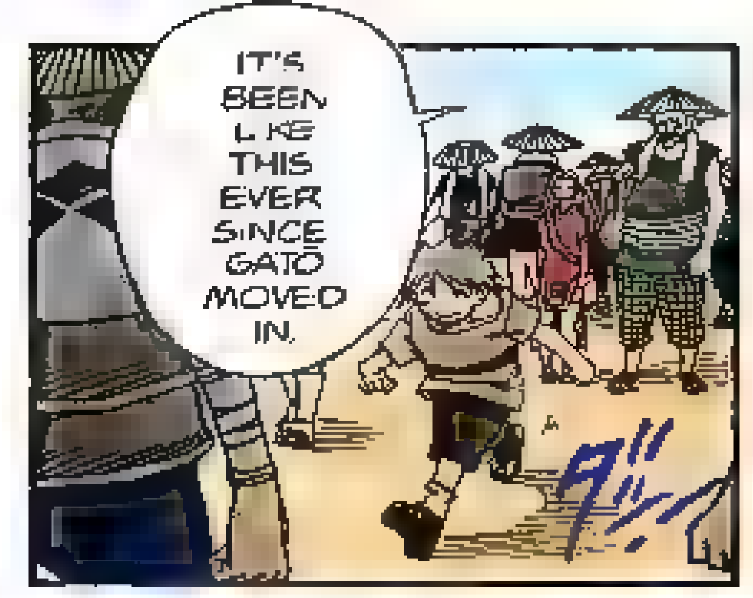


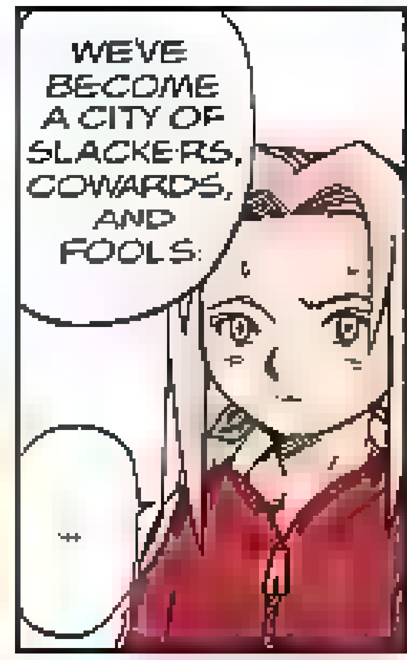


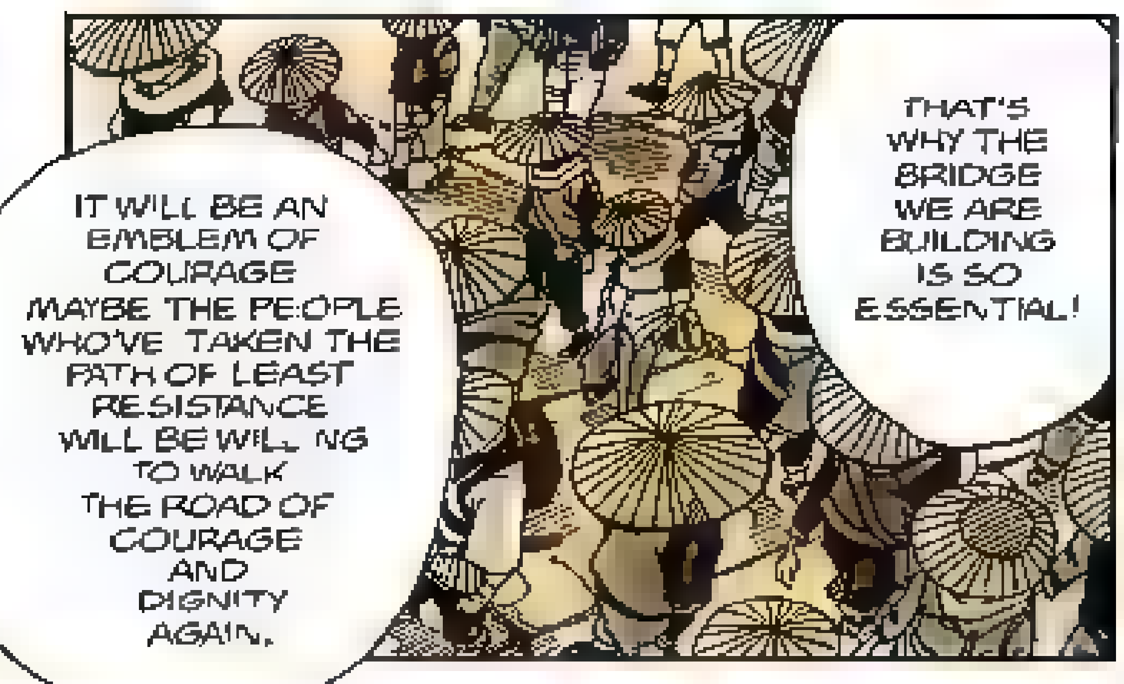


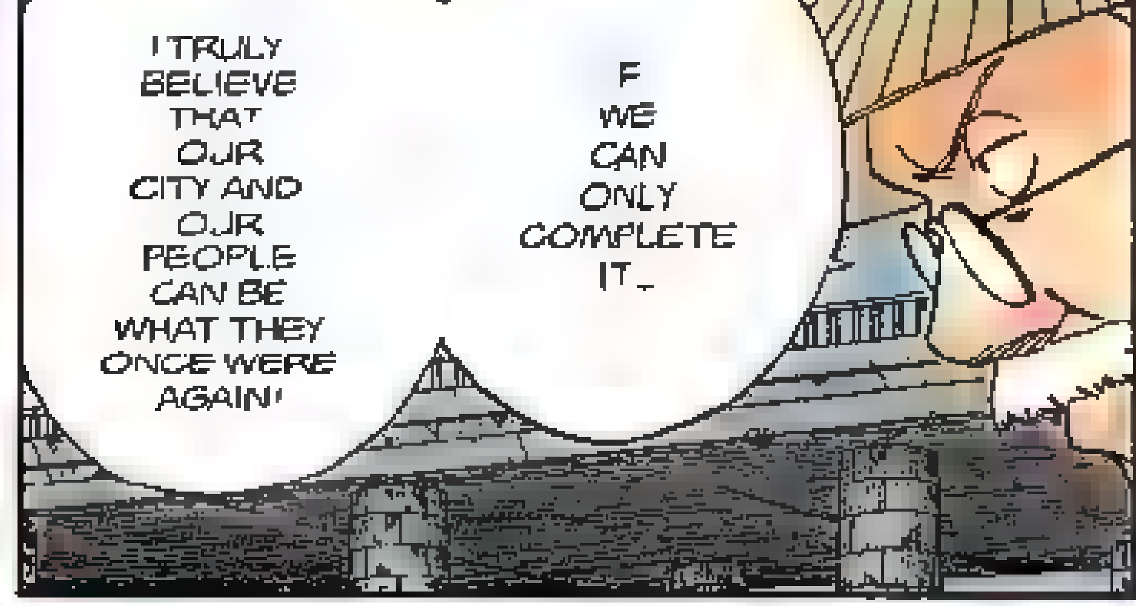
PAP!
PERVERT--!!
HYAAH--!!
N-NO...
WELL... THAT CERTAINLY WAS A SURPRISE
WHAT IS WITH THIS TOWN...?
!?
YANK
!
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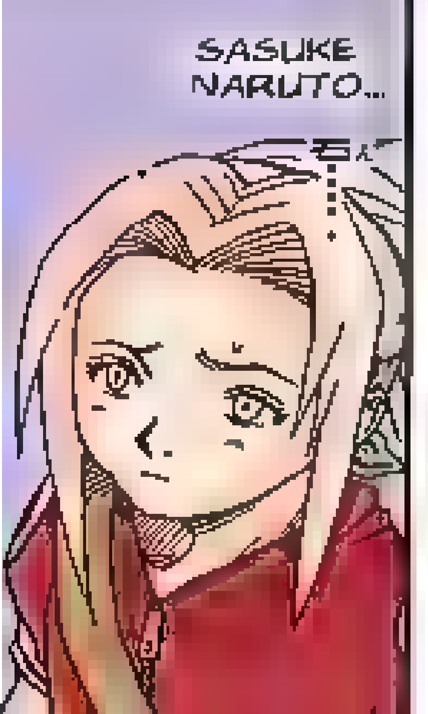



IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS EVER SINCE GATO MOVED IN.

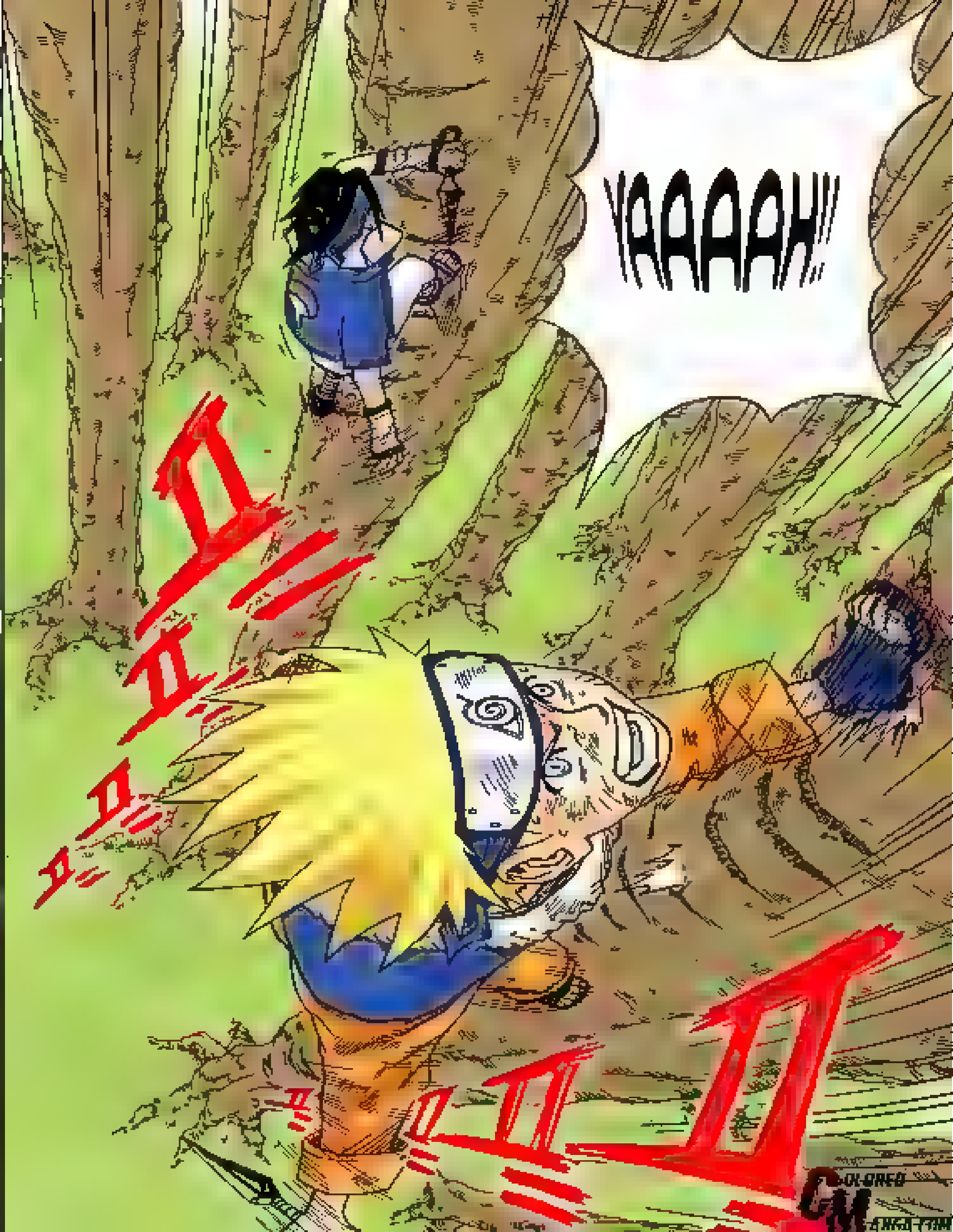

WE'VE BECOME A CITY OF SLACKERS, COWARDS, AND FOOLS.
...


THAT'S WHY THE BRIDGE WE ARE BUILDING IS SO ESSENTIAL!
IT WILL BE AN EMBLEM OF COURAGE MAYBE THE PEOPLE WHO'VE TAKEN THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE WILL BE WILLING TO WALK THE ROAD OF COURAGE AND DIGNITY AGAIN.


IF WE CAN ONLY COMPLETE IT...
I TRULY BELIEVE THAT OUR CITY AND OUR PEOPLE CAN BE WHAT THEY ONCE WERE AGAIN!


SASUKE NARUTO...



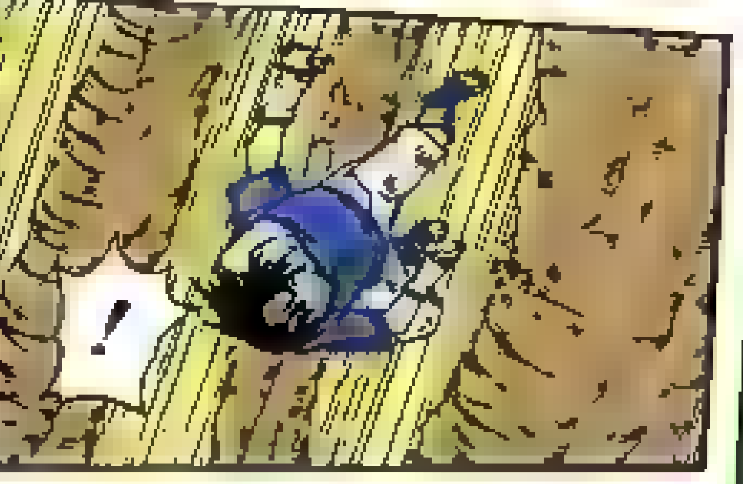

YAAAAH!!!

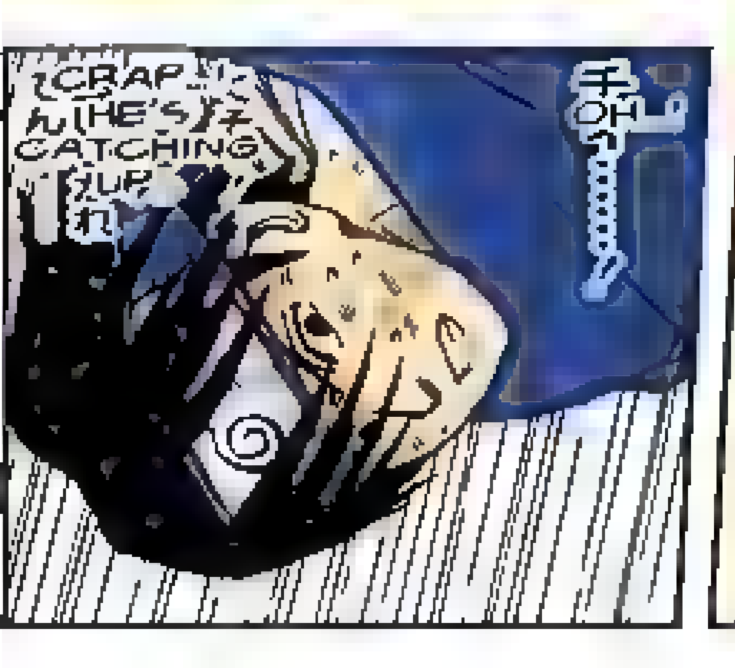












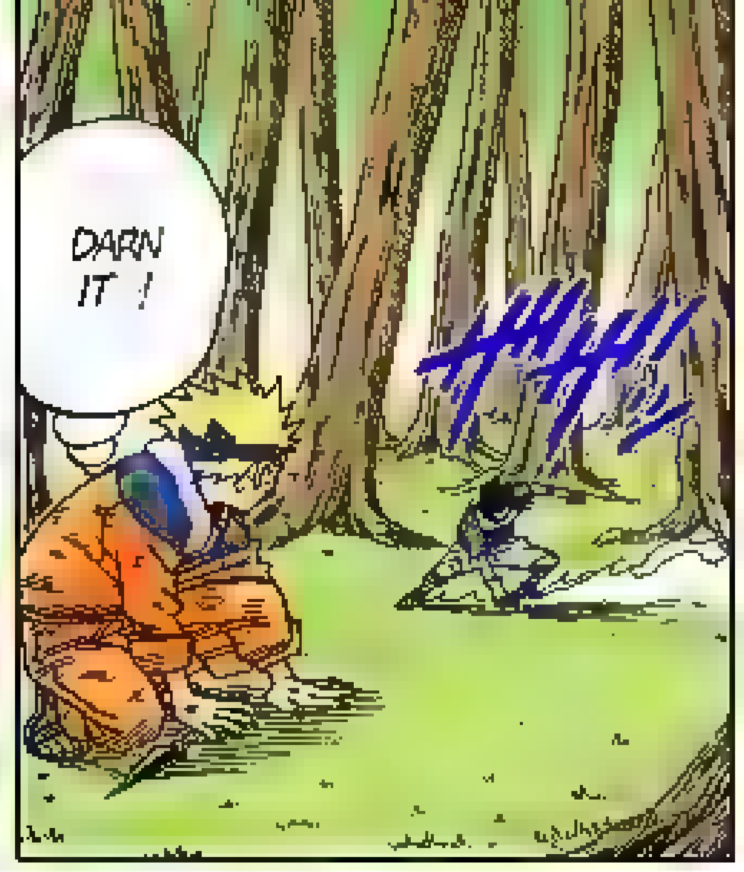
CRAP...!! HE'S CATCHING UP
OH...!

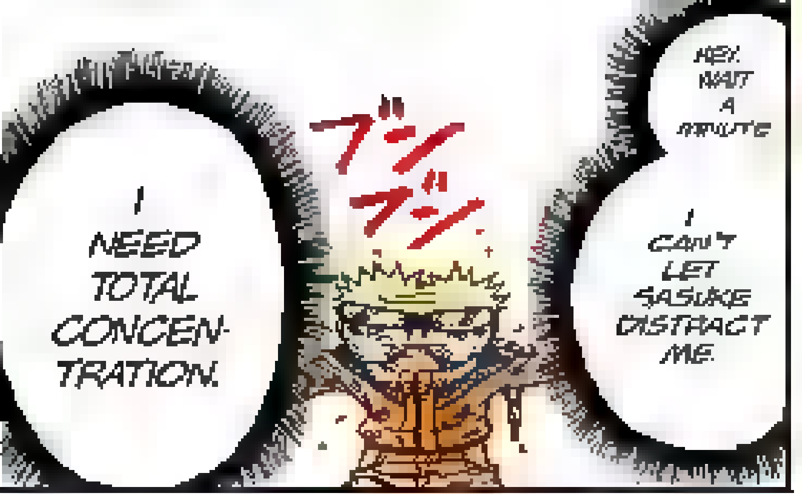


ダッ!
ダッ!
ダッ



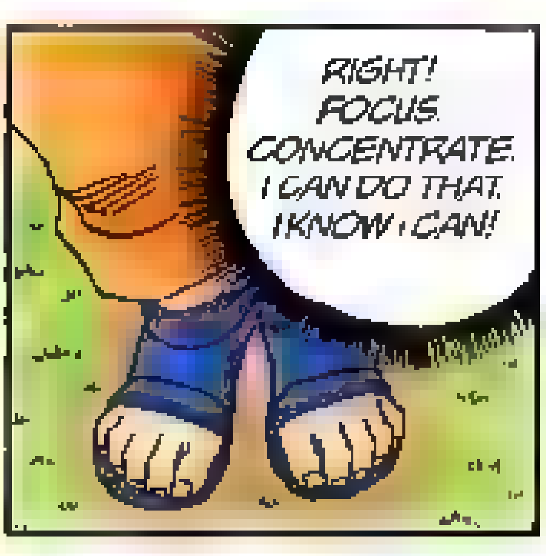
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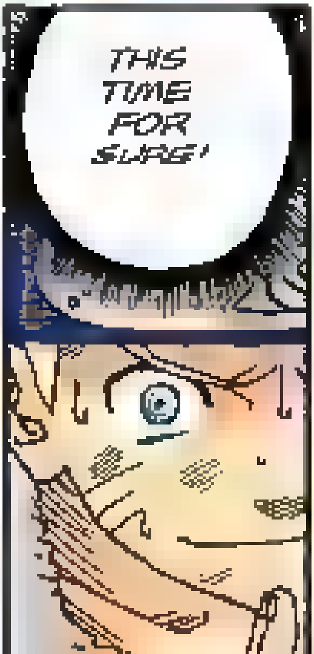

DARN IT!

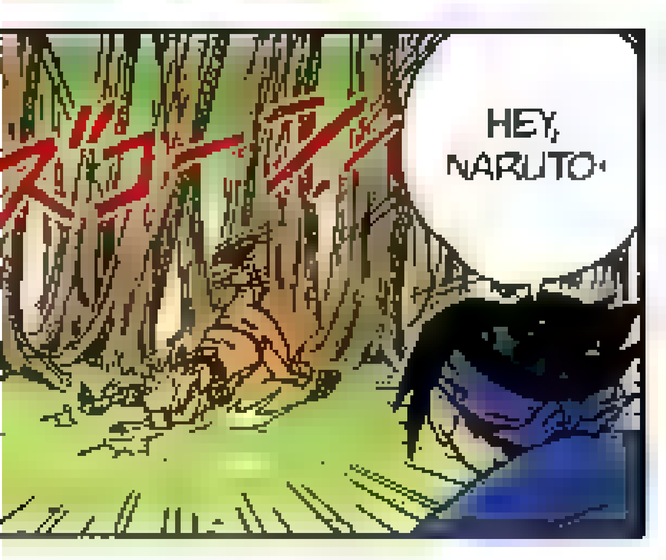

HEY. WAIT A MINUTE
I CAN'T LET SASUKE DISTRACT ME.
I NEED TOTAL CONCENTRATION.


HEY! SAKURA! COULD YOU HELP ME GET THE HANG OF THIS?
YOU'RE HOPELESS!


NOW, PAY ATTENTION. IT TAKES MENTAL ENERGY TO GENERATE AND MANIPULATE CHAKRA, SO IF YOU GET ALL STRESSED OUT OR DISTRACTED,
TAKE IT EASY! RELAX AND FOCUS ON THE TRE UNTIL YOU CAN FEEL HOW MUCH OR HOW LITTLE ENERGY YOU'LL NEED TO CENTER IN THE SOLES OF YOUR FEET

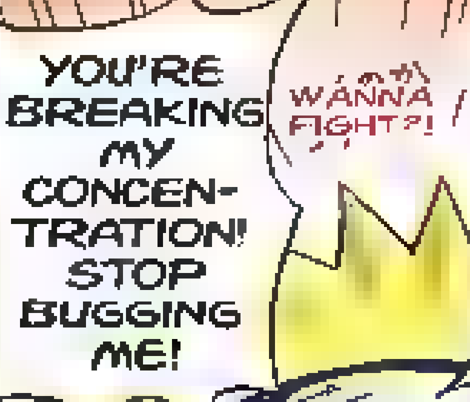
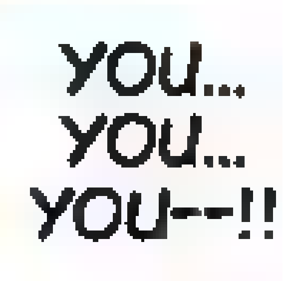

RIGHT! FOCUS. CONCENTRATE. I CAN DO THAT. I KNOW I CAN!


THIS TIME FOR SURE!

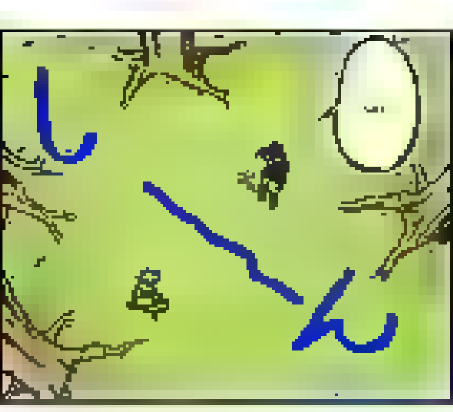
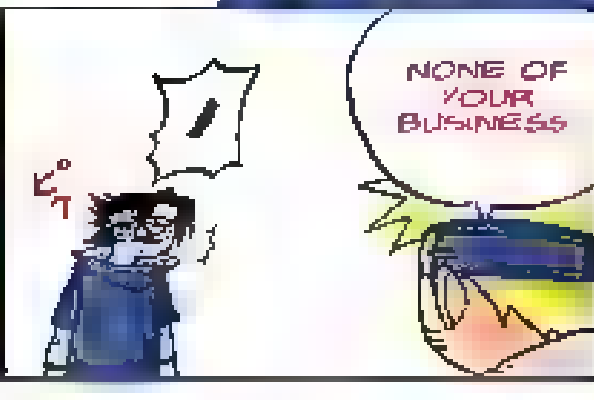

HEY, NARUTO!



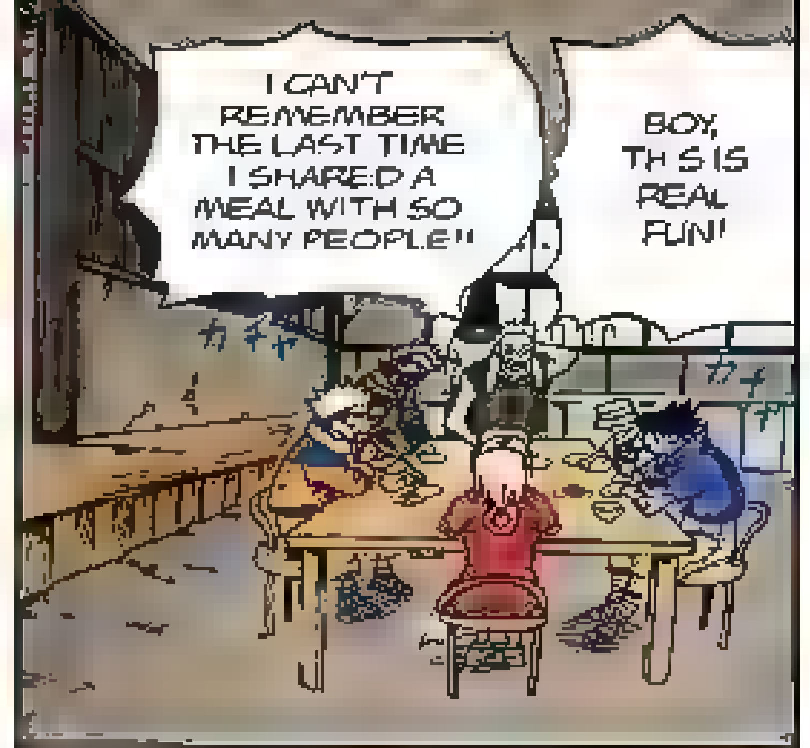

...
UHHH.. WELL....

WH-.. WHAT? WHAT IS IT?
WHY'S HE WANT TO TALK TO ME ALL OF A SUDDEN?

WANNA FIGHT?!
YOU'RE BREAKING MY CONCENTRATION! STOP BUGGING ME!

YOU... YOU... YOU--!!


!?

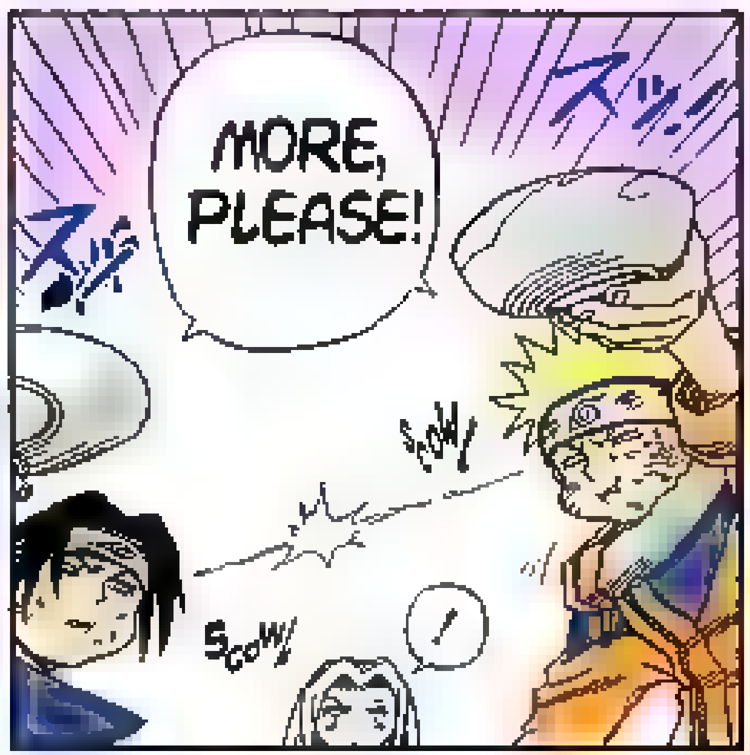
WH...
WHAT DID SAKURA SAY TO YOU...?

...

NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS


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I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I SHARED A MEAL WITH SO MANY PEOPLE!!
BOY, THIS IS REAL FUN!

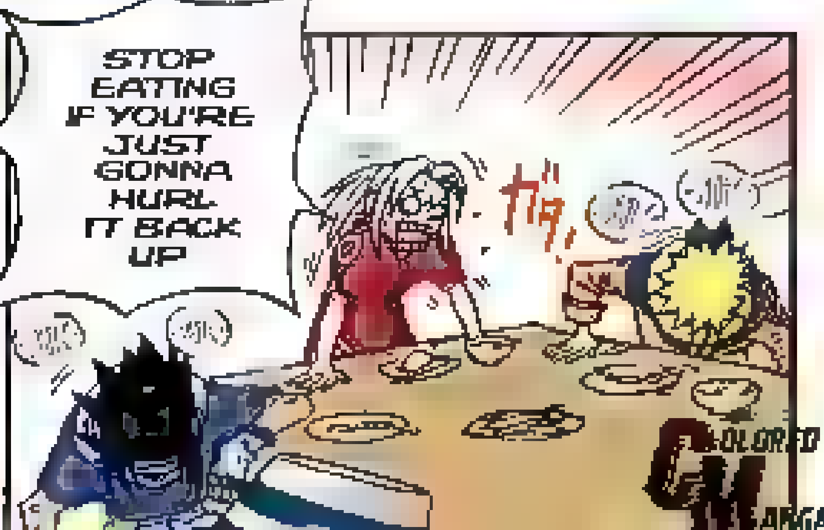

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MORE, PLEASE!
SCOW!
SCOW!
!

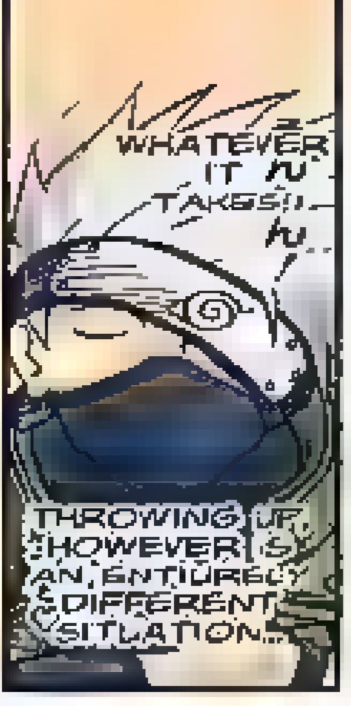

ULP..!
?


...

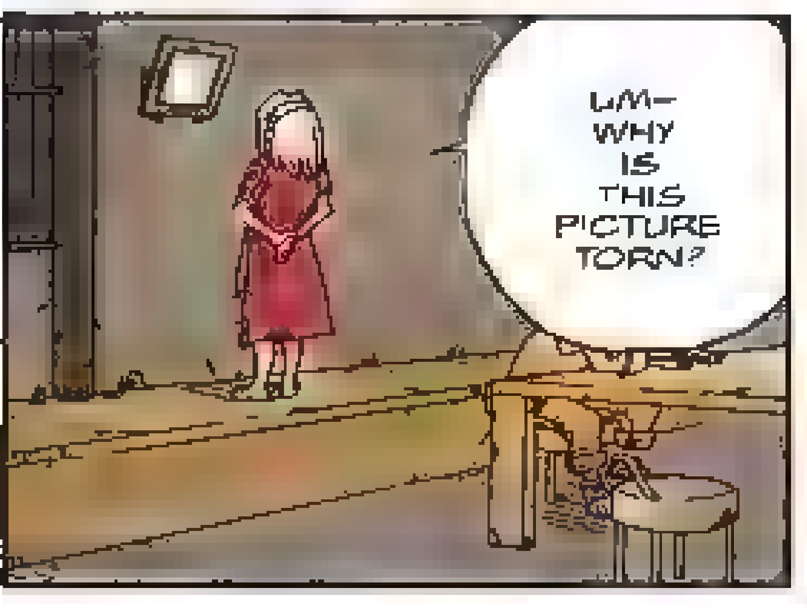

STOP EATING IF YOU'RE JUST GONNA HURL IT BACK UP

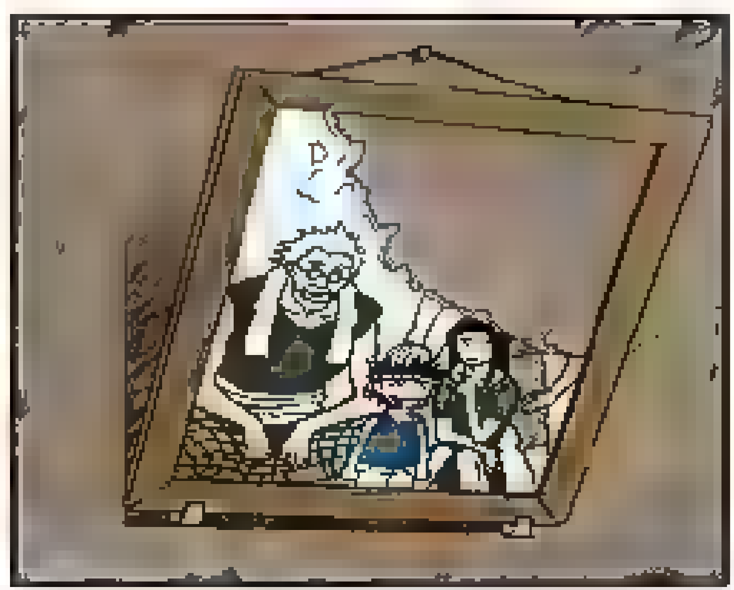

NO, I WANNA EAT!

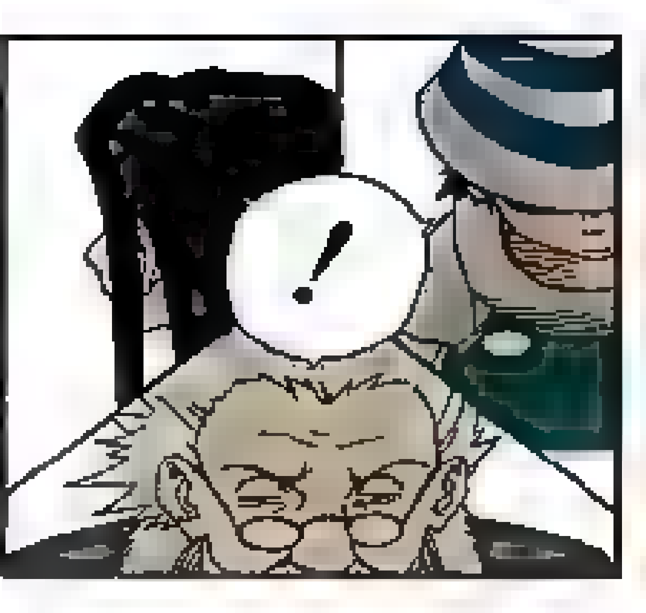



WHATEVER IT TAKES!!
THROWING UP, HOWEVER, IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT SITUATION...


BECAUSE EVEN IF WE MAKE OURSELVES SICK TO DO IT, WE HAVE TO EAT IF WE WANT TO GET STRONG!

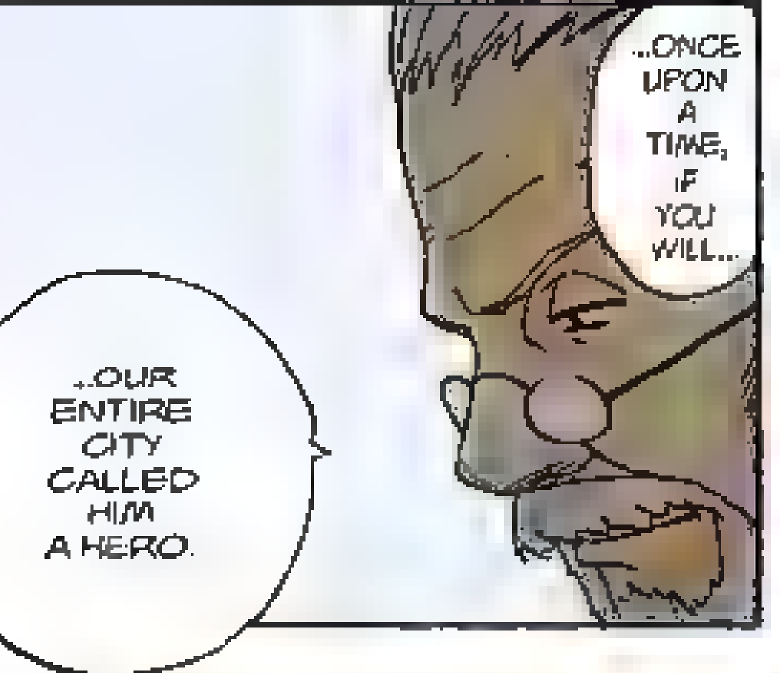

UM-- WHY IS THIS PICTURE TORN?



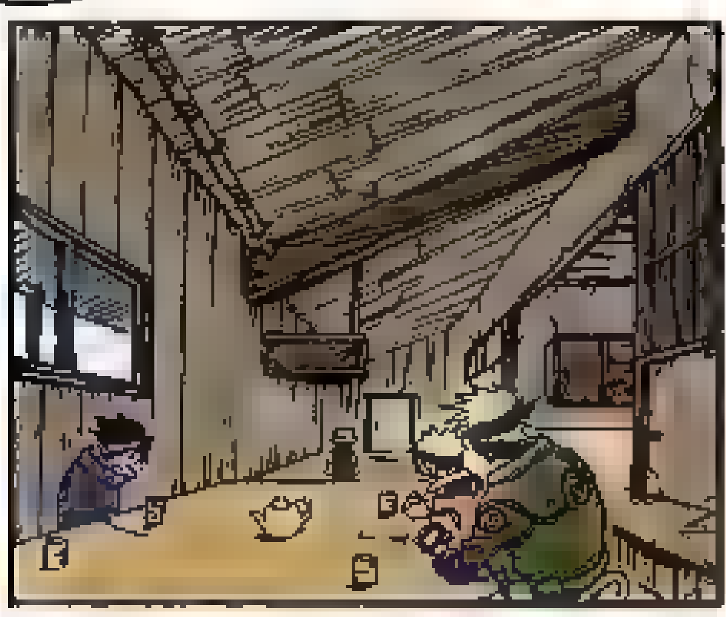

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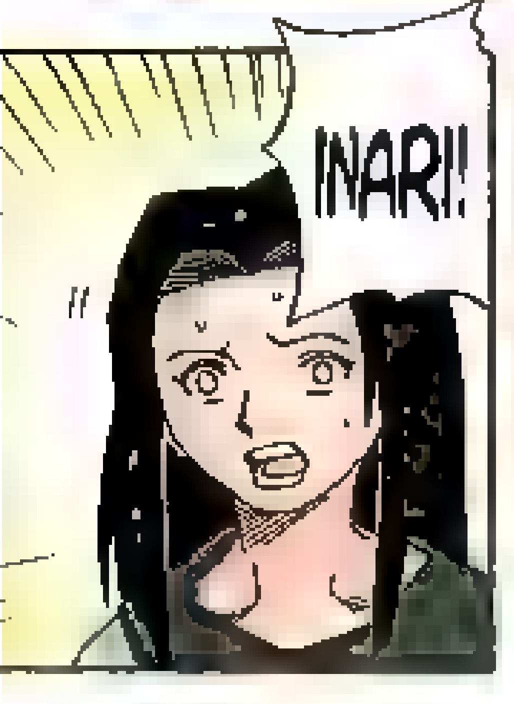

LITTLE INARI WAS LOOKING AT THIS THE WHOLE TIME WE WERE HAVING DINNER.
SOMEONE'S FACE IS COMPLETELY GONE. IS THAT DELIBERATE?
!

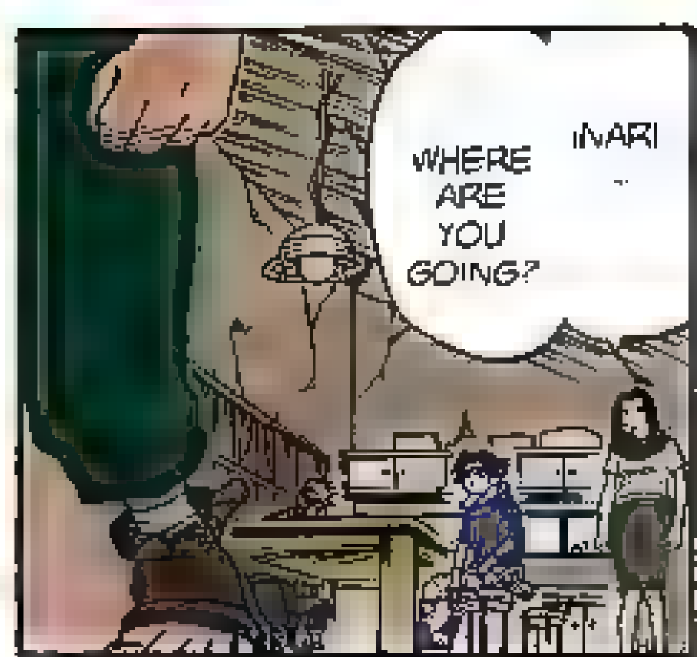

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..ONCE UPON A TIME, IF YOU WILL...
..OUR ENTIRE CITY CALLED HIM A HERO.

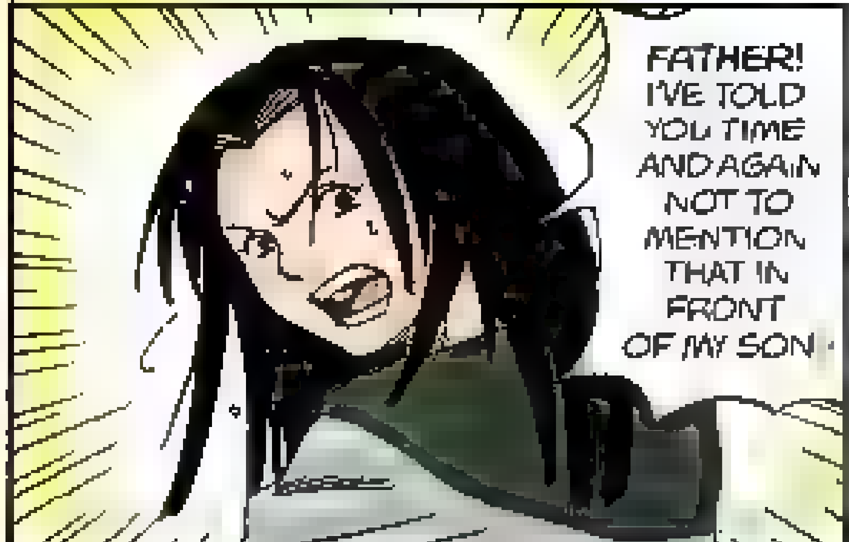
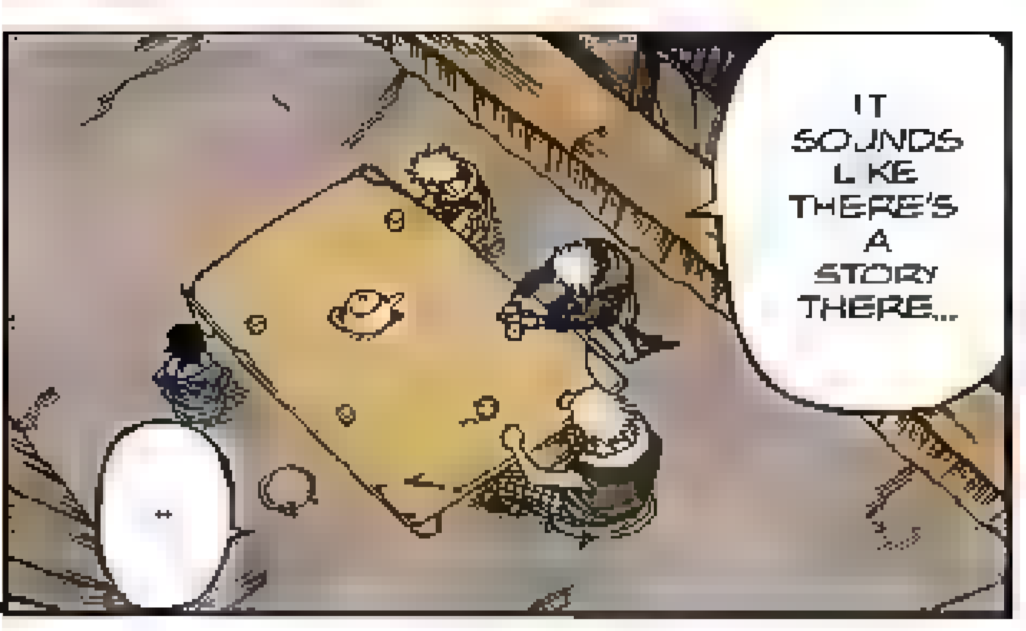
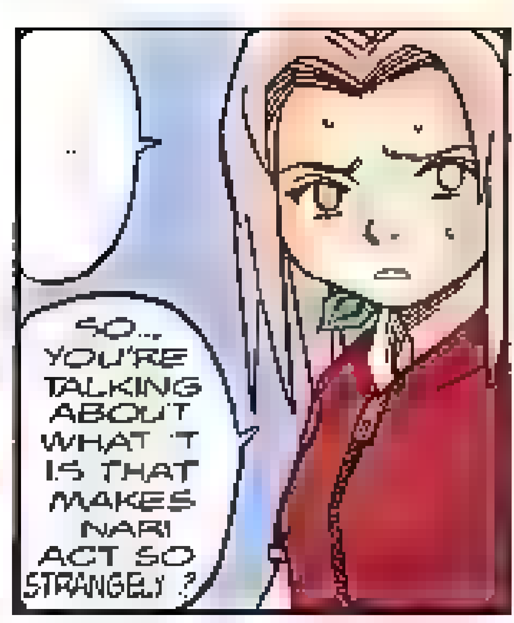
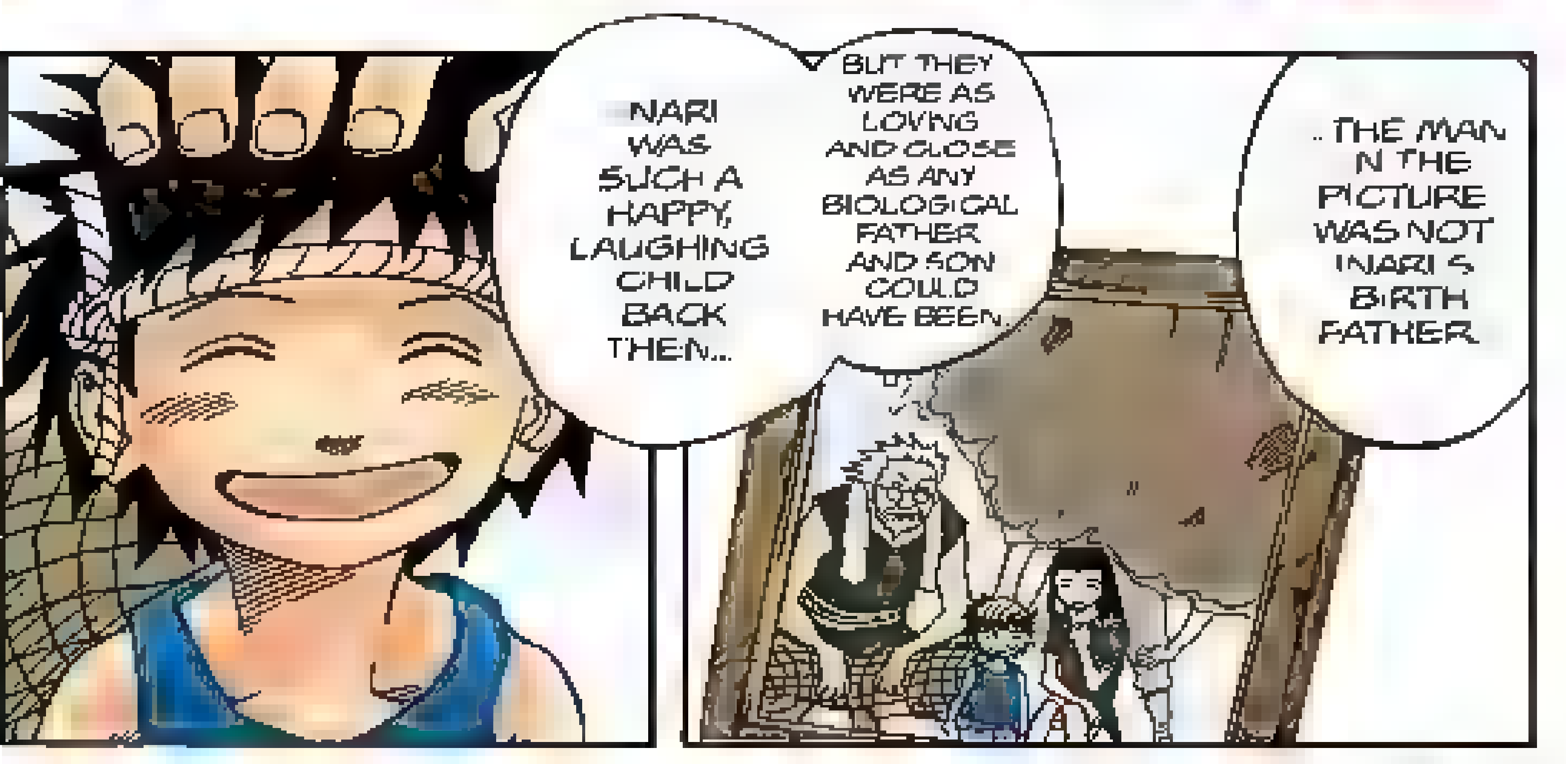
..IT WAS A PICTURE OF INARI'S FATHER.

...


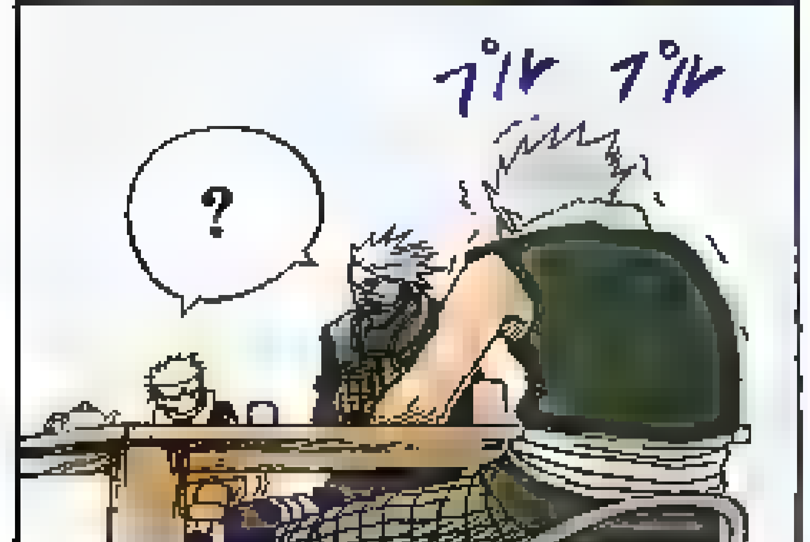

INARI!


INARI ..
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

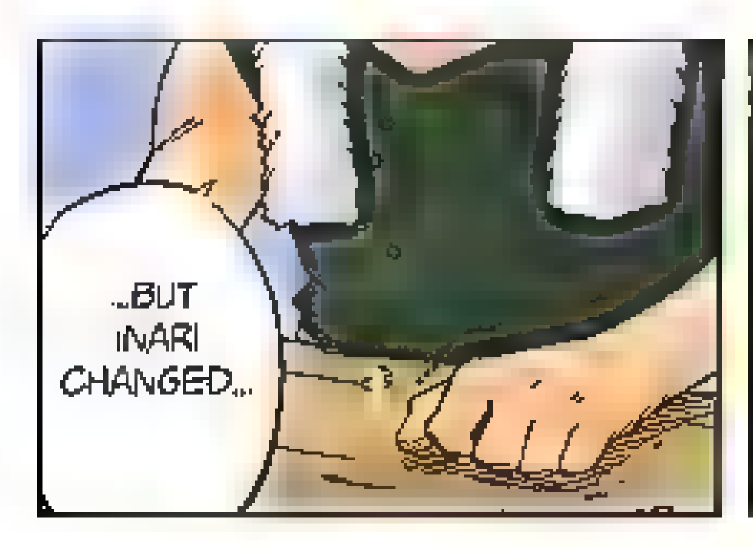



FATHER! I'VE TOLD YOU TIME AND AGAIN NOT TO MENTION THAT IN FRONT OF MY SON!

IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S A STORY THERE...

SO... YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT WHAT IT IS THAT MAKES INARI ACT SO STRANGELY ?

...THE MAN IN THE PICTURE WAS NOT INARI'S BIRTH FATHER.
BUT THEY WERE AS LOVING AND CLOSE AS ANY BIOLOGICAL FATHER AND SON COULD HAVE BEEN.
INARI WAS SUCH A HAPPY, LAUGHING CHILD BACK THEN...







AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS FATHER.

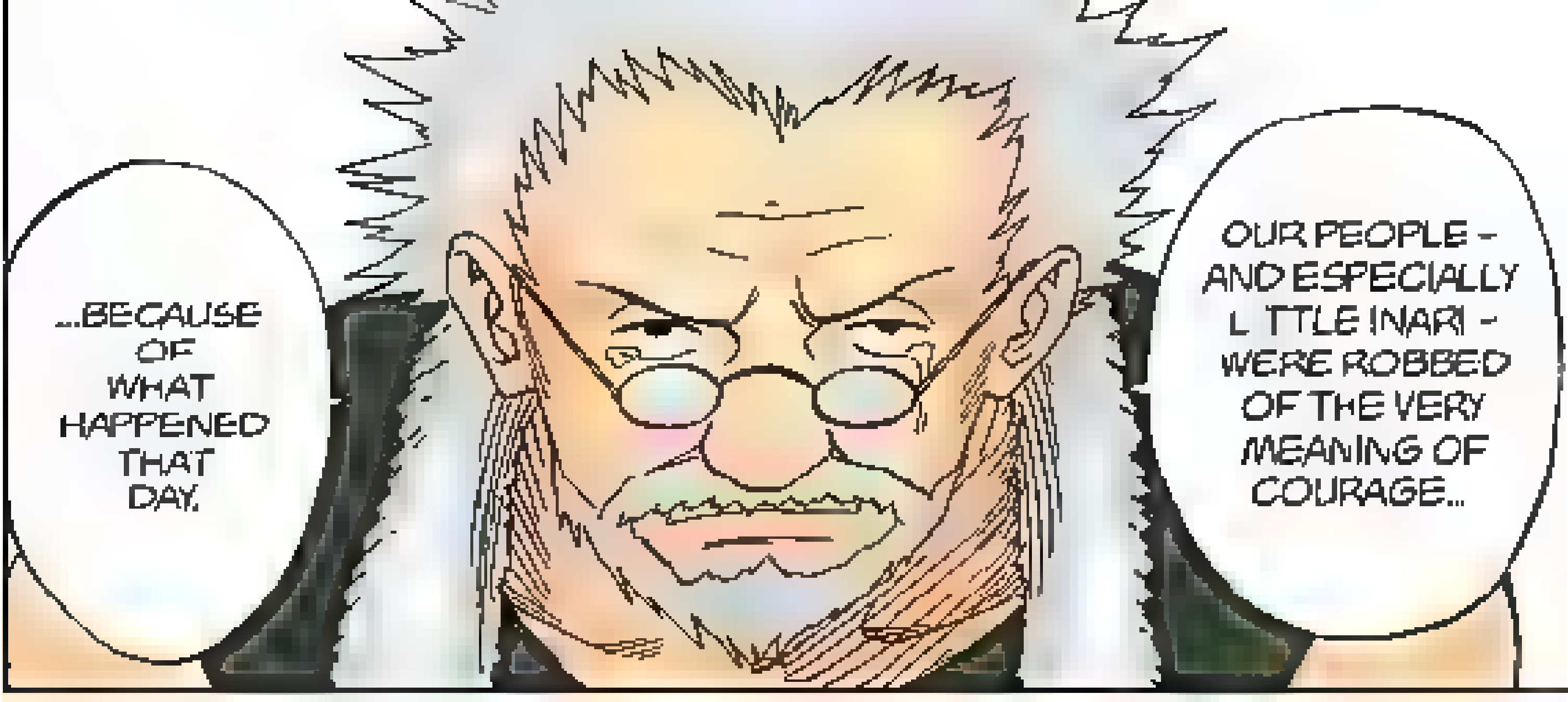



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No.20:

英雄のいた国…!!

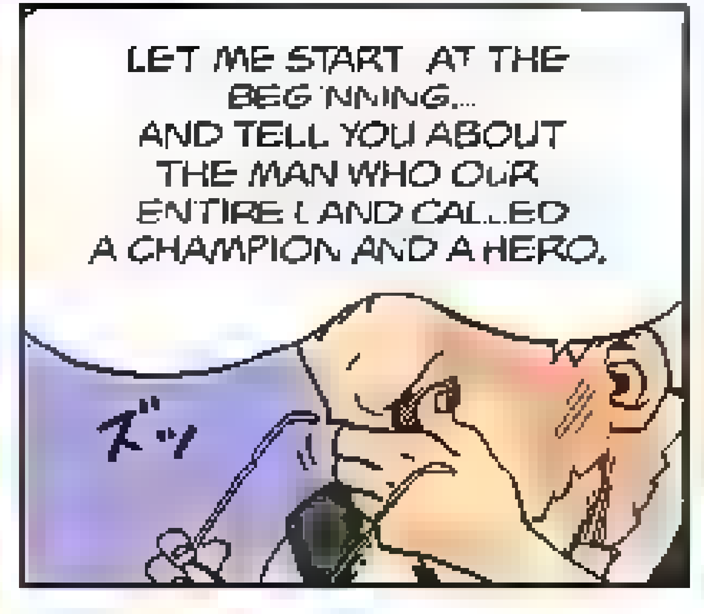
THE LAND THAT HAD A HERO...!

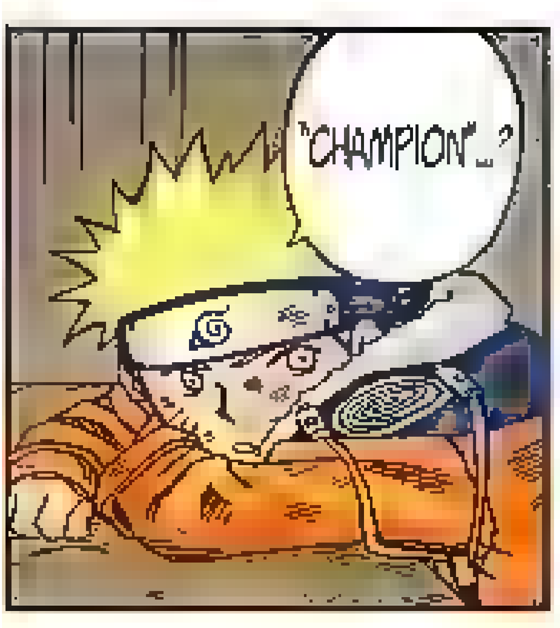

OUR PEOPLE - AND ESPECIALLY LITTLE INARI - WERE ROBBED OF THE VERY MEANING OF COURAGE...
...BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY.


"WHAT HAPPENED"?
WHAT WAS IT? WHAT COULD HAVE CHANGED INARI SO MUCH?

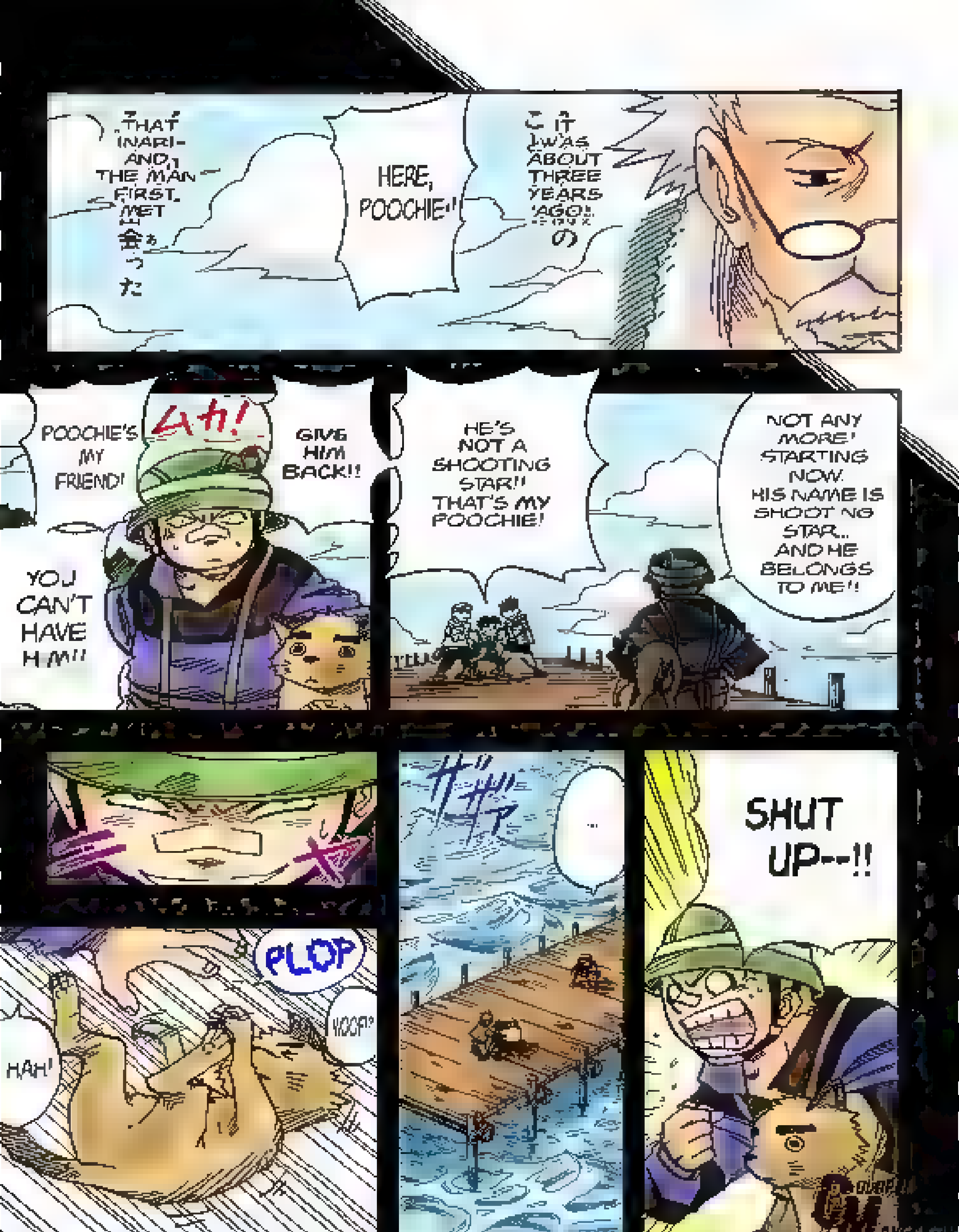

!
!
!
!




LET ME START AT THE BEGINNING... AND TELL YOU ABOUT THE MAN WHO OUR ENTIRE LAND CALLED A CHAMPION AND A HERO.
ズッ


"CHAMPION"...?


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IT WAS ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO!
の
HERE, POOCHIE!!
THAT INARI— AND THE MAN FIRST MET
会った
NOT ANY MORE! STARTING NOW. HIS NAME IS SHOOT NG STAR.. AND HE BELONGS TO ME!!
HE'S NOT A SHOOTING STAR!! THAT'S MY POOCHIE!
GIVE HIM BACK!!
ムカ!
POOCHIE'S MY FRIEND!
YOJ CAN'T HAVE H M!!
SHUT UP--!!
ザザア
...
PLOP
WOOF?
HAH!

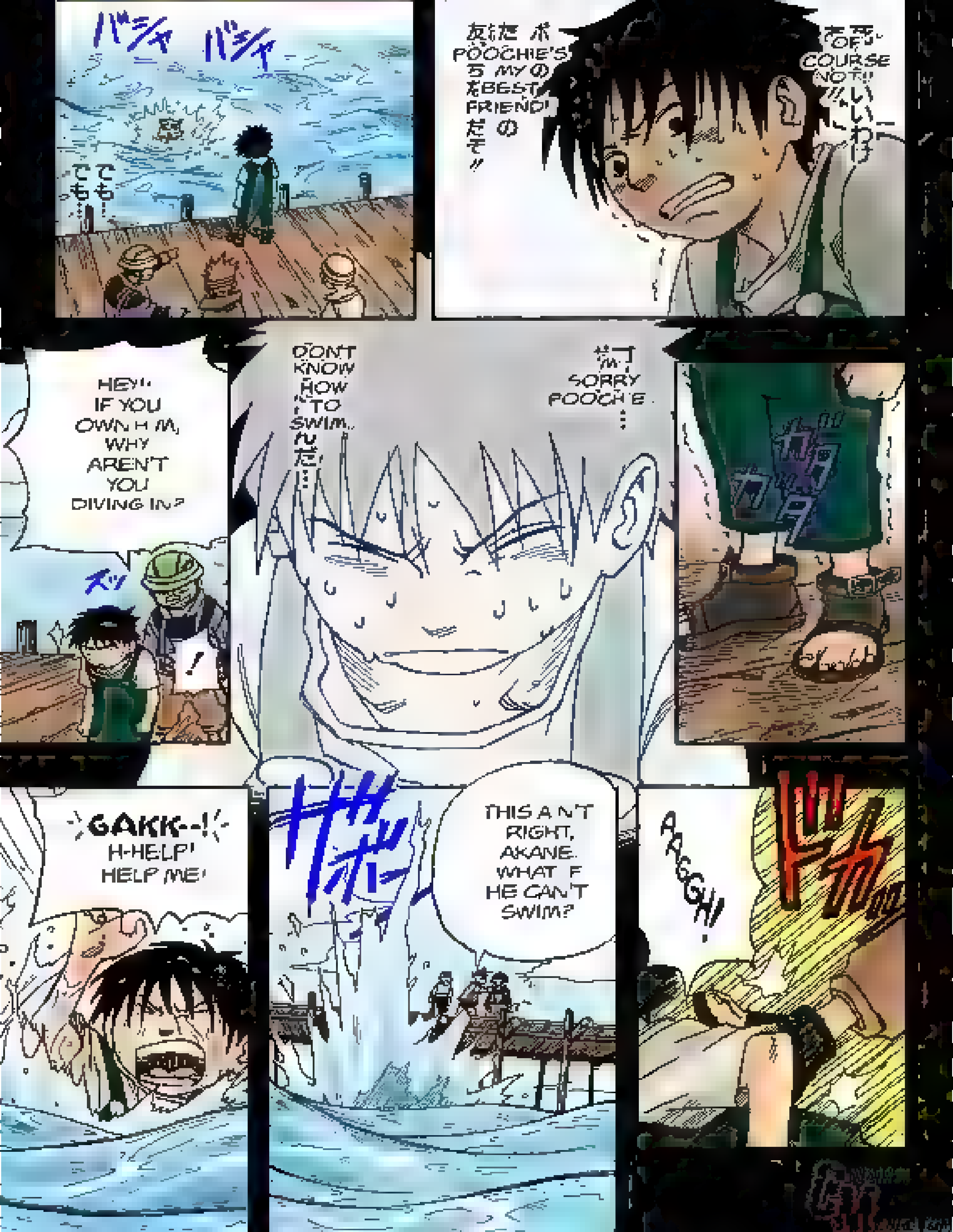

ドッボーン
!!


POOCHE--!!
ヴォエブ! ヴォエブ!!
IT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR NOT HANDING HIM OVER WHEN I ORDERED.
WHO CARES ABOUT A DUMB DOG, ANYWAY?


HEY!! LET INARI GO!
YOU CAN'T JUST DROWN MY DOG!

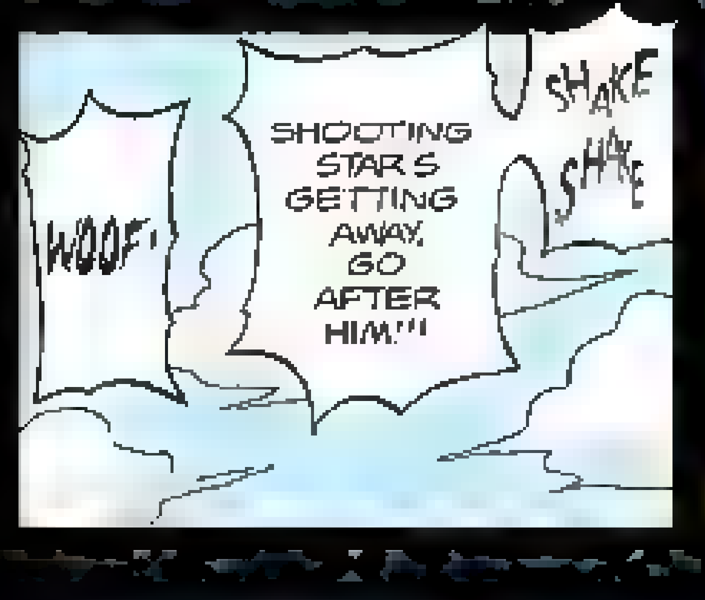

WELL, IF THE PUPPY MEANS SO MUCH TO YOU...
...BETTER GO SAVE HIM!!

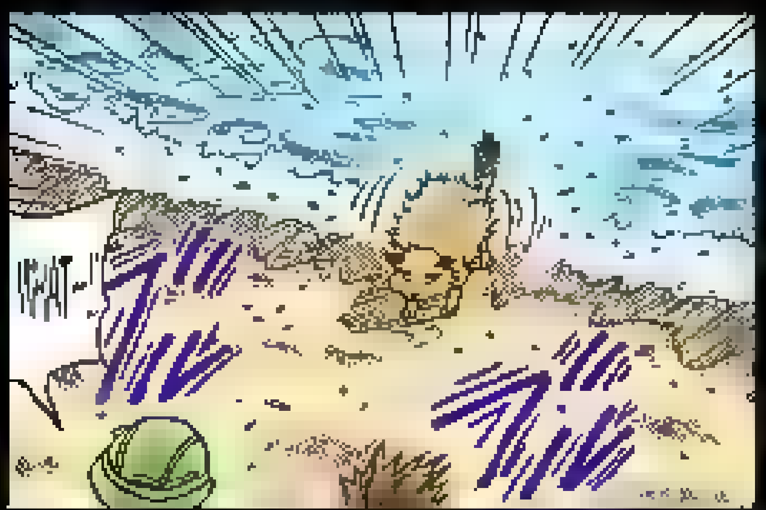

BUT...
WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
ARE YOU GOING TO LET HIM JUST DIE?!



OF COURSE NOT!!
POOCHIE'S MY BEST FRIEND!
バシャ バシャ
でも… でも…
I'M SORRY POOCHIE…
DON'T KNOW HOW TO SWIM…
HEY!! IF YOU OWN HIM, WHY AREN'T YOU DIVING IN?
!
AAGH!
THIS AIN'T RIGHT, AKANE. WHAT IF HE CAN'T SWIM?
GAKK--! H-HELP! HELP ME!


AW, JUST LEAVE HIM!
B-... BUT...
OR DO YOU WANT TO BE THE NEXT ONE PERFORMING A LITTLE PET RESCUE?
GLUB!!
I-I DON'T WANNA DIE...
S-SOMEBODY HELP...!!
P..POOCHIE--?!
WOOF!!
BUT, I DIGRESS...
P-P-P--!!!
NECESSITY, AND THE NEARNESS OF HIS OWN DEATH FINALLY TAUGHT POOCHIE HOW TO DOG PADDLE
P-POOCHIE--!!


SHAKE
SHAKE
SHOOTING STAR'S GETTING AWAY, GO AFTER HIM!!!
WOOF!

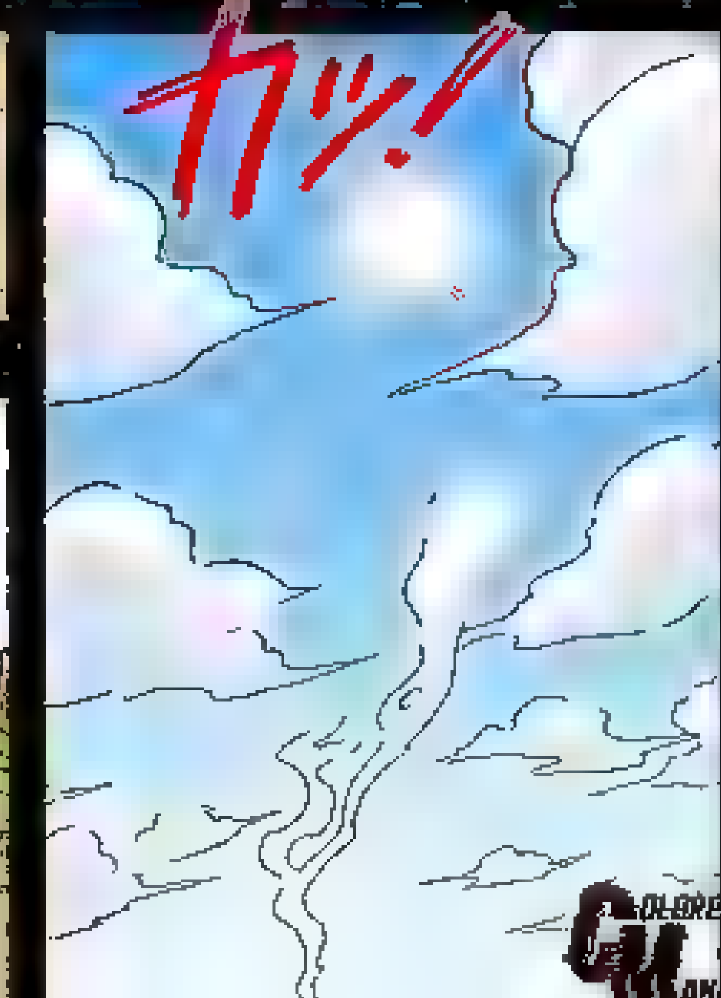

WHAT-!!


OHH..!
I...IT HURTS
THIS IS IT...
I'M...
DYING...

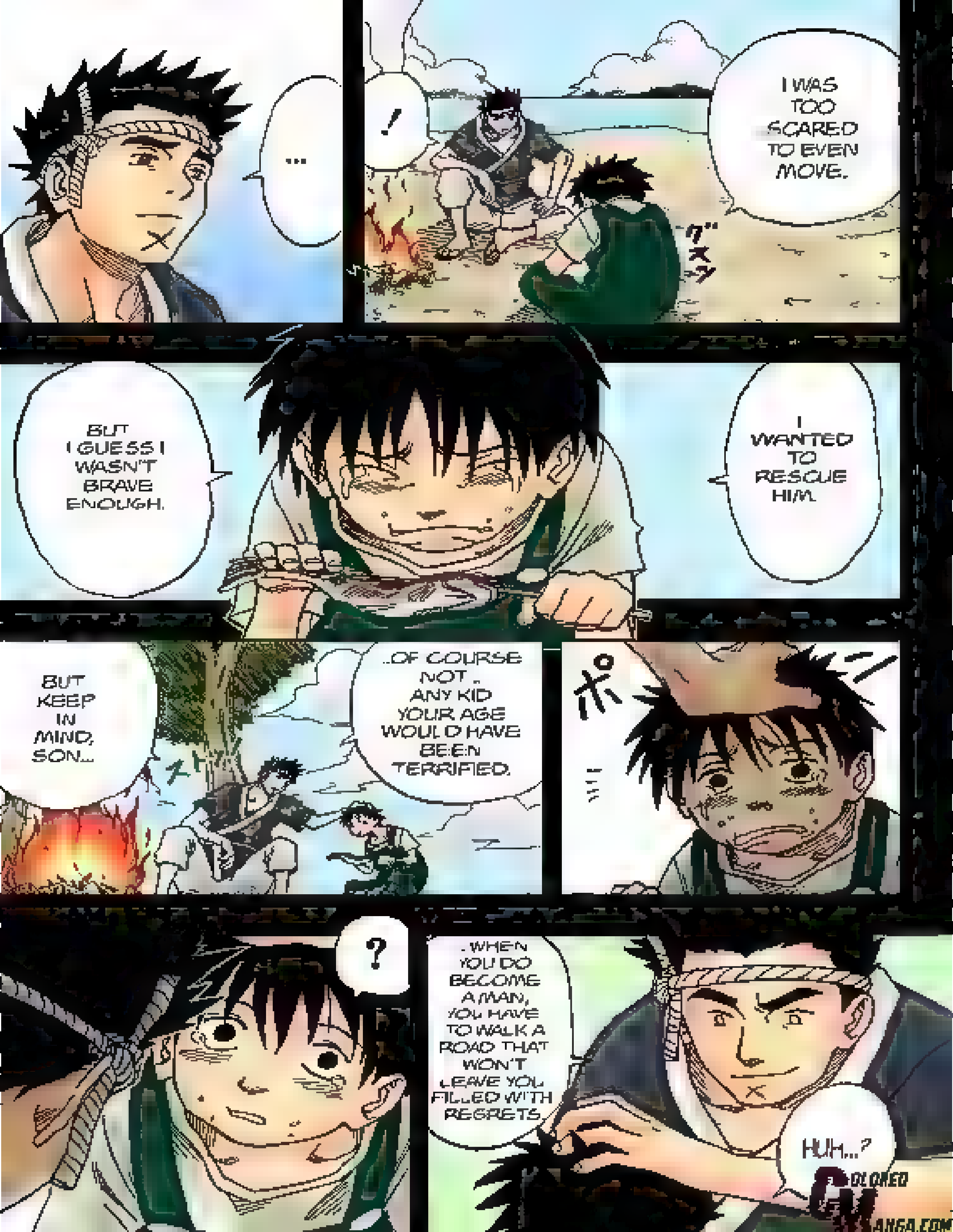

POCCHIE-!!

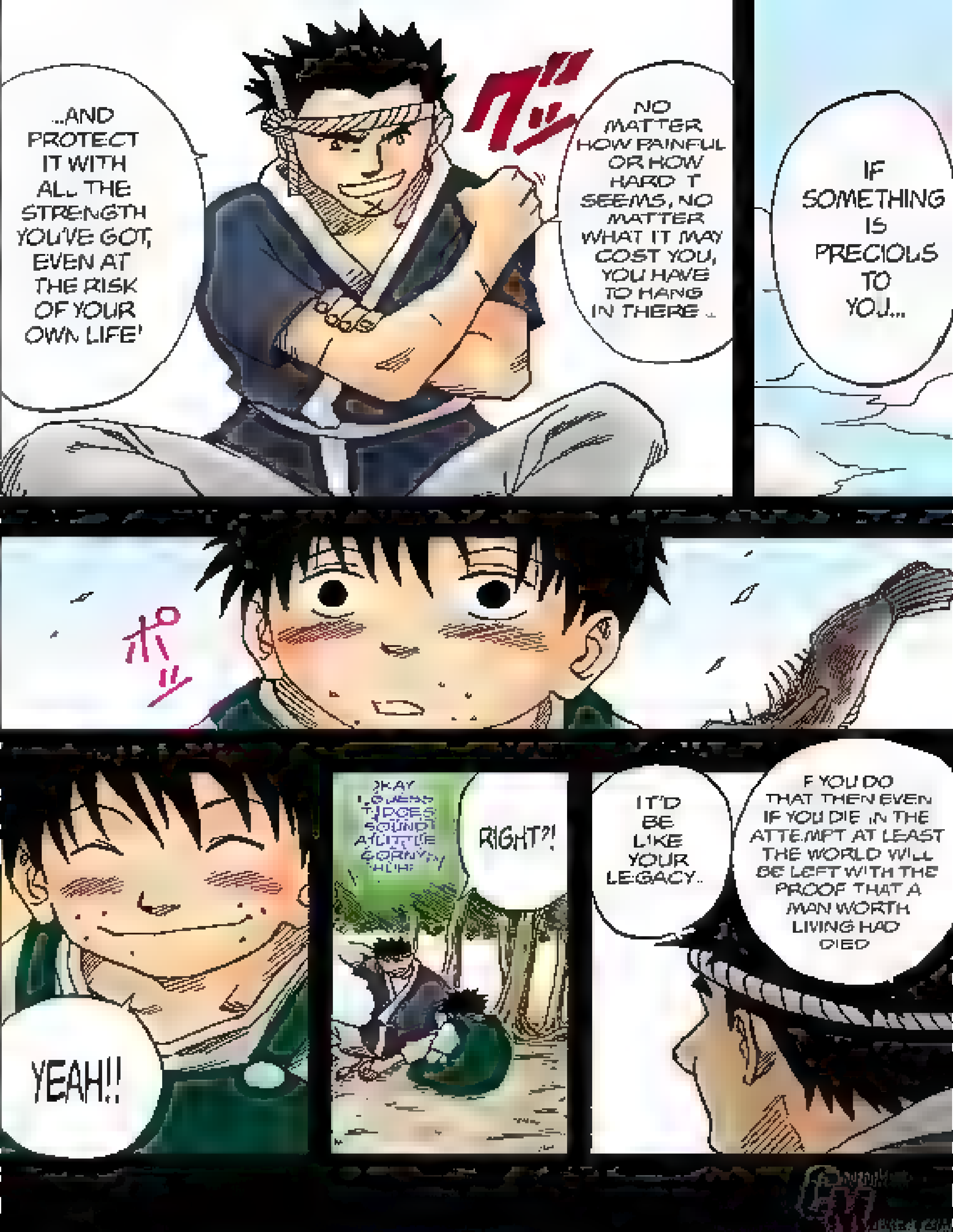


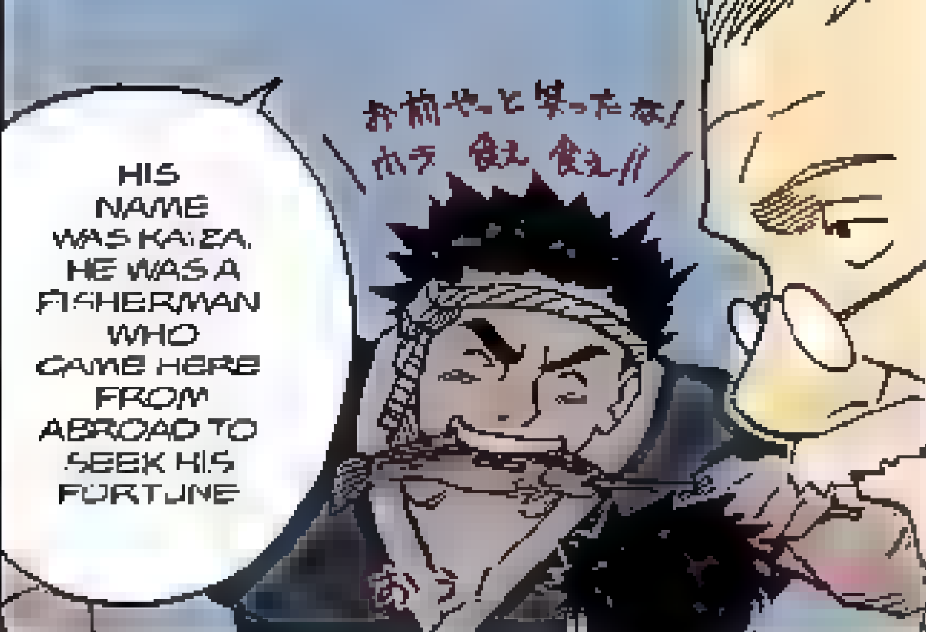

!!
ARE YOU AWAKE, SON?



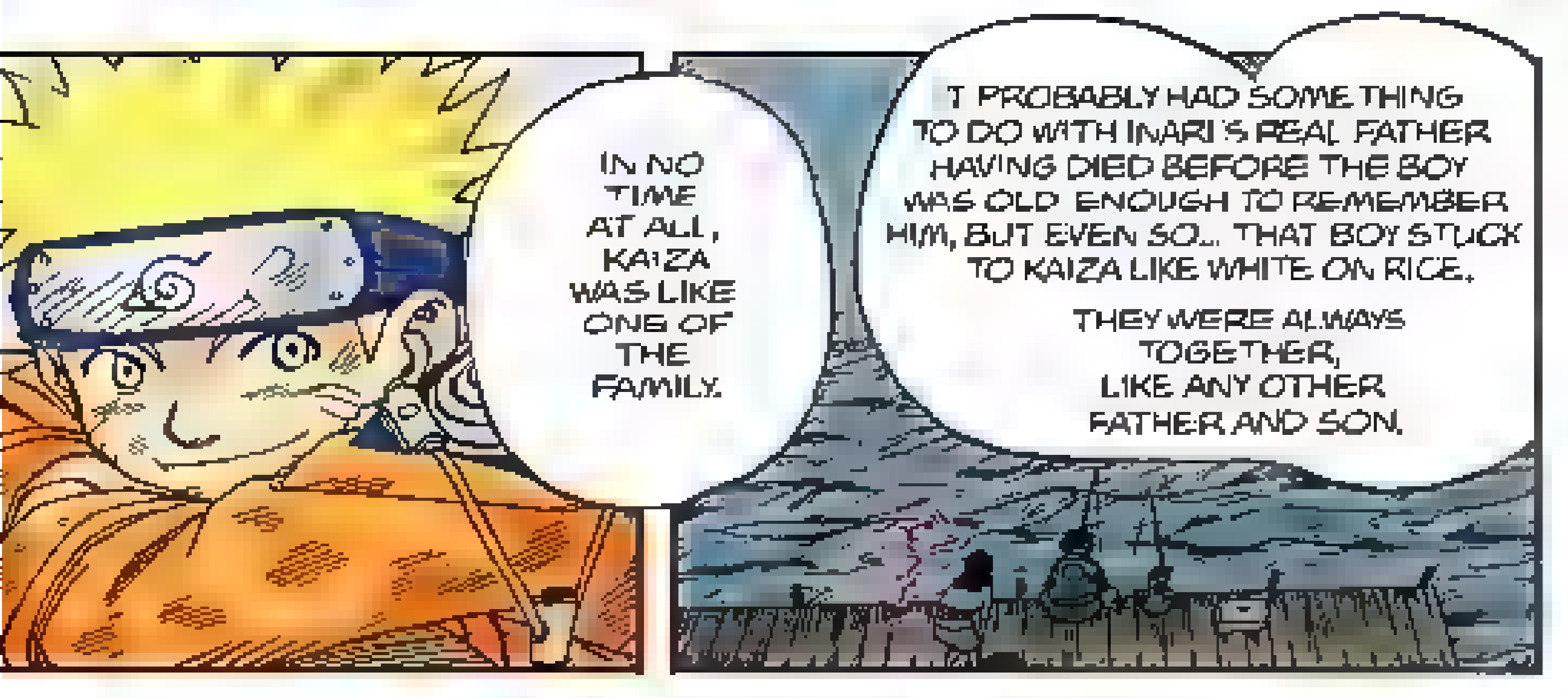

パチ
パチ
I REALLY LET THOSE PUNKS WHO WERE PICKING ON YOU HAVE IT GOOD.
HERE, EAT!
NO MAYBE NOT
...GOD?
...
DID YOU RESCUE ME, MISTER?!
...YOU'VE HAD A PRETTY ROUGH TIME OF IT, HAVEN'T YOU?!
...EVEN YOUR DOG LET YOU DOWN. WHERE I COME FROM, DOGS ARE LOYAL. YOU CAN COUNT ON THEM. BUT...
WELL, I GUESS, SINCE YOU LET HIM DOWN FIRST WE REALLY SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD ON HIM.
しゅん

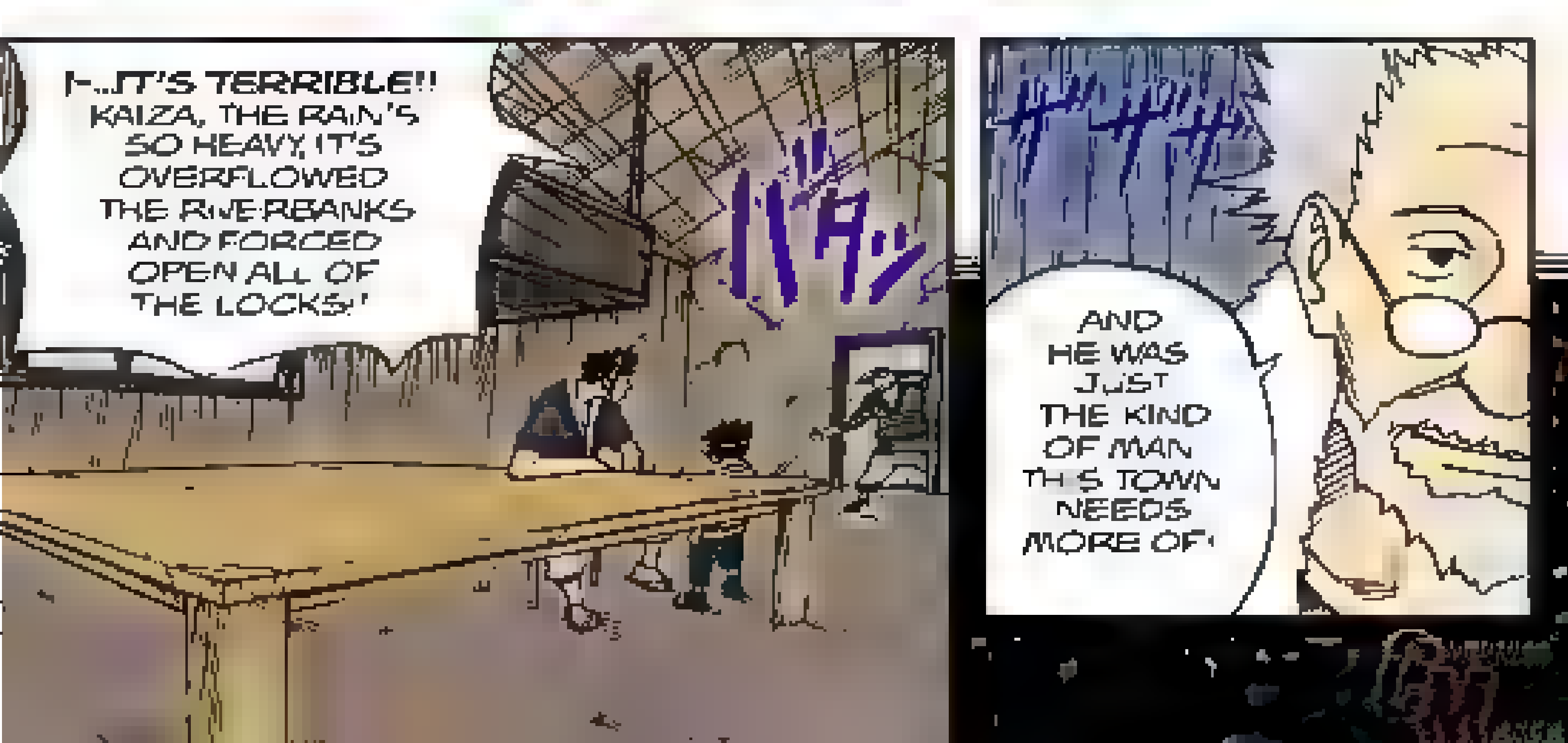

!
I WAS TOO SCARED TO EVEN MOVE.
グスッ
...
I WANTED TO RESCUE HIM.
BUT I GUESS I WASN'T BRAVE ENOUGH.
ポ
..OF COURSE NOT.. ANY KID YOUR AGE WOULD HAVE BEEN TERRIFIED.
BUT KEEP IN MIND, SON...
..WHEN YOU DO BECOME A MAN, YOU HAVE TO WALK A ROAD THAT WON'T LEAVE YOU FILLED WITH REGRETS.
HUH...?
?


IF SOMETHING IS PRECIOUS TO YOU...
NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL OR HOW HARD IT SEEMS, NO MATTER WHAT IT MAY COST YOU, YOU HAVE TO HANG IN THERE...
グッ
...AND PROTECT IT WITH ALL THE STRENGTH YOU'VE GOT, EVEN AT THE RISK OF YOUR OWN LIFE!
ポッ
IF YOU DO THAT THEN EVEN IF YOU DIE IN THE ATTEMPT AT LEAST THE WORLD WILL BE LEFT WITH THE PROOF THAT A MAN WORTH LIVING HAD DIED
IT'D BE LIKE YOUR LEGACY..
RIGHT?!
OKAY I GUESS IT DOES SOUND A LITTLE CORNY, HUH?
YEAH!!


HIS NAME WAS KAIZA. HE WAS A FISHERMAN WHO CAME HERE FROM ABROAD TO SEEK HIS FORTUNE
お前やっと笑ったな! ホラ 食え 食え!!


FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, INARI'S AFFECTION AND ADMIRATION FOR KAIZA GREW AND GREW.
ギュ!
ギュ!


IT PROBABLY HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH INARI'S REAL FATHER HAVING DIED BEFORE THE BOY WAS OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER HIM, BUT EVEN SO... THAT BOY STUCK TO KAIZA LIKE WHITE ON RICE.
THEY WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER, LIKE ANY OTHER FATHER AND SON.
IN NO TIME AT ALL, KAIZA WAS LIKE ONE OF THE FAMILY.


ザザザ
AND HE WAS JUST THE KIND OF MAN THIS TOWN NEEDS MORE OF!
バタッ
I...IT'S TERRIBLE!! KAIZA, THE RAIN'S SO HEAVY, IT'S OVERFLOWED THE RIVERBANKS AND FORCED OPEN ALL OF THE LOCKS!



DADDY!!
WHAT?!!
AT THIS RATE, ALL OF SECTOR D WILL BE FLOODED!!
INARI, GO TO THE BACK AND GET THE ROPES!
OKAY!
I'LL GO!
THE LONGER WE WAIT, THE WORSE IT WILL GET... AND SECTOR D IS RUNNING OUT OF TIME!
IMPOSSIBLE! HOW WOULD WE GET A ROPE AROUND IT IN THE FIRST PLACE!! ANYONE WHO GOES INTO THAT TORRENT WILL BE SWEPT AWAY AND DROWNED!!

KAIZA!!

IT CAN'T BE DONE, MAN!!

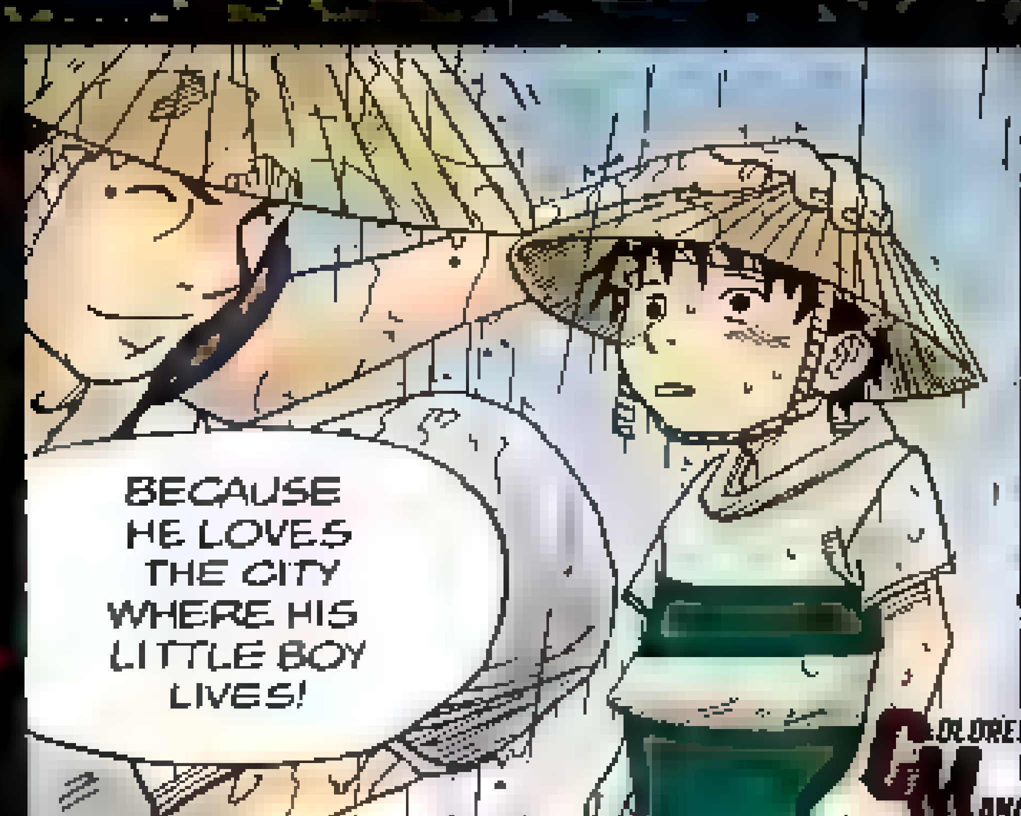
YOU'LL BE THROWING YOUR LIFE AWAY!!

DON'T RISK IT!

DADDY!

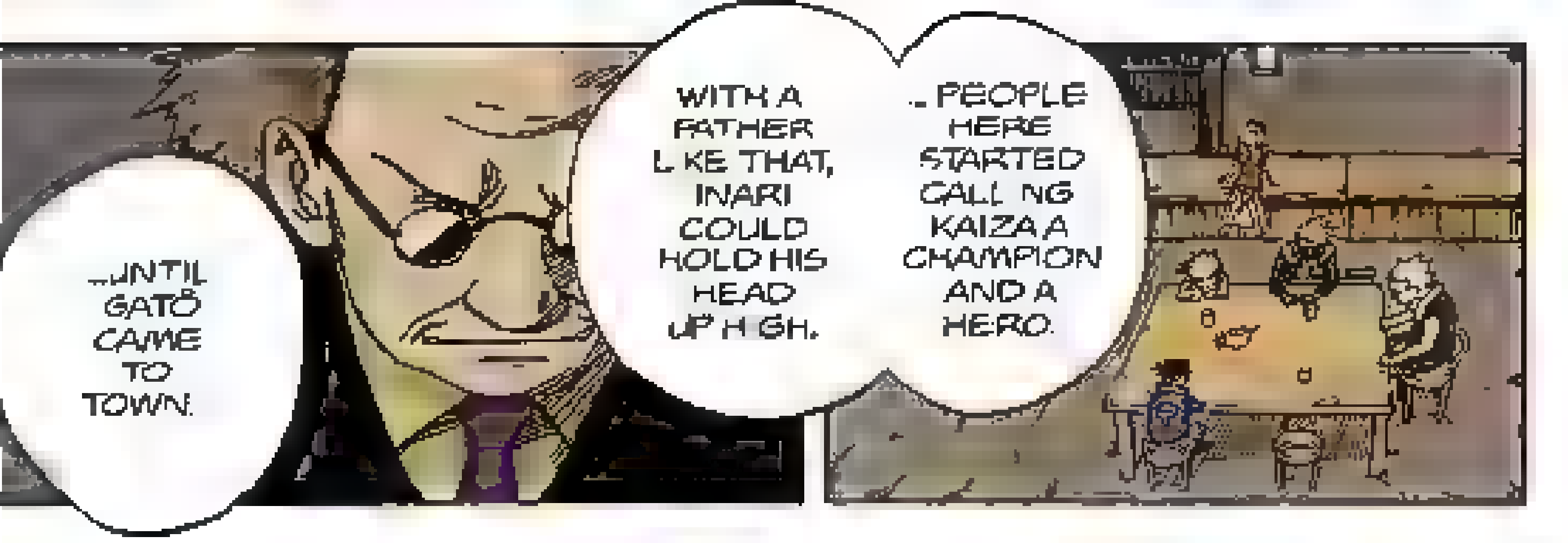
DON'T WORRY, INARI. DADDY CAN DO ANYTHING!

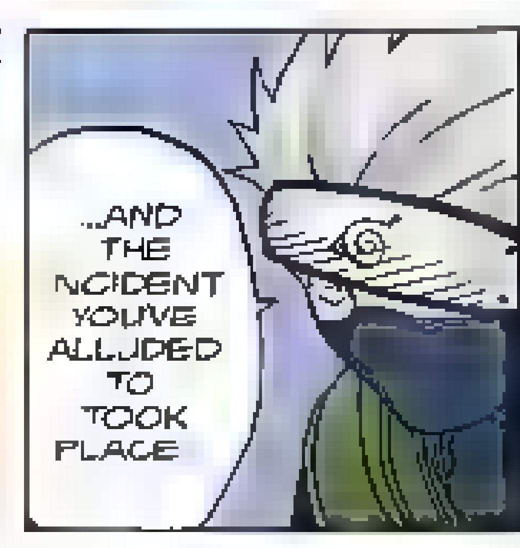
PAT!



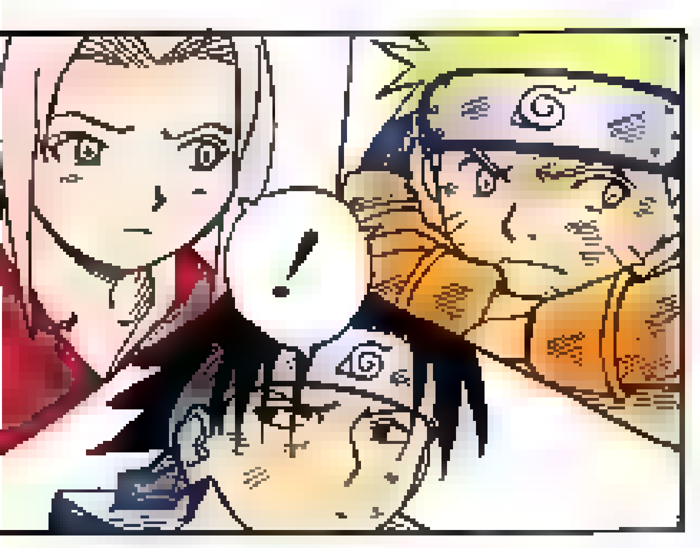


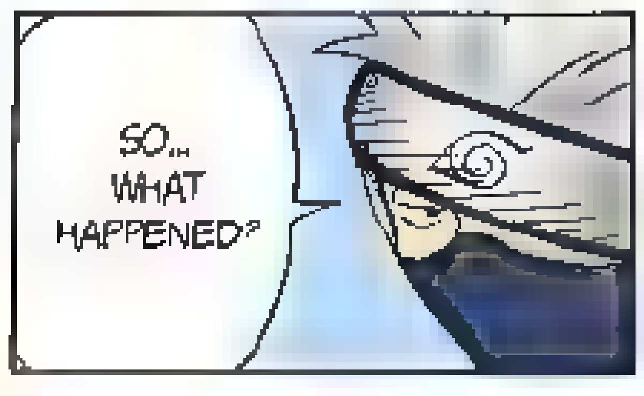

KAZA!!
EVEN AT THE RISK...
PROTECT IT WITH ALL THE STRENGTH YOU'VE GOT
IF SOMETHING IS PRECIOUS TO YOU...
HE'S DONE IT!!! THE ROPE'S IN PLACE!!
PULL EVERYONE, PULL!
...OF YOUR OWN LIFE!
GO, DADDY--!!
THAT WAS WHEN..

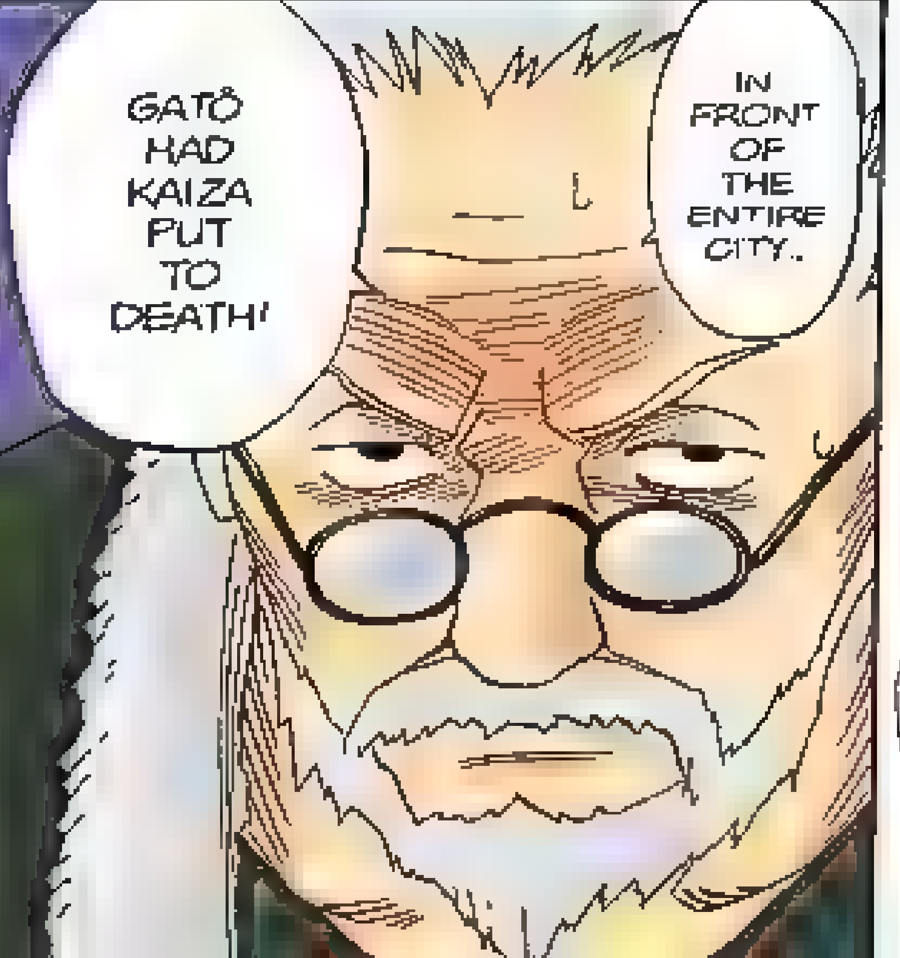

...PEOPLE HERE STARTED CALLING KAIZA A CHAMPION AND A HERO.
WITH A FATHER LIKE THAT, INARI COULD HOLD HIS HEAD UP HIGH.
...UNTIL GATŌ CAME TO TOWN.


...AND THE INCIDENT YOU'VE ALLUDED TO TOOK PLACE


...


!

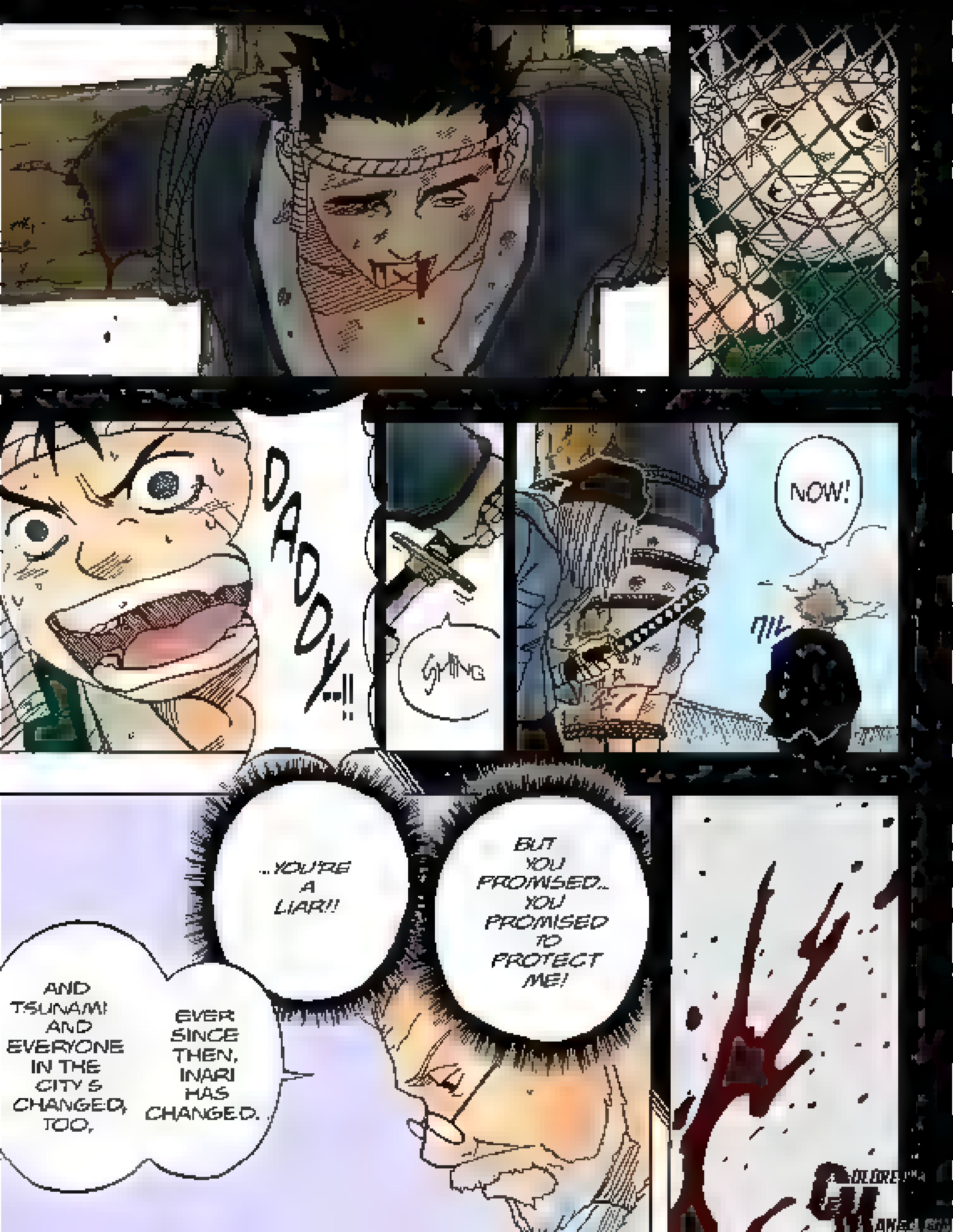

SO... WHAT HAPPENED?

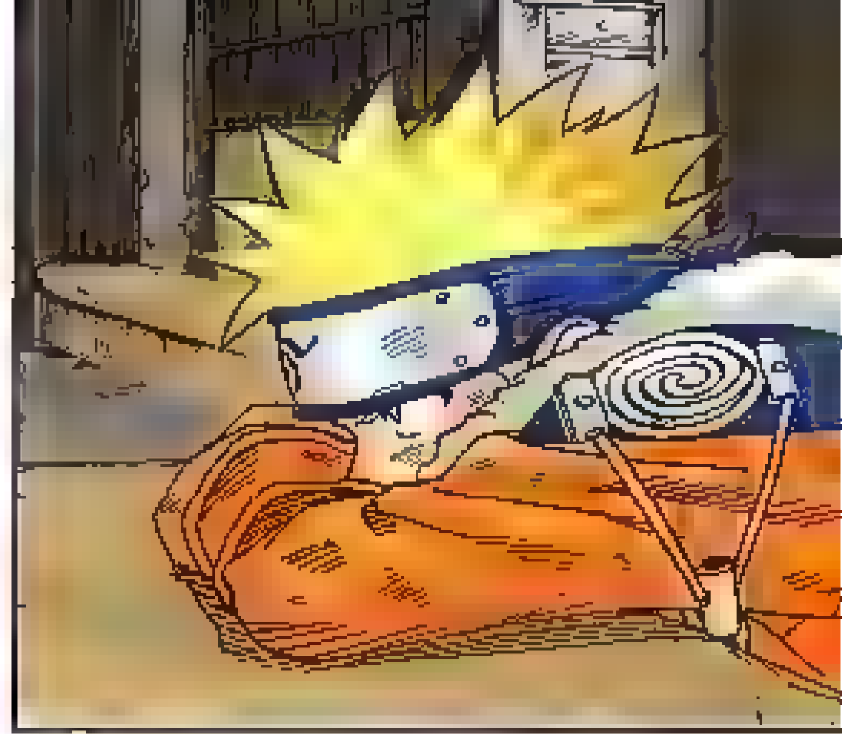

IN FRONT OF THE ENTIRE CITY...
GATŌ HAD KAIZA PUT TO DEATH!

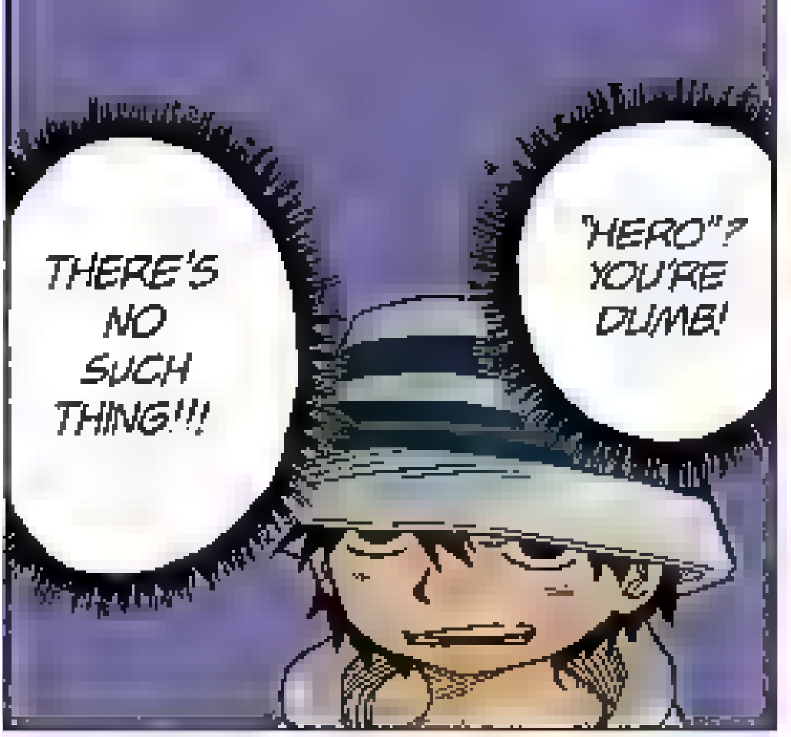

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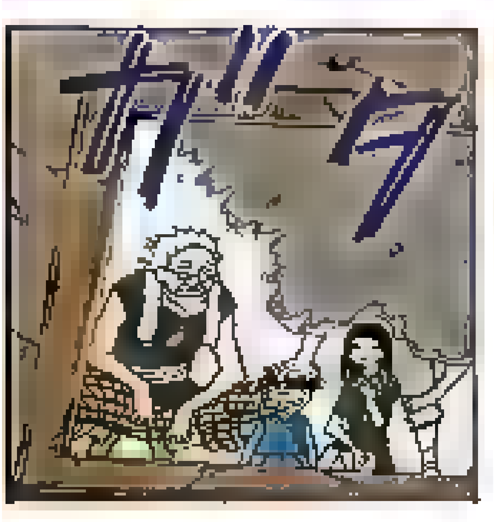

WHAT?
HE'S OPENLY DENOUNCED OUR POLICIES AND TRIED TO INCITE SABOTAGE AND RESISTANCE AGAINST US, AND DISRUPTED THE ORDER OF THIS LAND. THE PENALTY FOR ALL HIS CRIMES IS DEATH. THE SENTENCE WILL BE CARRIED OUT AT ONCE...
UHHH
EVERYBODY LISTEN UP! THIS MAN HAS COMMITED ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM AGAINST MY COMPANY AND OUR ACTIVITIES HERE
ガヤ
ガヤ
ガヤ
INARI!
DADDY!!
...TO ENSURE THAT SUCH AN AWFUL THING WILL NEVER DISTURB ANY OF US, EVER AGAIN!


NOW!
DADDY...!!
BUT YOU PROMISED.. YOU PROMISED TO PROTECT ME!
...YOU'RE A LIAR!!
EVER SINCE THEN, INARI HAS CHANGED.
AND TSUNAMI AND EVERYONE IN THE CITY'S CHANGED, TOO.

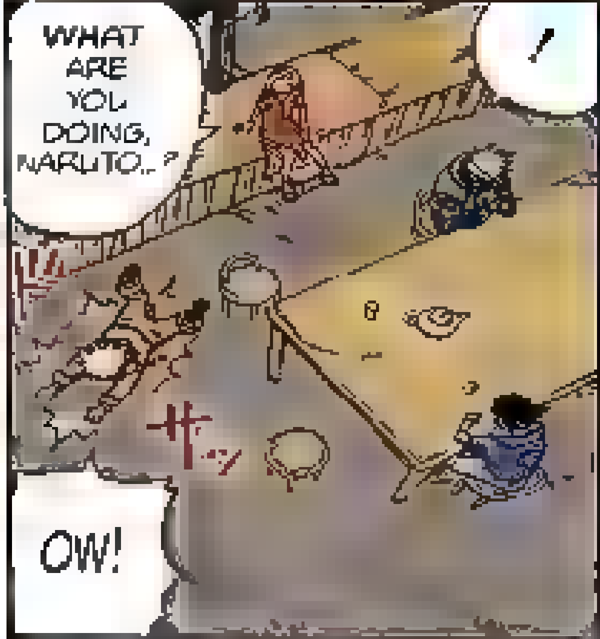



"HERO"? YOU'RE DUMB!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING!!!


SOB
SOB
...DADDY!...




!


!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, NARUTO..?
OW!


..DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT TRA NING ANY MORE TODAY. IF YOU TRY TO WORK YOUR CHAKRAS ANY MORE WITH GETTING SOME REST FIRST, IT WOULD PROBABLY KILL YOU


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I'M GOING TO PROVE TO HIM THAT HE'S WRONG

?

PROVE WHAT? TO WHOM?

I'M GOING TO SHOW INARI...!

THAT THERE ARE STILL HEROES IN THE WORLD!!!



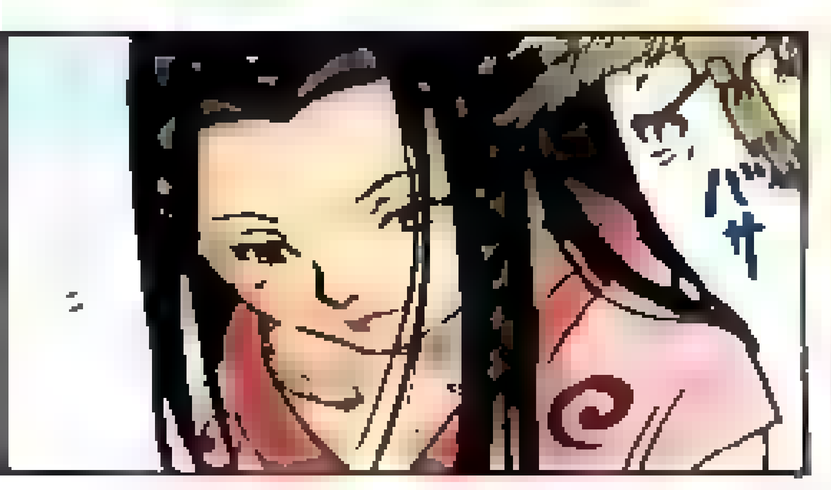

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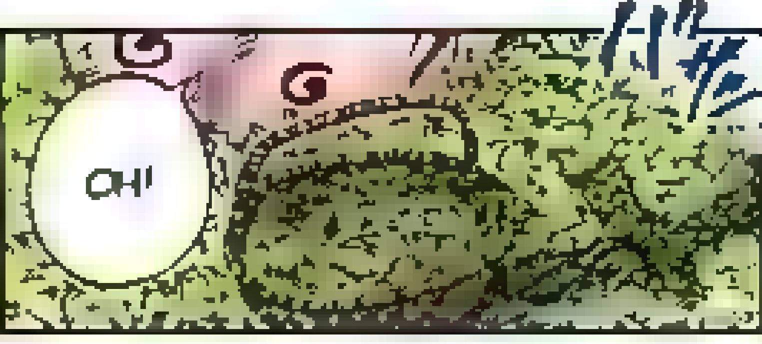
21：
森の中の出会い…!!
A MEETING IN THE FOREST...!!
MORNING ON THE SIXTH DAY OF TRAINING
チュン
心技体

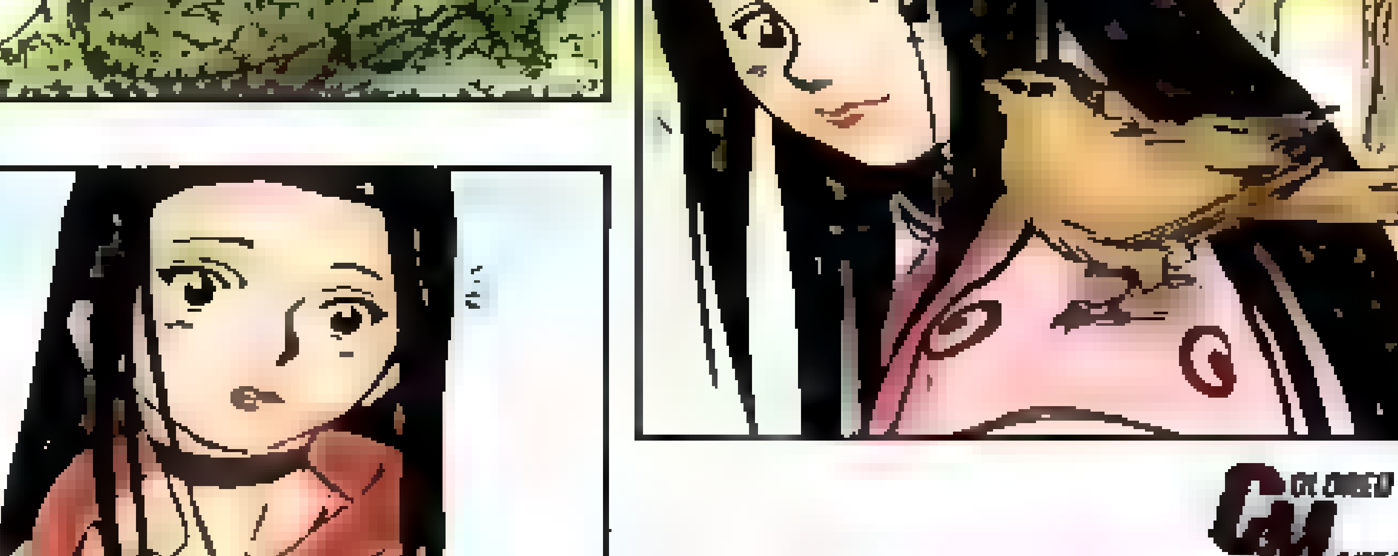

SNAP

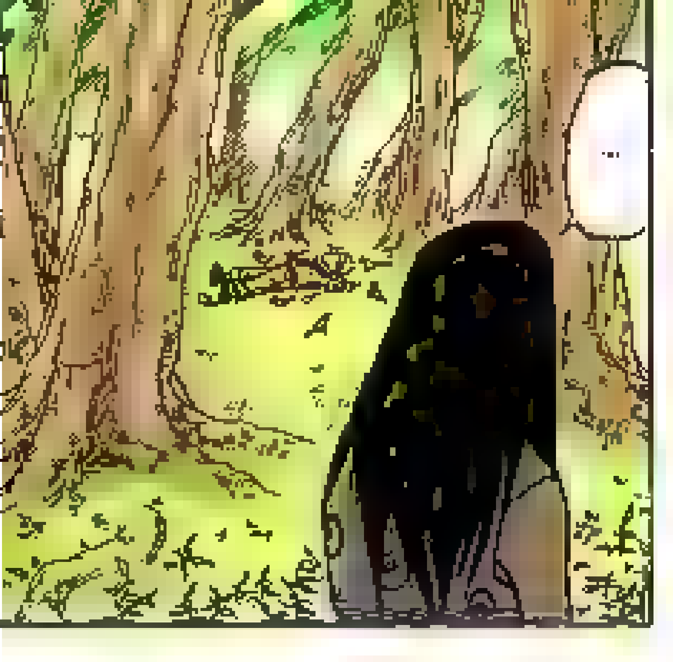


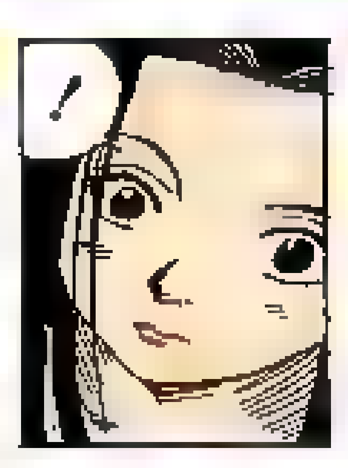

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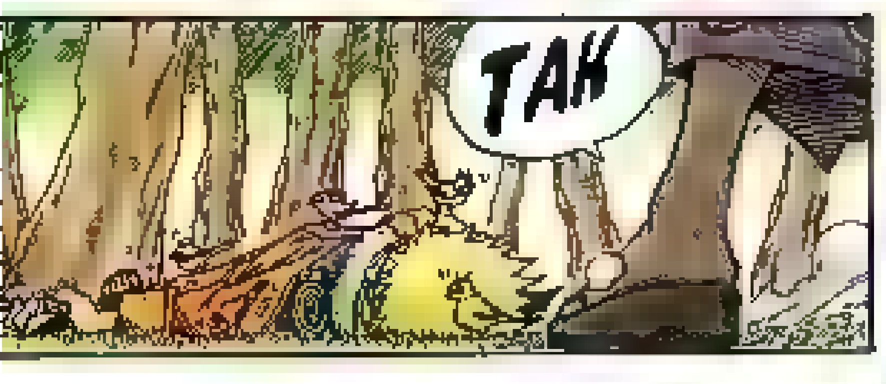


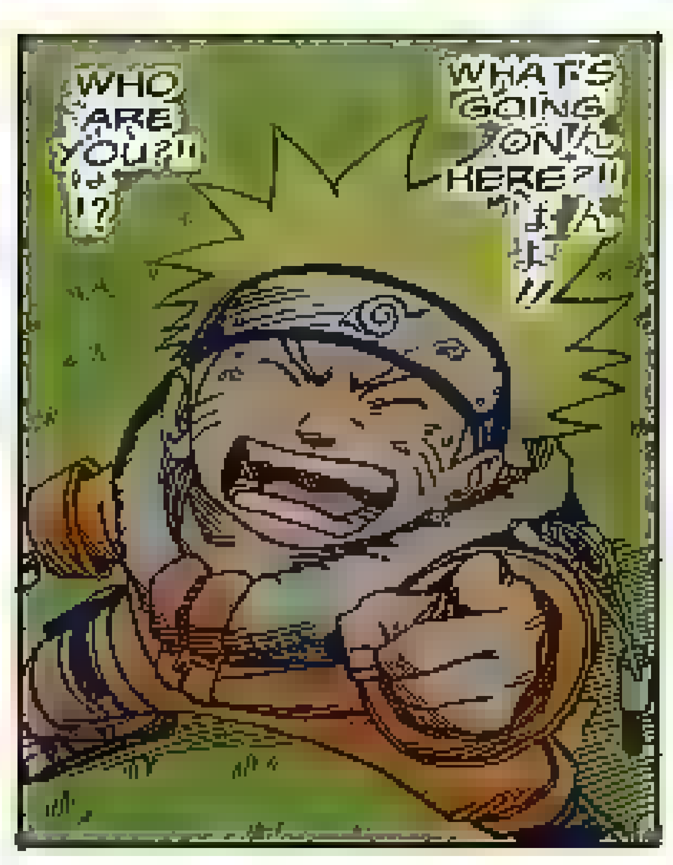

OH!


!

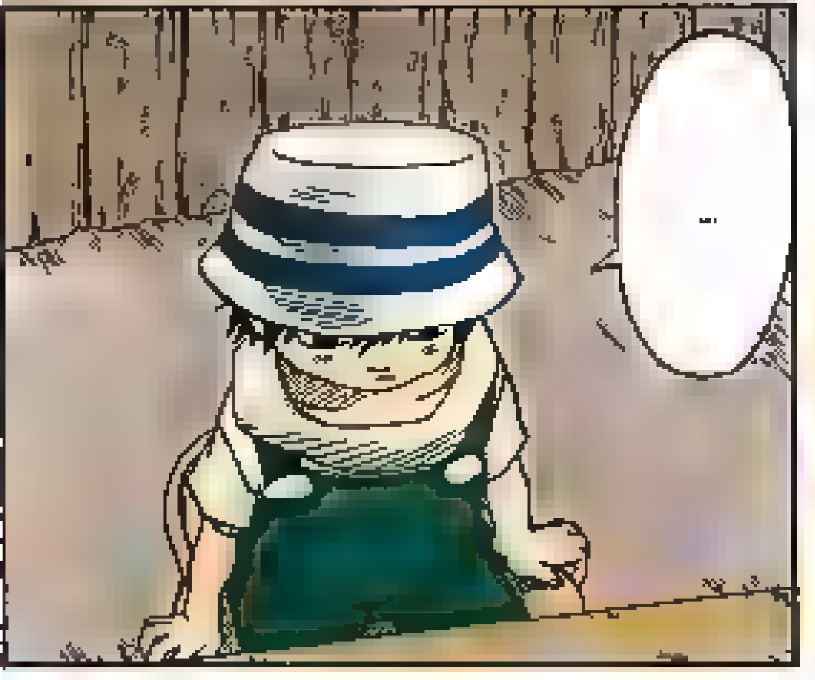
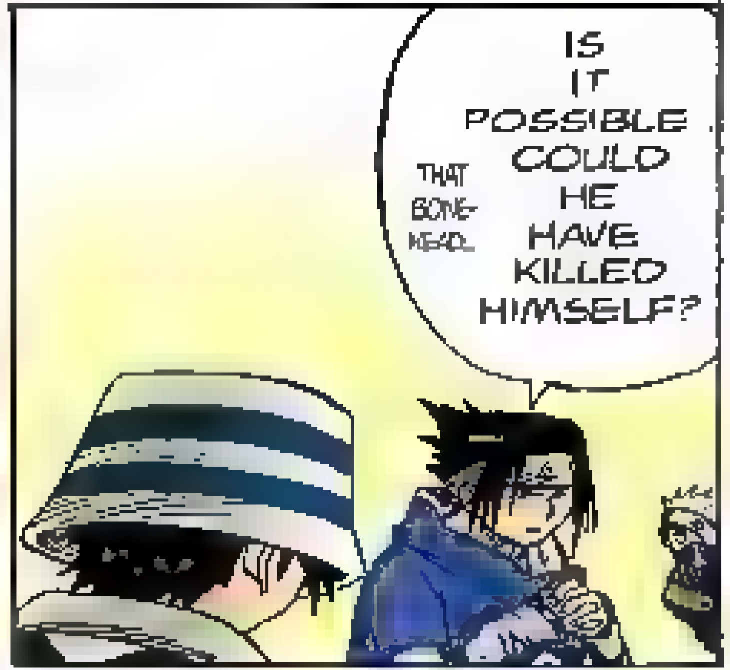
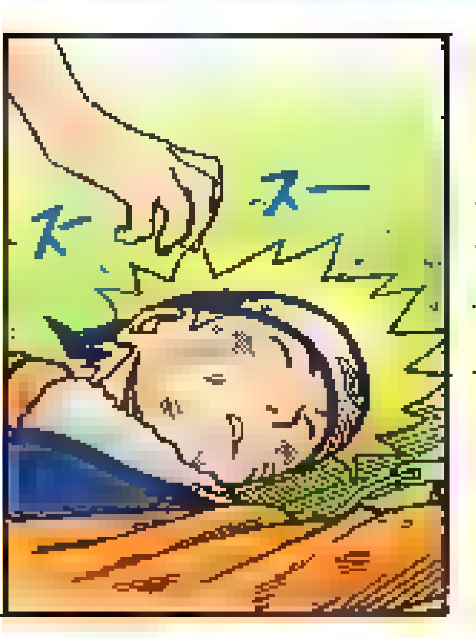
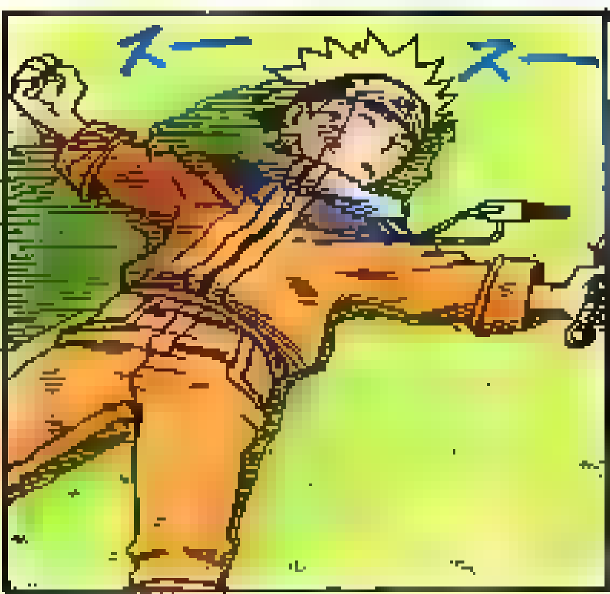
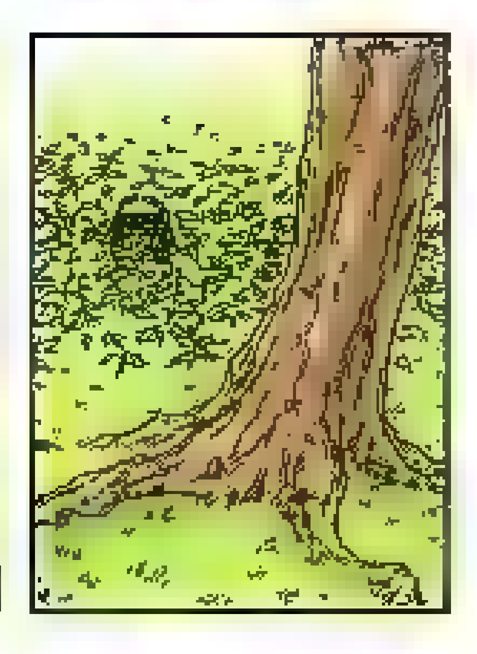
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TAK


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WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!!
WHO ARE YOU?!!

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YAAAWN
NAUGHTY NARUTO STAYED OUT ALL NIGHT AGAIN, DIDN'T HE?
EVER SINCE YOU TOLD US THAT STORY, HE'S BEEN IN THE TREES, TRAINING ALL ALONE, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT...
AN IDIOT WITH AN OBSESSION
IF HE EXHAUSTS HIS CHAKRA, HE COULD KILL HIMSELF .. AND BE LYING DEAD SOMEWHERE RIGHT NOW.
... HOPE HE'S ALL RIGHT. IT'S NOT GOOD FOR A BOY TO SPEND NIGHT AFTER NIGHT ALONE OUTSIDE!
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
NARUTO'S A GOOFY KID.. BUT HE'S ALSO A FULL-FLEDGED NINJA.

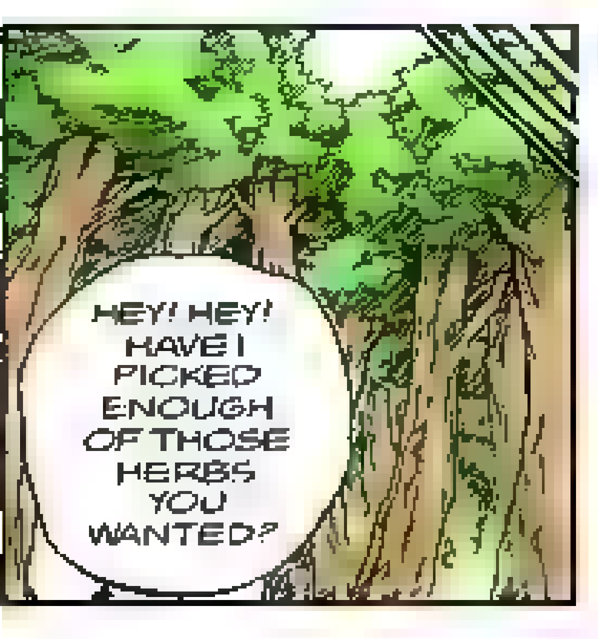


IS IT POSSIBLE COULD HE HAVE KILLED HIMSELF?
THAT BONE-HEAD.

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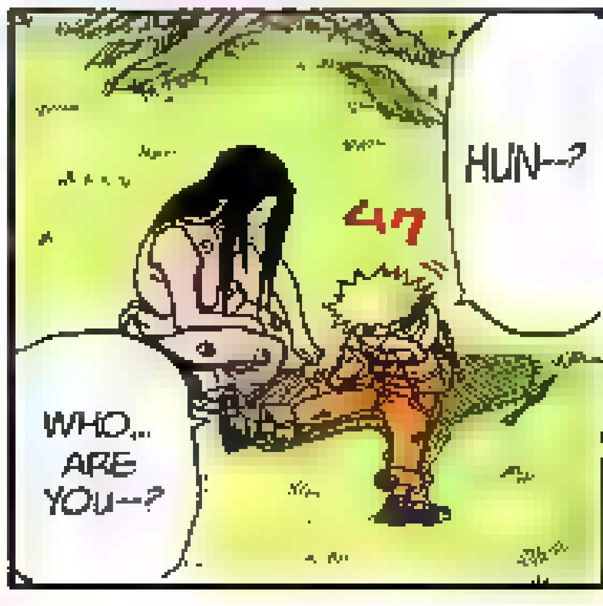



YOU'LL CATCH YOUR DEATH OF COLD, SLEEPING ON THE GROUND.

TAP

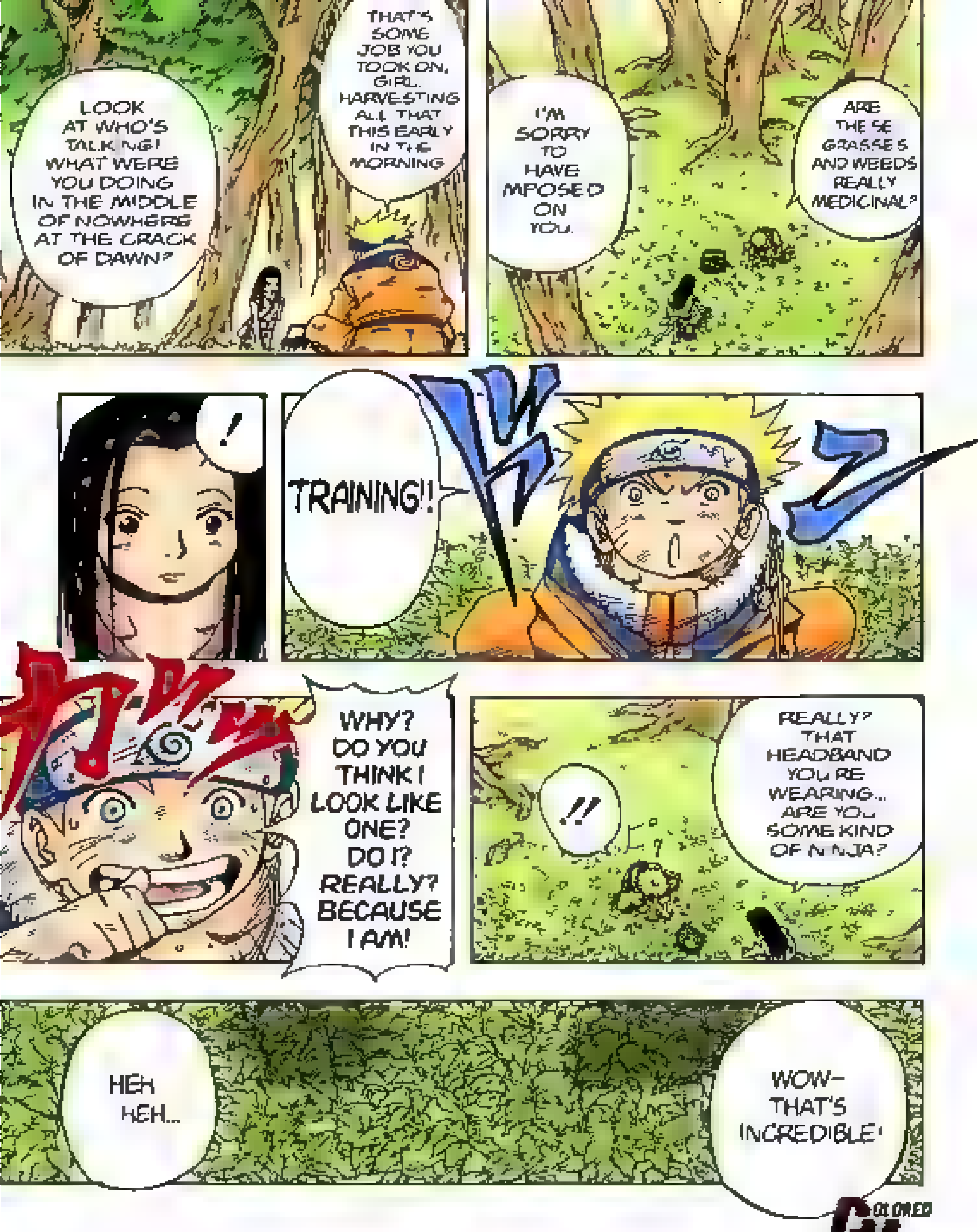
...HUNH?



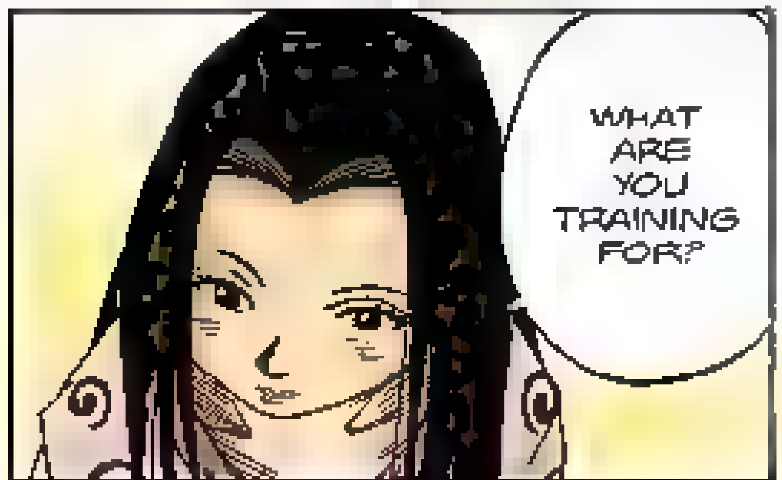


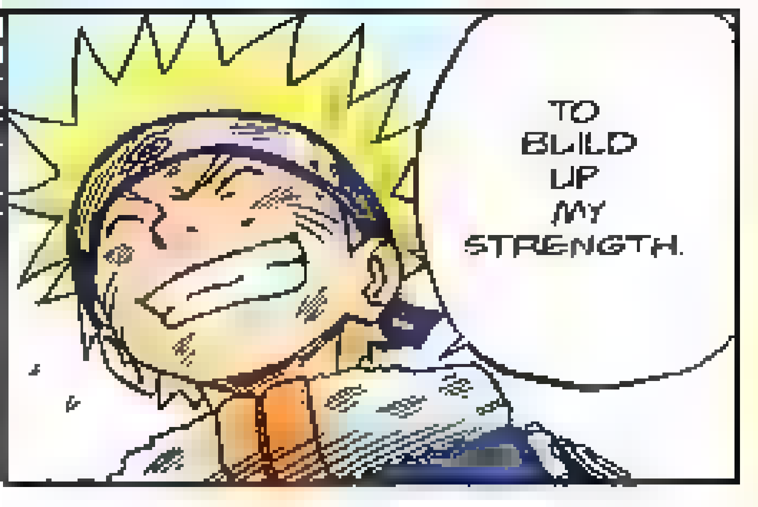


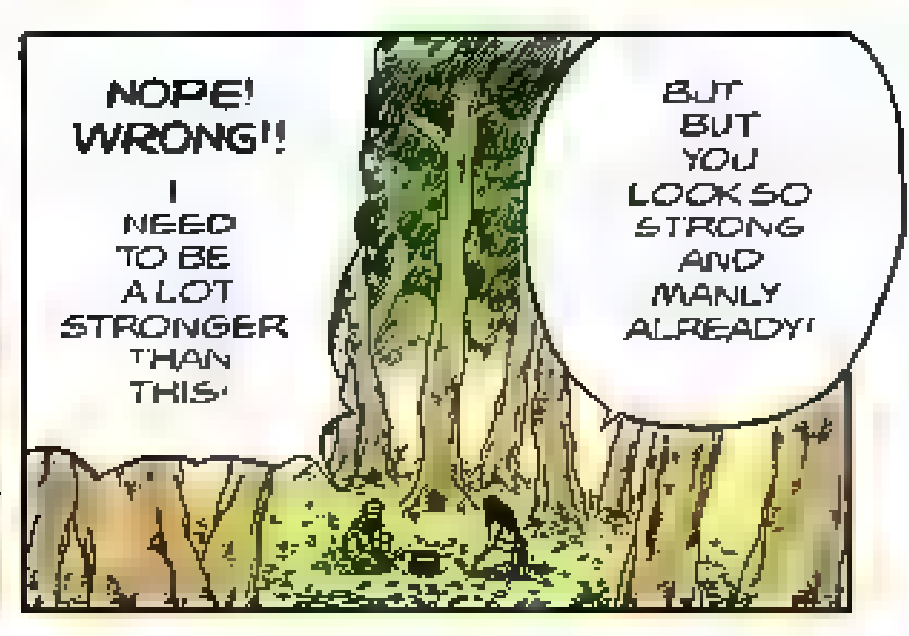




ARE THESE GRASSES AND WEEDS REALLY MEDICINAL?
I'M SORRY TO HAVE MPOSED ON YOU.
THAT'S SOME JOB YOU TOOK ON, GIRL. HARVESTING ALL THAT THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING
LOOK AT WHO'S TALKING! WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE AT THE CRACK OF DAWN?
TRAINING!!
!
REALLY? THAT HEADBAND YOU'RE WEARING... ARE YOU SOME KIND OF NINJA?
!!
WHY? DO YOU THINK I LOOK LIKE ONE? DO I? REALLY? BECAUSE I AM!
WOW- THAT'S INCREDIBLE!
HEH HEH...







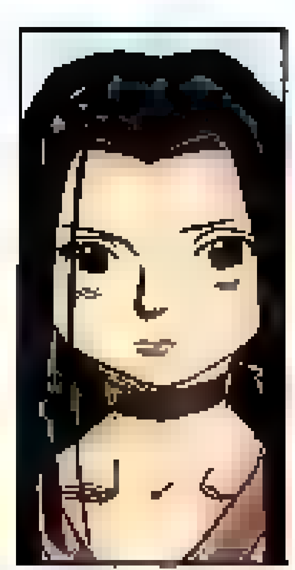


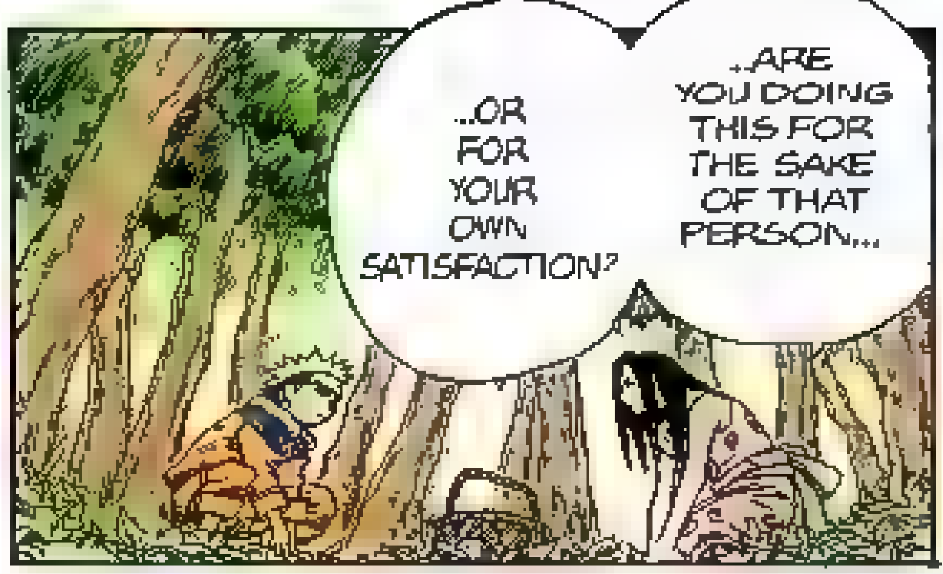


TO BECOME TOP DOG IN MY HOME TOWN!

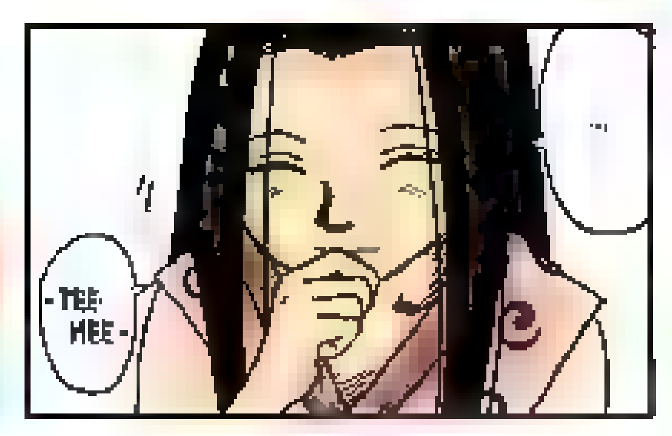
ALL THE PEOPLE WHO USED TO TREAT ME LIKE DIRT WILL HAVE TO SAY "HE'S THE NUMBER ONE NINJA"!

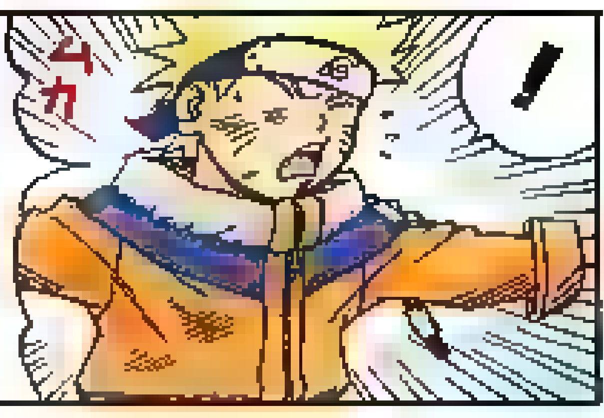
AND RIGHT AT THE MOMENT, I KIND OF HAVE TO PROVE A POINT... TO A CERTAIN PERSON I KNOW.



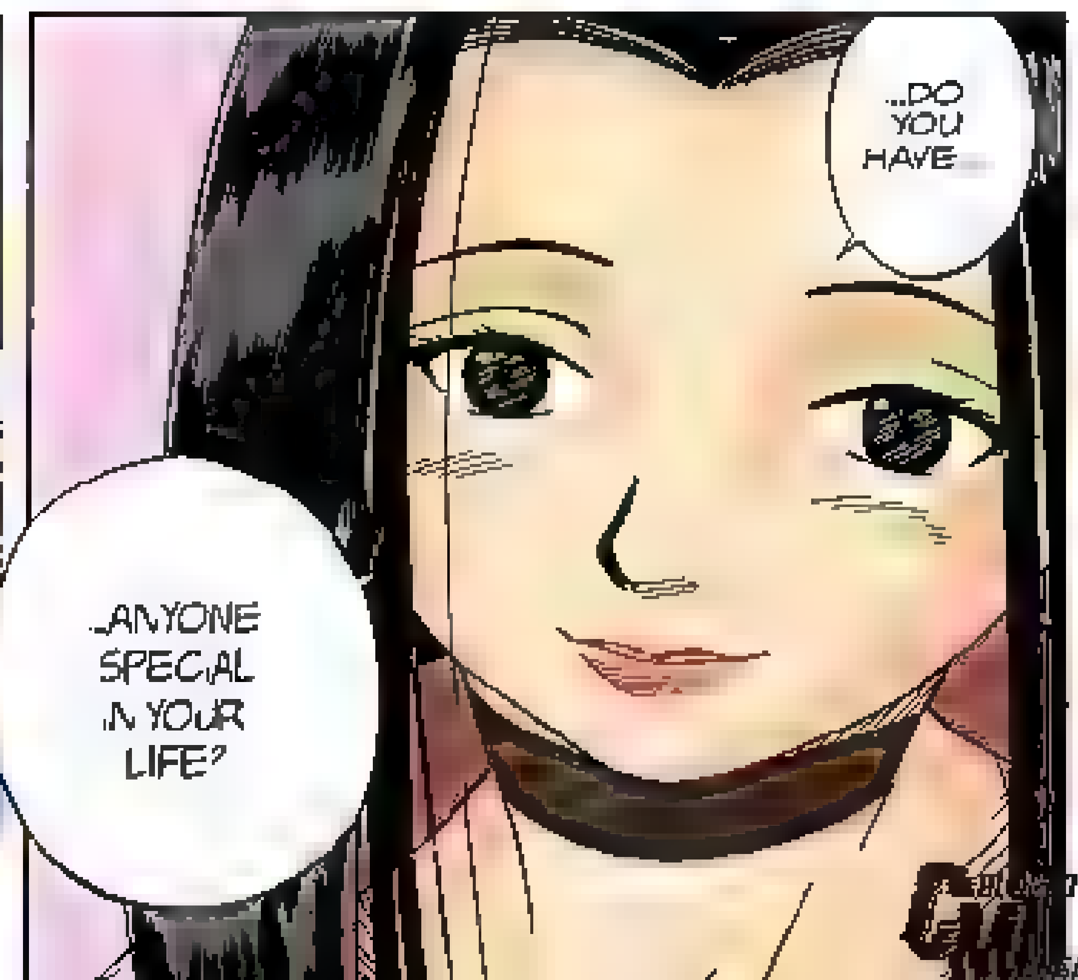

...ARE YOU DOING THIS FOR THE SAKE OF THAT PERSON...
...OR FOR YOUR OWN SATISFACTION?

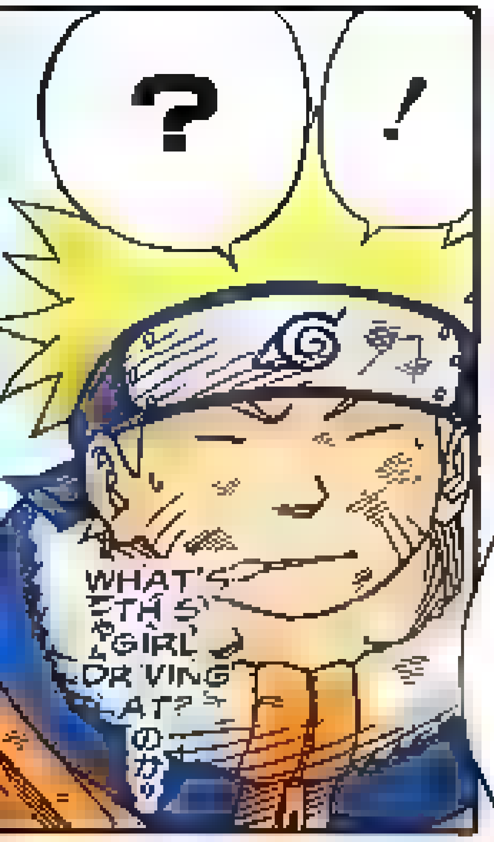

...
WHUT?

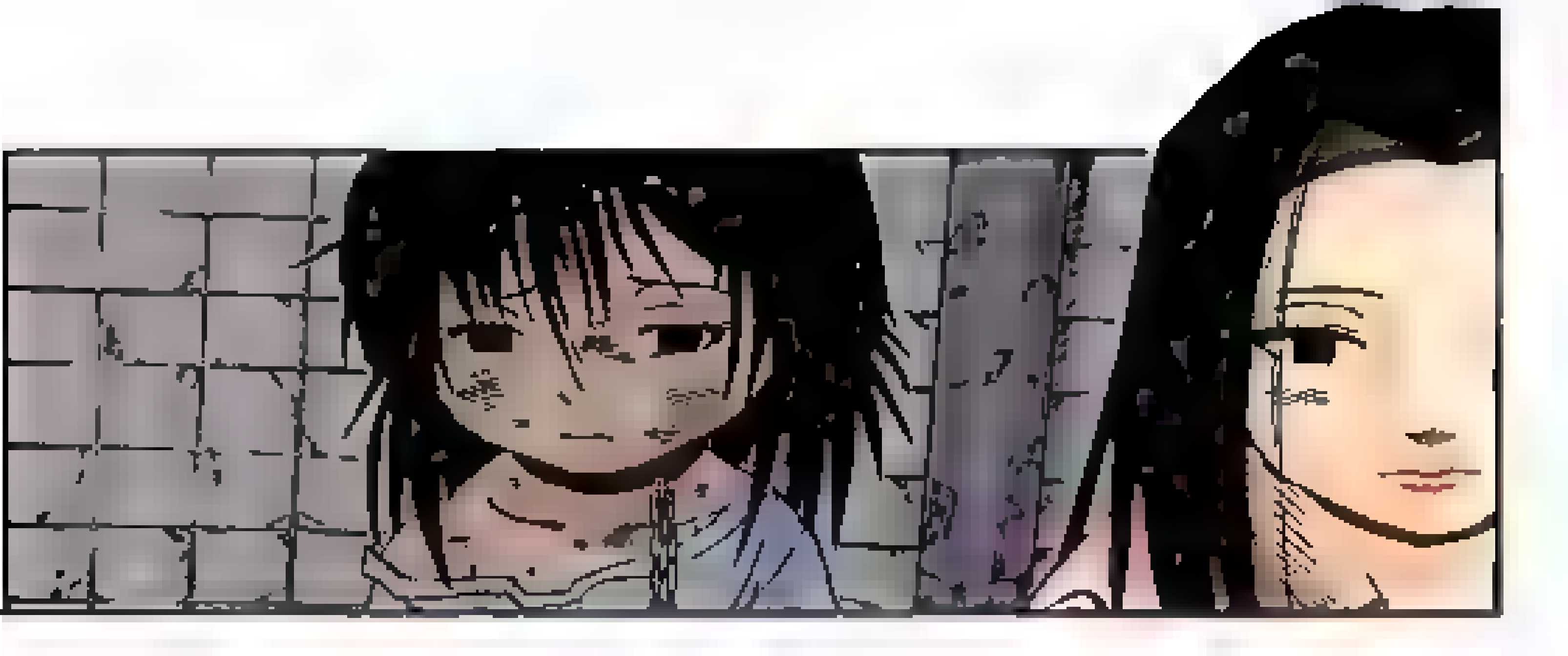

...
- TEE HEE -


!

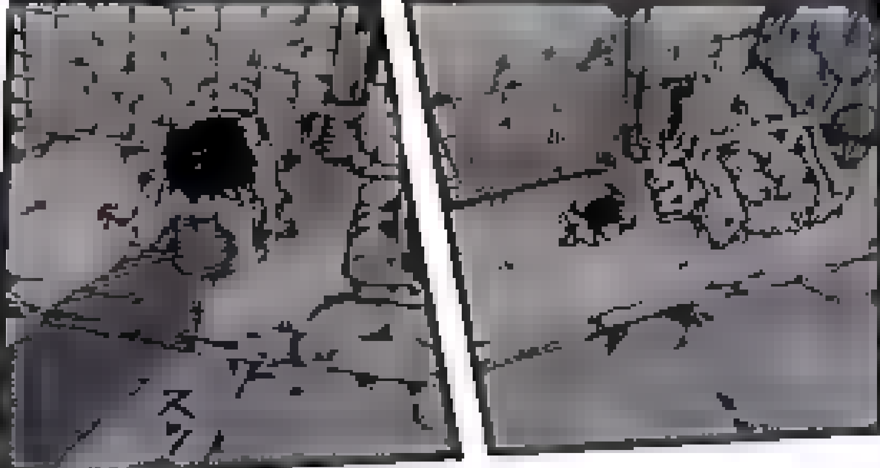

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?


...DO YOU HAVE...
...ANYONE SPECIAL IN YOUR LIFE?


!
?

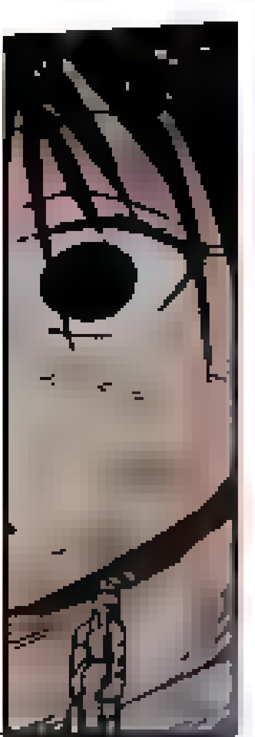








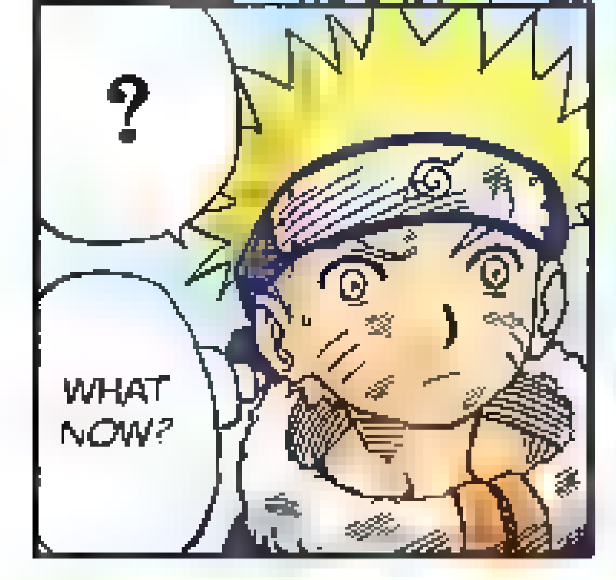


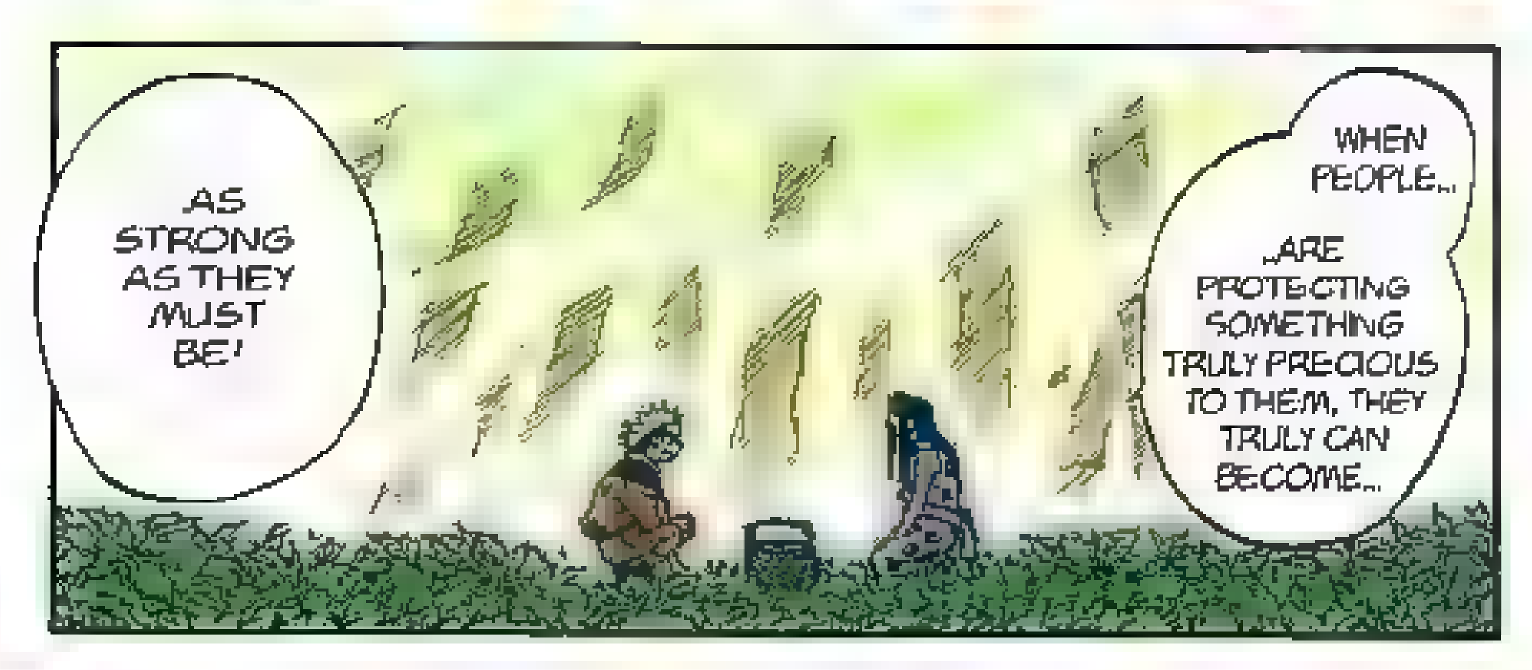





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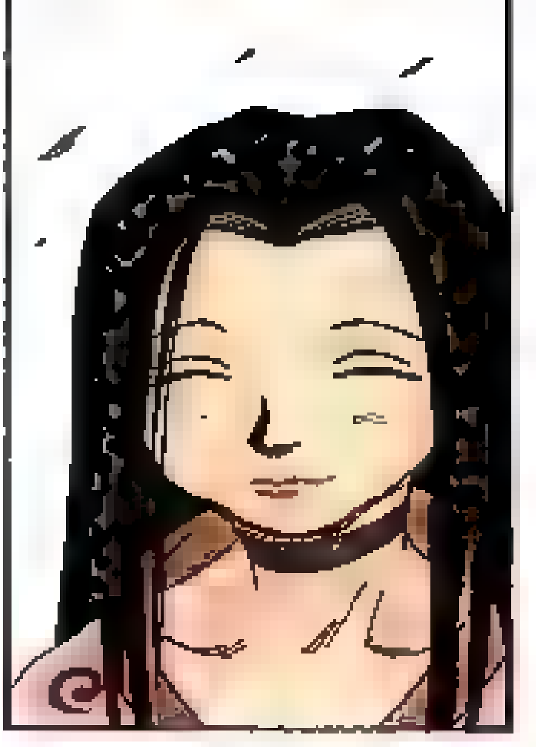

?
WHAT NOW?

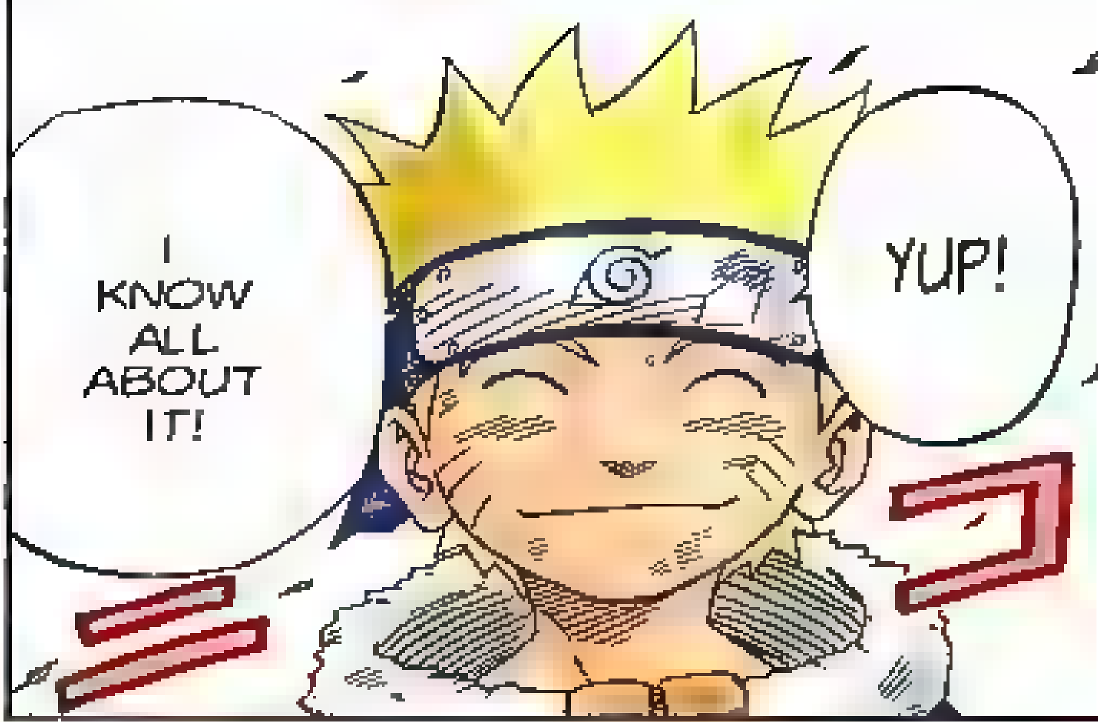

WHEN PEOPLE...
...ARE PROTECTING SOMETHING TRULY PRECIOUS TO THEM, THEY TRULY CAN BECOME...
AS STRONG AS THEY MUST BE!

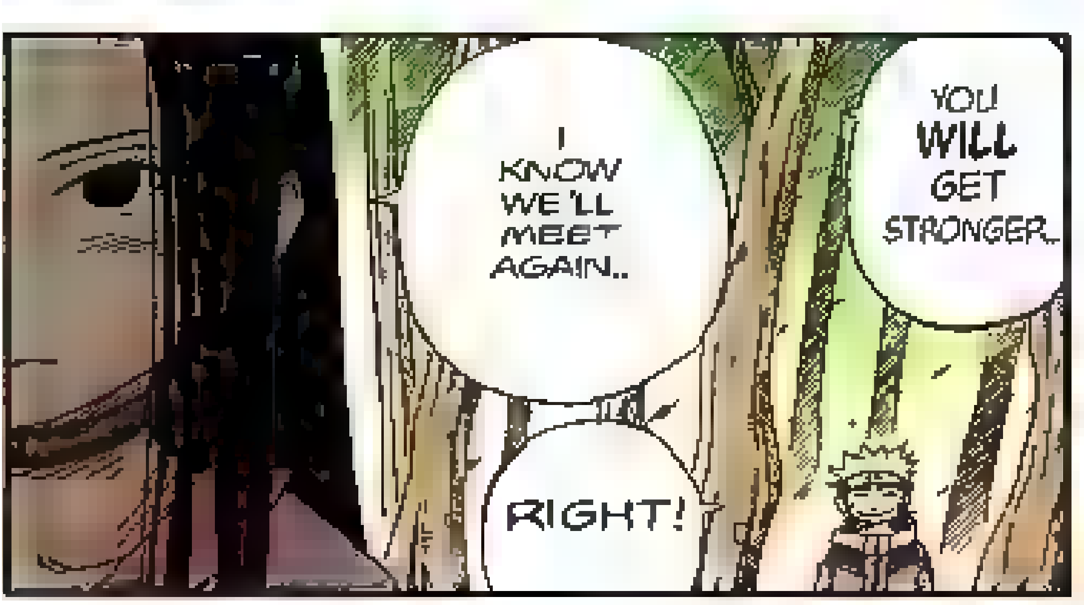

..


DADDY... LOVES THE C TY WHERE HIS L TTLE BOY LIVES!
KEEP AWAY FROM MASTER IRUKA..
OR I'LL KILL YOU!
I WILL NEVER LET MY COMRADES DIE!

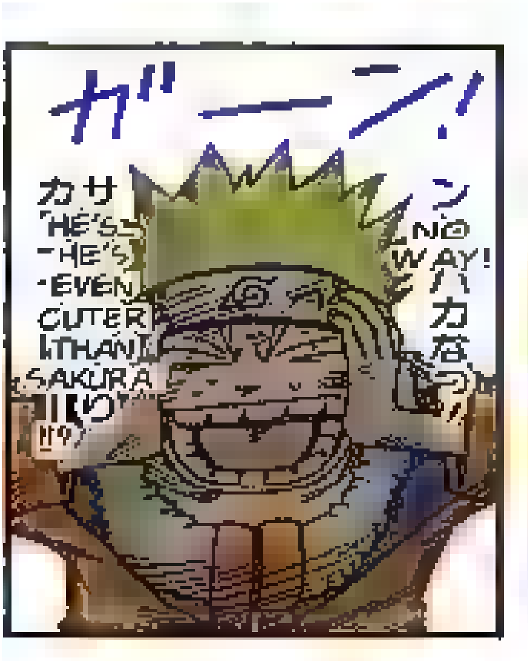


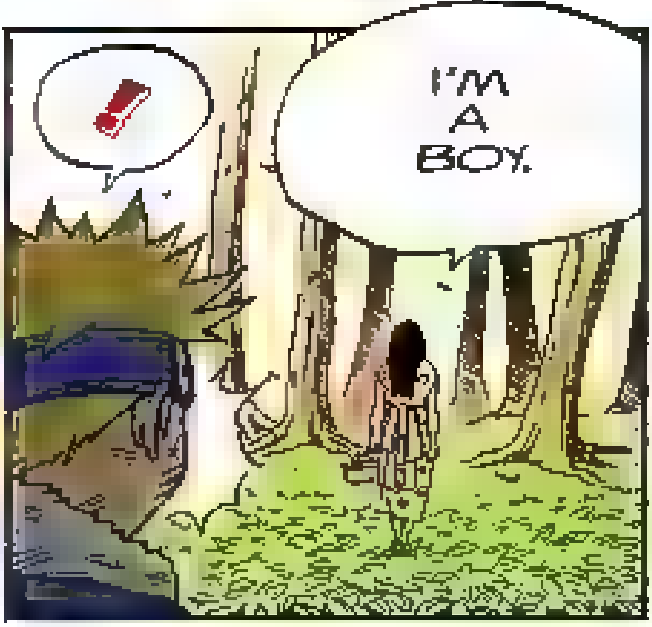



YUP!
I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT!


YOU WILL GET STRONGER..
I KNOW WE'LL MEET AGAIN..
RIGHT!


スッ


ガーン!
NO WAY!
バカなっ
HE'S- HE'S- EVEN CUTER THAN SAKURA !!?

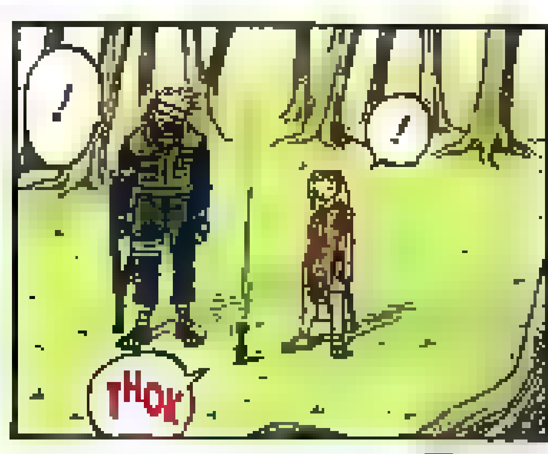
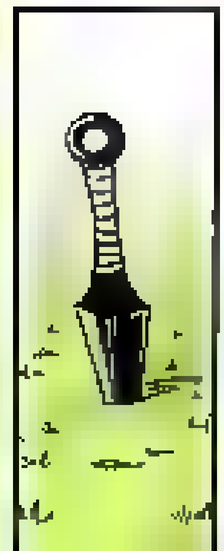
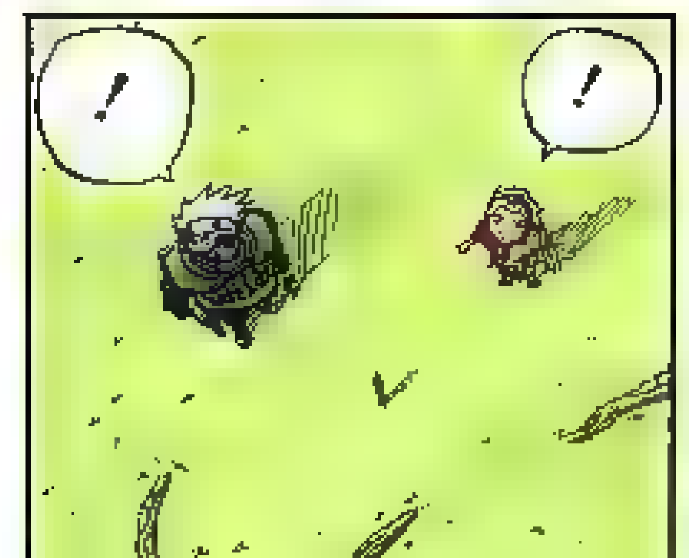

I'M A BOY.
!


...SO...
YOU SHOULD KNOW...

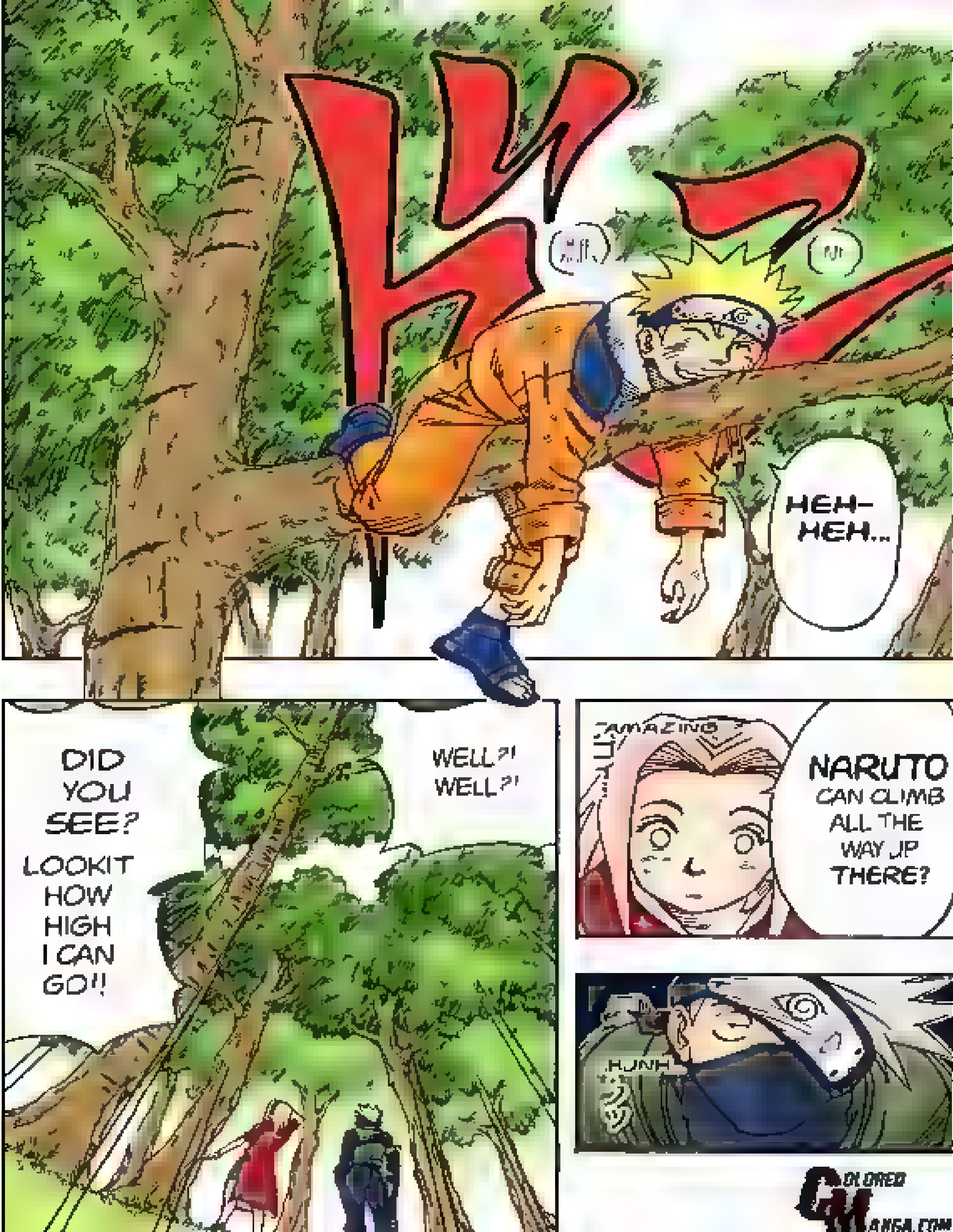

THIS WORLD IS AN AMAZING PLACE... SOMETIMES!



THE NEXT MORNING -- THE SEVENTH DAY OF TRAINING

WHERE DID NARUTO GO THIS TIME..?
PUSHING HIMSELF BEYOND HIS LIMIT, GOING OUT BY HIMSELF AGAIN LAST NIGHT..
AND AT BREAKFAST TIME...
SASUKE SAYS HE'S GOING FOR A WALK... AND HE DISAPPEARS, TOO!

!
!
THOK


!
!

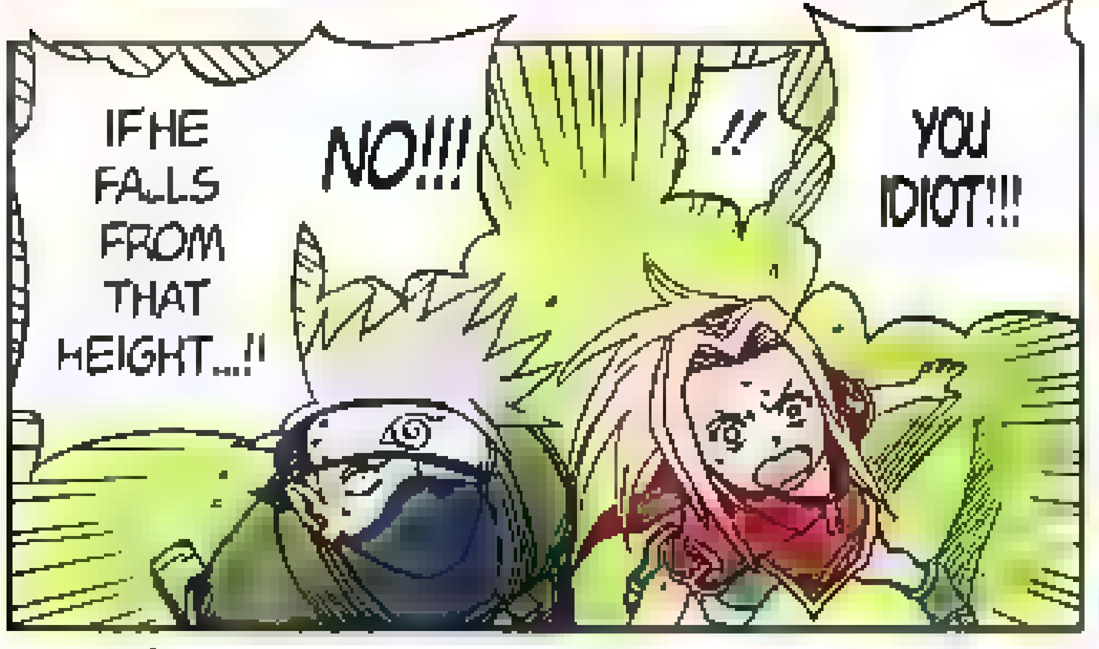
COLORED MANGA.COM


HEH-HEH...
AMAZING
NARUTO CAN CLIMB ALL THE WAY UP THERE?
HUNH
WELL?! WELL?!
DID YOU SEE?
LOOKIT HOW HIGH I CAN GO!!
COLORED MANGA.COM



OO-OOPS!
!
SLIDE

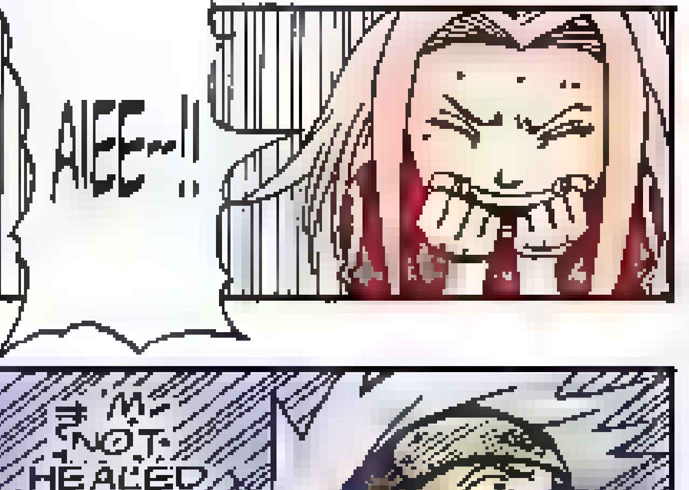




YOU IDIOT!!!
!!
NO!!!
IF HE FALLS FROM THAT HEIGHT...!!



WHU-OH!

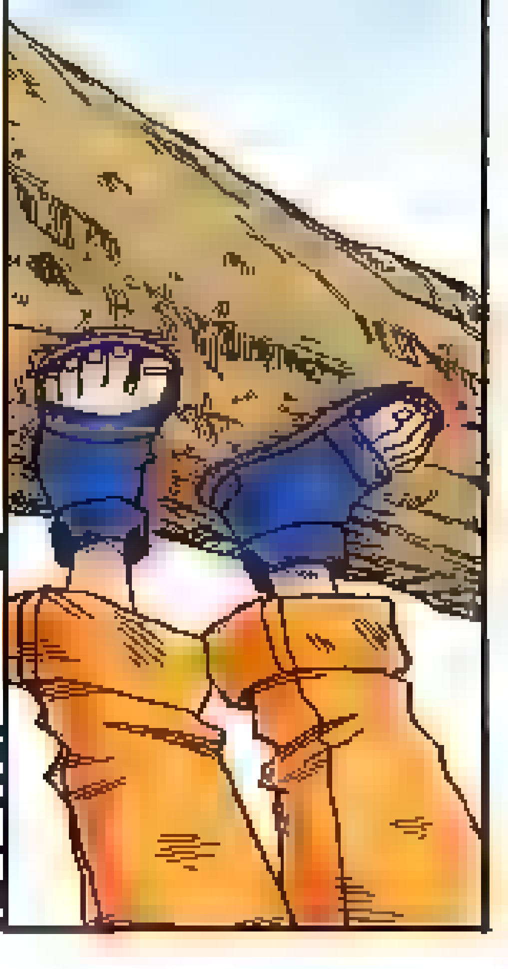


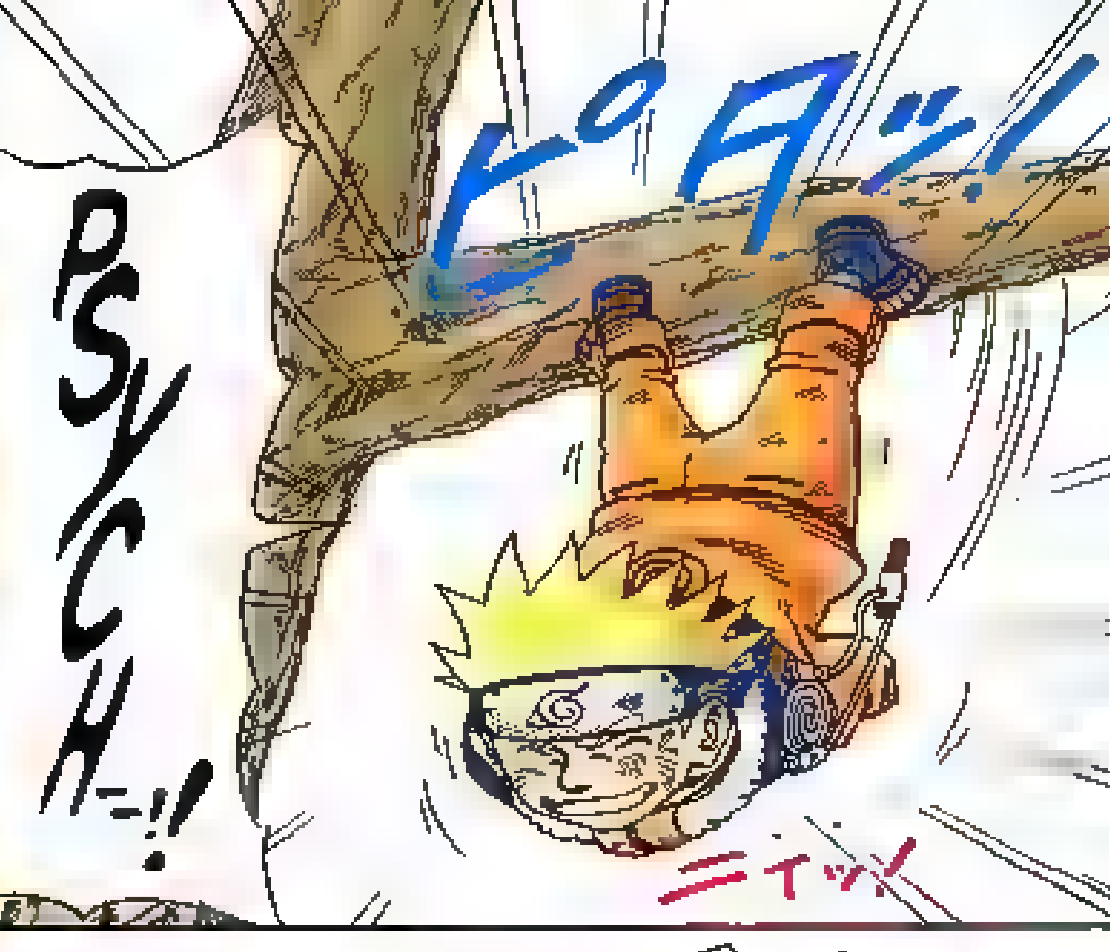
AIEE--!!



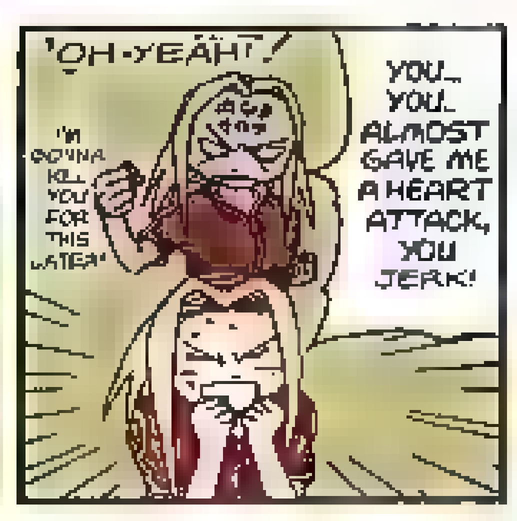
YIPE!!!

I'M NOT HEALED ENOUGH TO--!

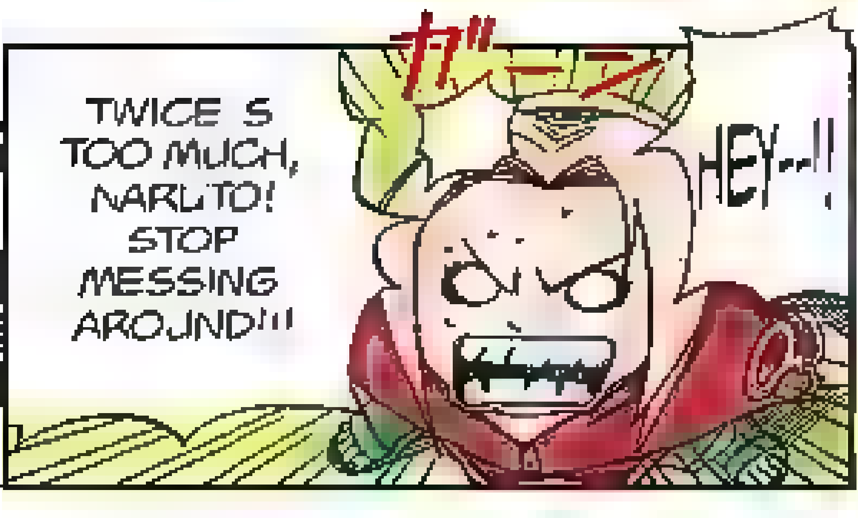



PSYCH--!!




YOU... YOU... ALMOST GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK, YOU JERK!
'OH-YEAH'!
I'M GONNA KILL YOU FOR THIS LATER!


HAH... GOTCHA, SUCKERS!


HEY--!!
TWICE IS TOO MUCH, NARUTO! STOP MESSING AROUND!!!


UH-OH!!


UH--!

YAAA-
AAAAAH-
OW!
YOU BONE-HEAD



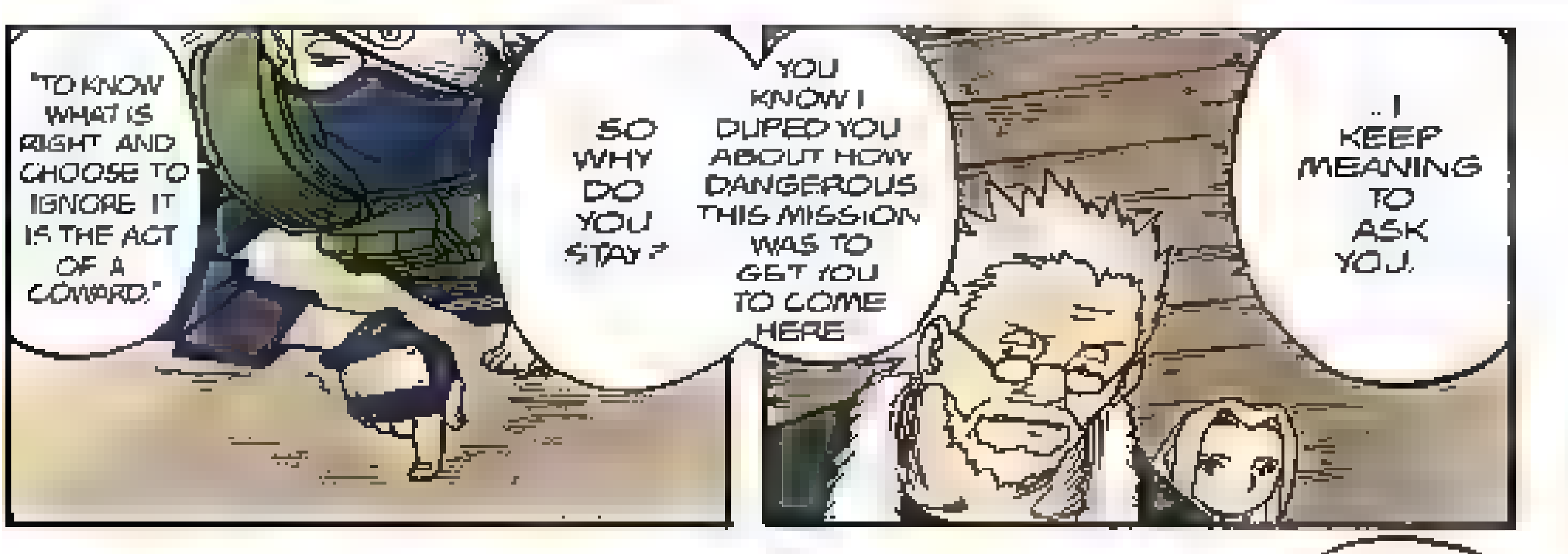




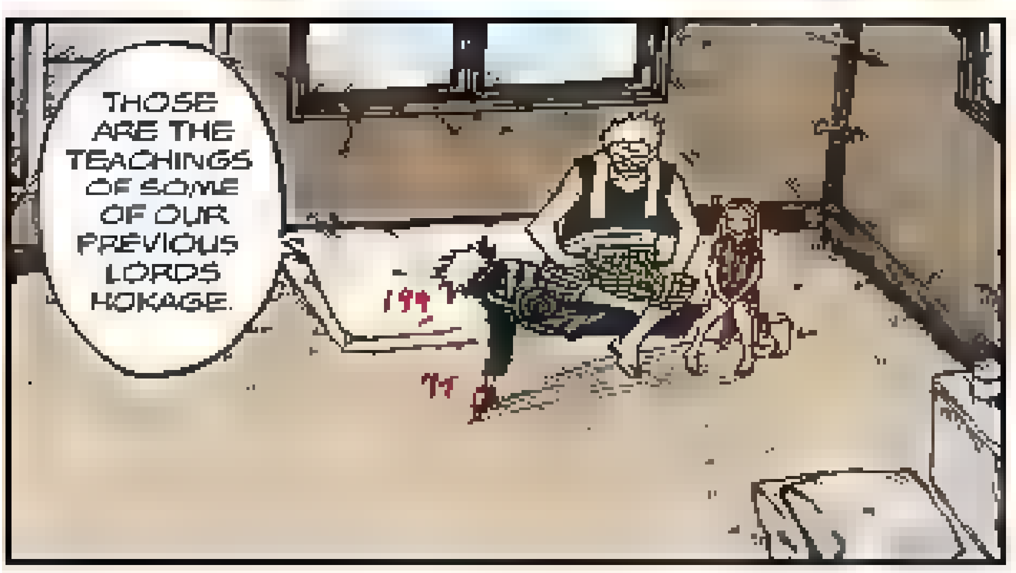

ザザァ..


...UZUMAKI NARUTO, HUH...


196...
197
198

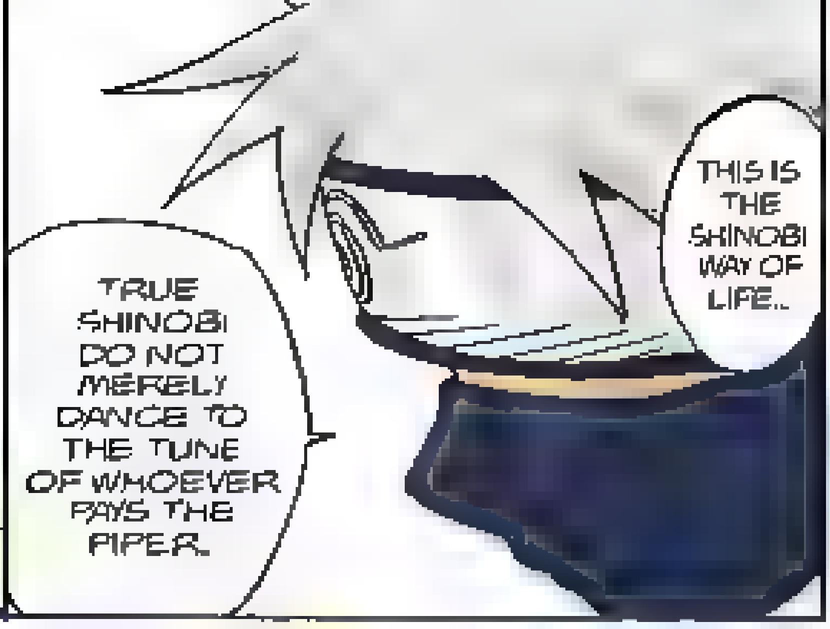

...I KEEP MEANING TO ASK YOU.
YOU KNOW I DUPED YOU ABOUT HOW DANGEROUS THIS MISSION WAS TO GET YOU TO COME HERE
SO WHY DO YOU STAY?
"TO KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT AND CHOOSE TO IGNORE IT IS THE ACT OF A COWARD."

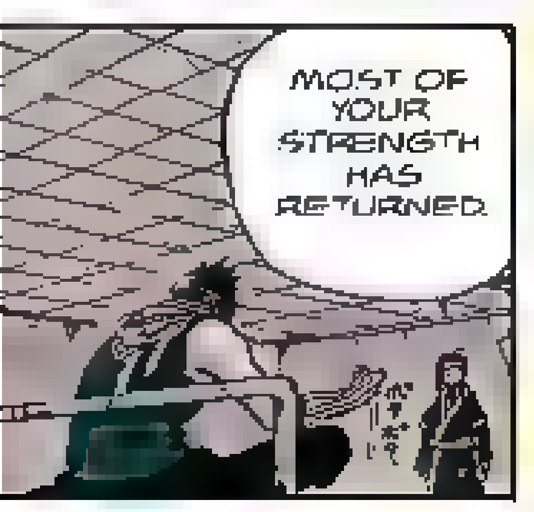

"LIKE MASTER, LIKE MAN."

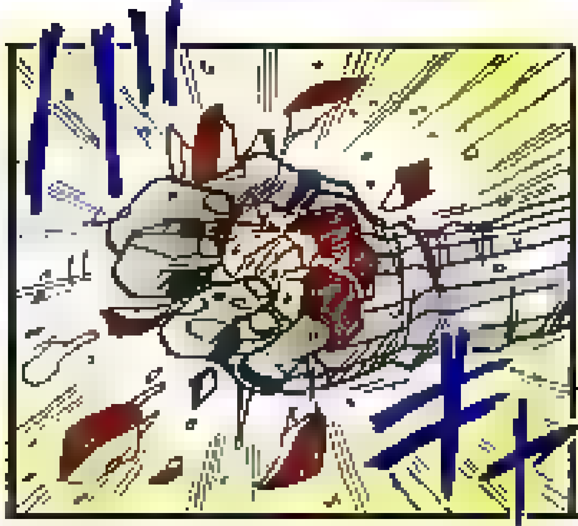

THOSE ARE THE TEACHINGS OF SOME OF OUR PREVIOUS LORDS HOKAGE.
199













OF COURSE.

EXCELLENT!!

LET'S GET GOING, HAKU!





22：強敵出現!!
THE ENEMIES RETURN!!
PUFF
PUFF
WANT TO HEAD BACK?
SURE!!
PUFF

SO, YOU'RE FINALLY BACK!

LOOKING LIKE SOMETHING THE CAT DRAGGED IN!

TOLD YOU IF YOU DIDN'T TAKE A BREAK YOU'D WEAR YOURSELF OUT, YOU DOPE.

WE MADE IT TO THE TOP OF THE TREE.

PUFF

HEH... BOTH OF US...

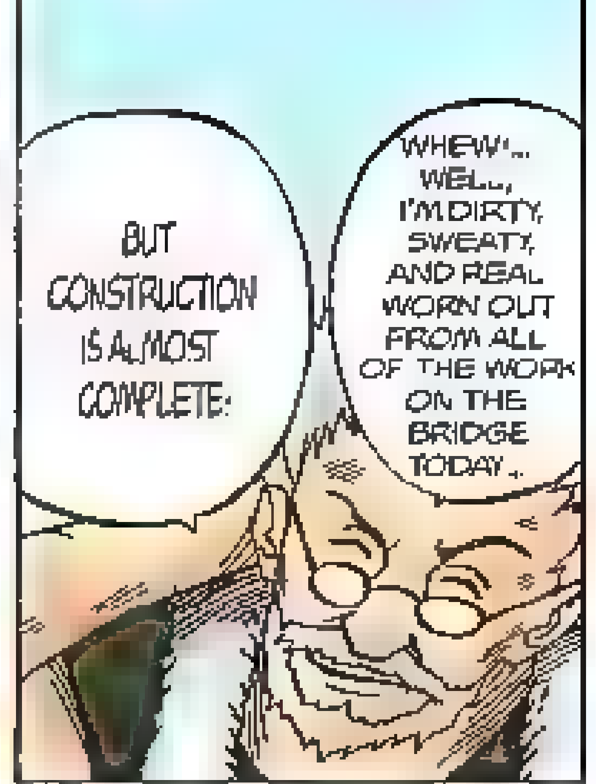
GOOD!

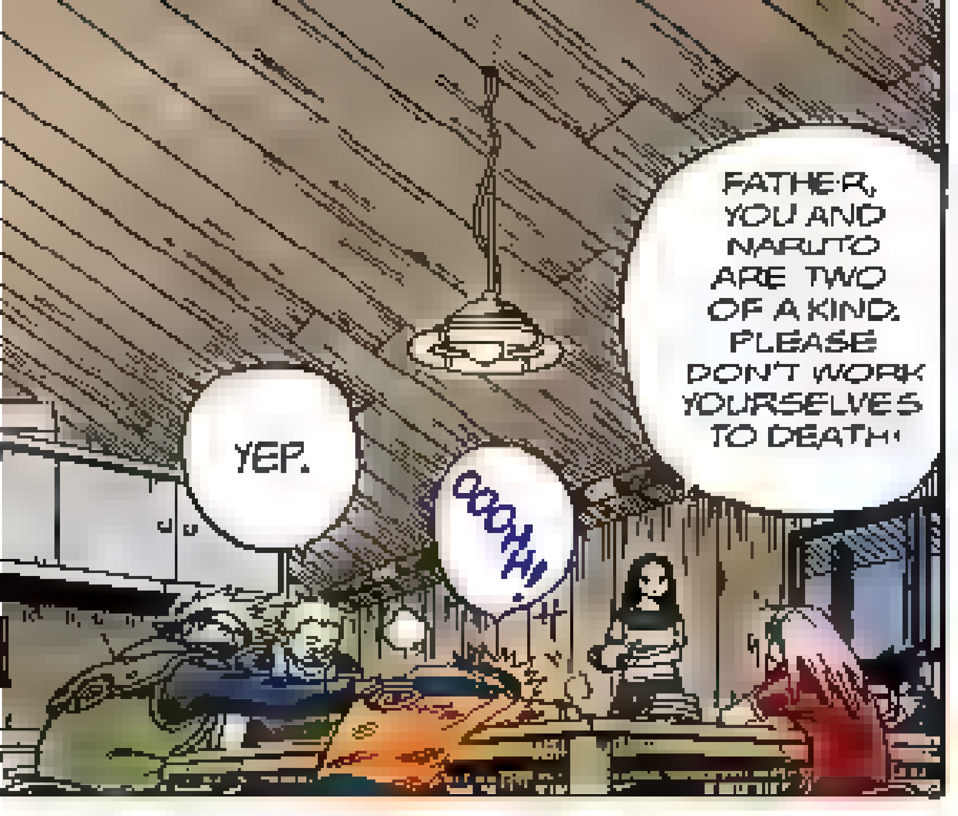
NARUTO, SASUKE STARTING TOMORROW...

...YOU TWO CAN HELP SAKURA PROTECT MR. TAZUNA.

YES, SIR!!

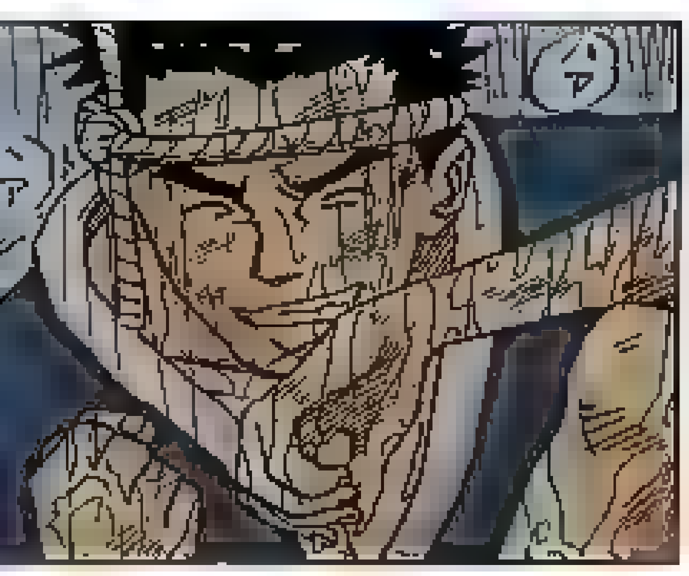



WHEW!... WELL, I'M DIRTY, SWEATY, AND REAL WORN OUT FROM ALL OF THE WORK ON THE BRIDGE TODAY...
BUT CONSTRUCTION IS ALMOST COMPLETE!


FATHER, YOU AND NARUTO ARE TWO OF A KIND. PLEASE DON'T WORK YOURSELVES TO DEATH!
OOOH!!
YEP.









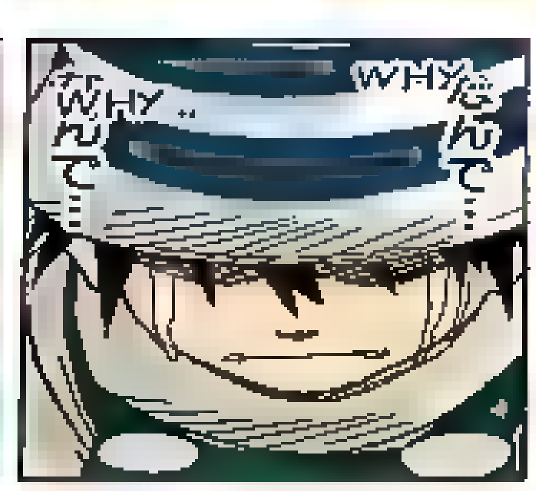
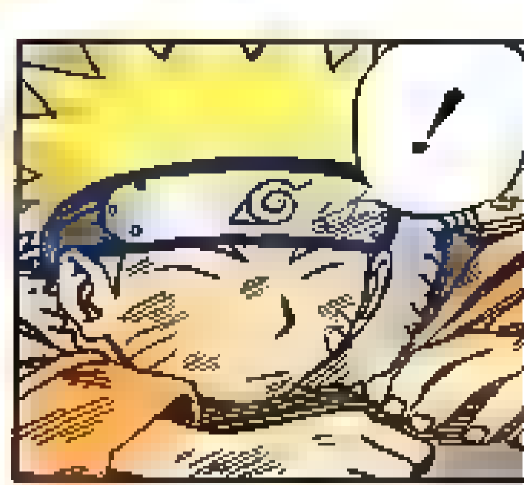





NARI
DON'T CRY

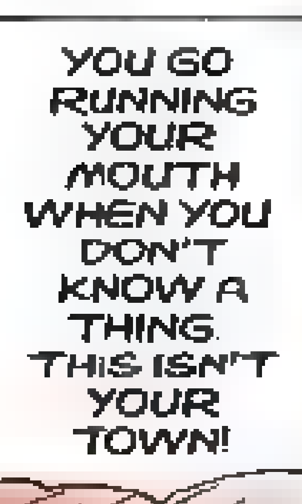


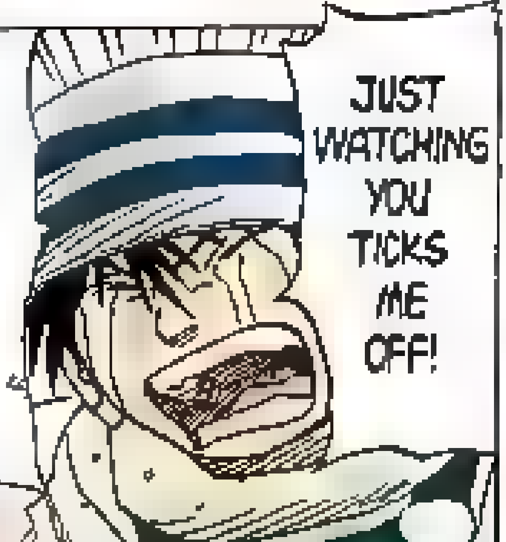
IF SOMETHING IS PRECIOUS TO YOU...
PROTECT IT WITH ALL THE STRENGTH YOU'VE GOT.

WHAT'S WRONG?

WHY...
WHY...

!

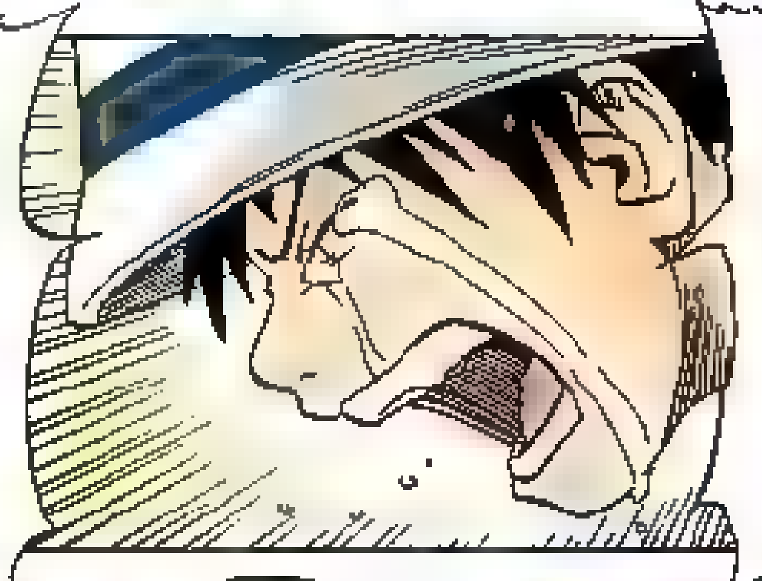
WHY DO YOU WEAR YOURSELF OUT TRYING?
NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRAIN, YOU'LL NEVER BE A MATCH FOR GATŌ'S THUGS!
YOU ACT ALL COOL, AND YOU TALK ALL TOUGH...
...BUT BIG, STRONG GUYS LIKE THAT ARE ALWAYS TOO MUCH FOR PEOPLE WEAKER THAN THEY ARE. THEY'LL DESTROY YOU!!




YOU GO RUNNING YOUR MOUTH WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW A THING. THIS ISN'T YOUR TOWN!


JUST WATCHING YOU TICKS ME OFF!

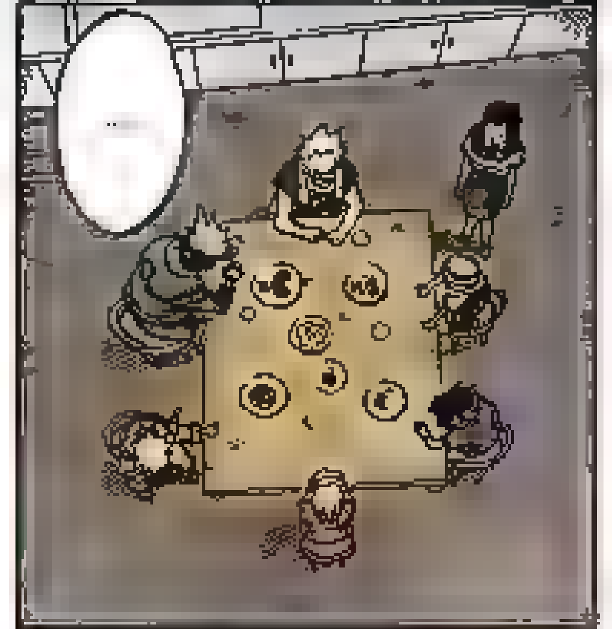

SHUT UP! I'M NOT YOU, AND I'M NOT GONNA LOSE!

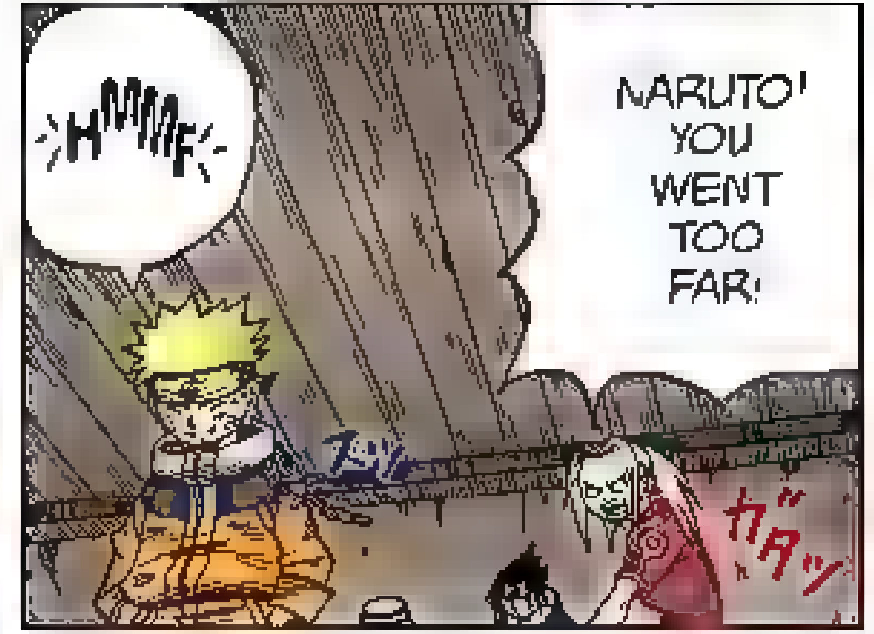

YOU'RE ALWAYS CLOWNING AROUND AND HAVING FUN. YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT SUFFERING OR LONELINESS OR WHAT MY LIFE IS LIKE!
AND YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT ME.


!
SO...YOU FIGURE IT'S NOBLE TO STAR IN A MELODRAMA AND TREAT EVERYONE AROUND YOU LIKE GUESTS AT YOUR PITY PARTY?



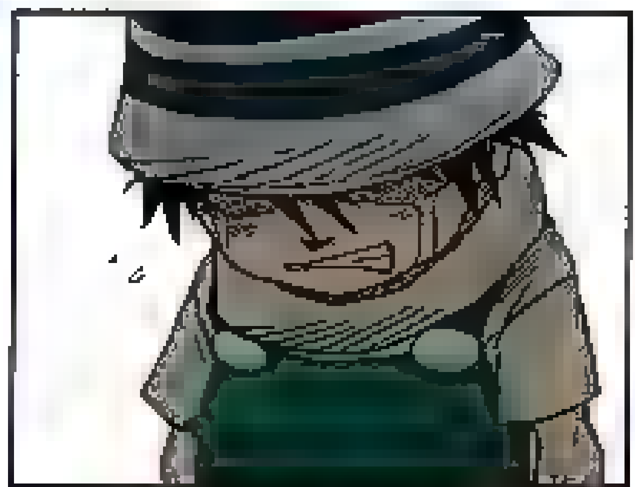

IT TAKES A REALLY BIG MAN TO SIT AROUND AND CRY... YOU BRAT!
YOU BIG BABY!!
...



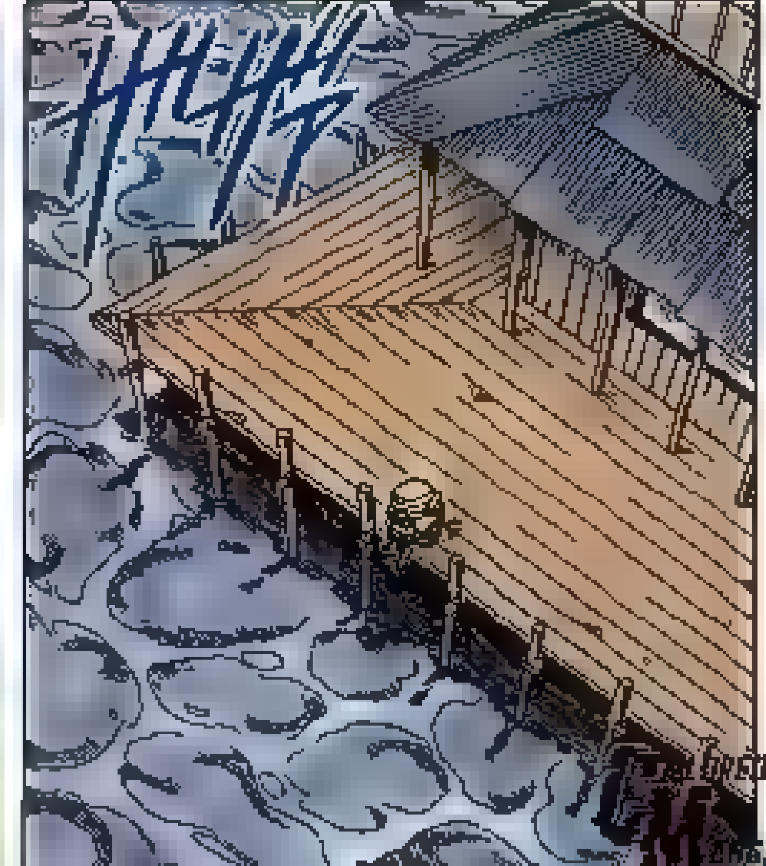


NARUTO! YOU WENT TOO FAR!
HMMF
ガタッ



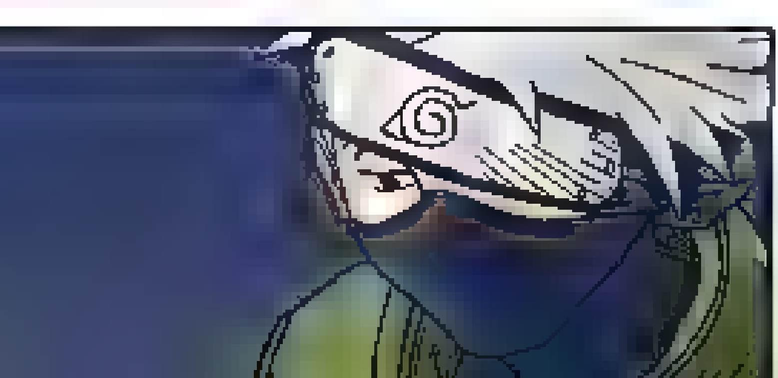


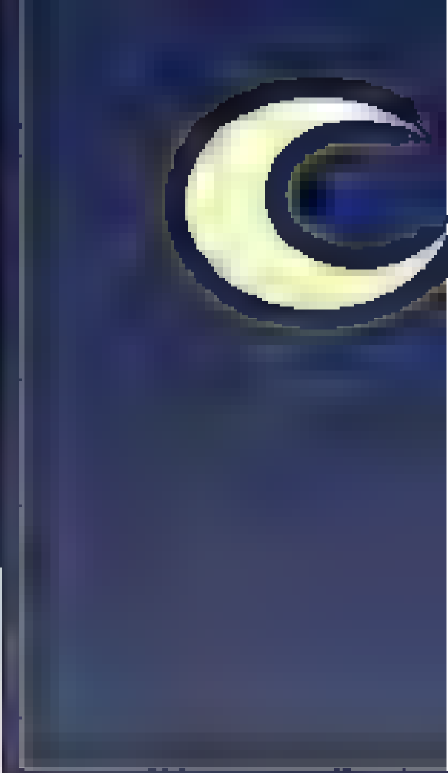


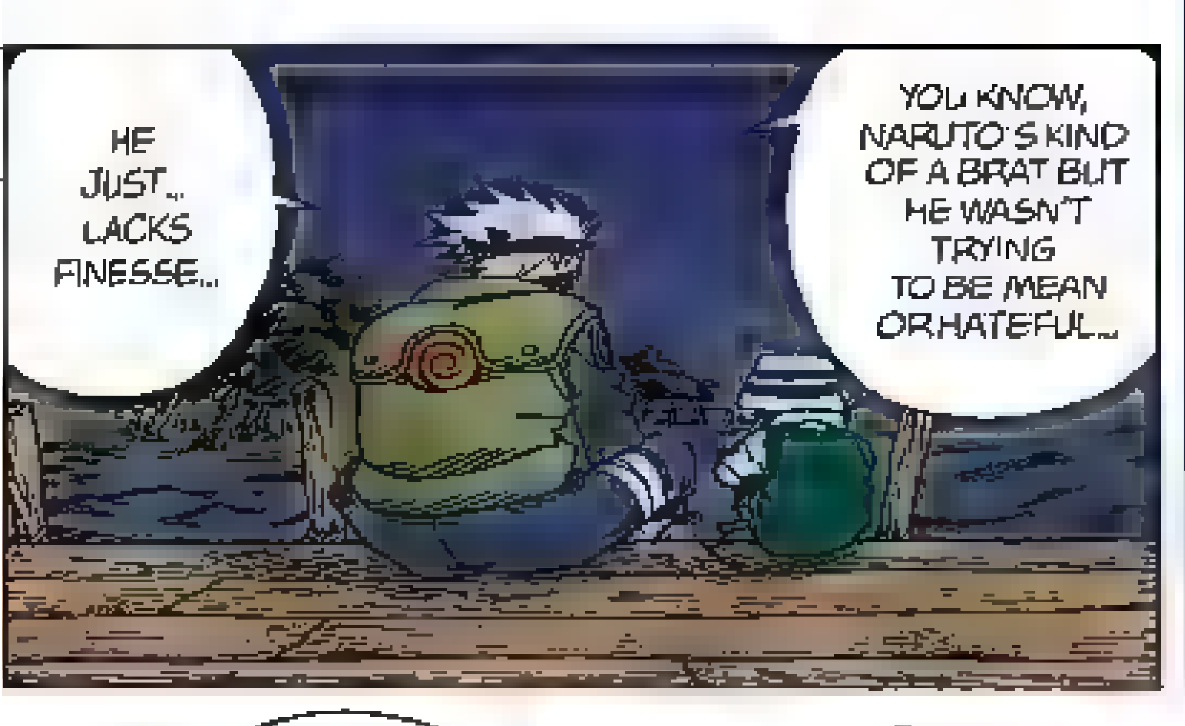




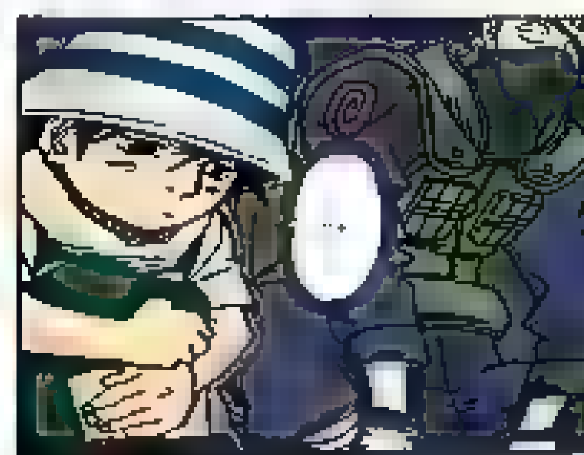
MAY I JOIN YOU..?



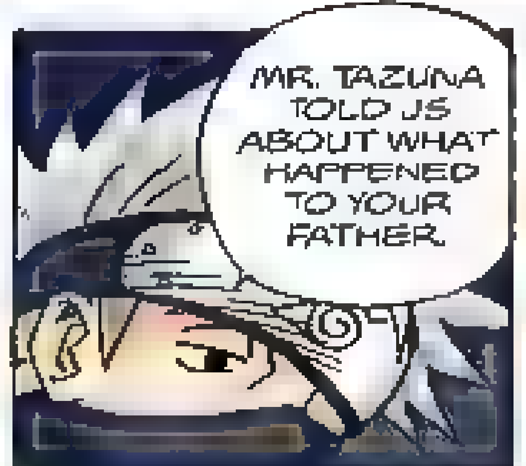




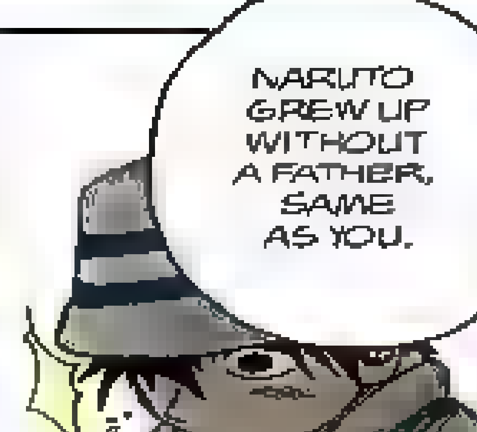
YOU KNOW, NARUTO'S KIND OF A BRAT BUT HE WASN'T TRYING TO BE MEAN OR HATEFUL...
HE JUST... LACKS FINESSE...



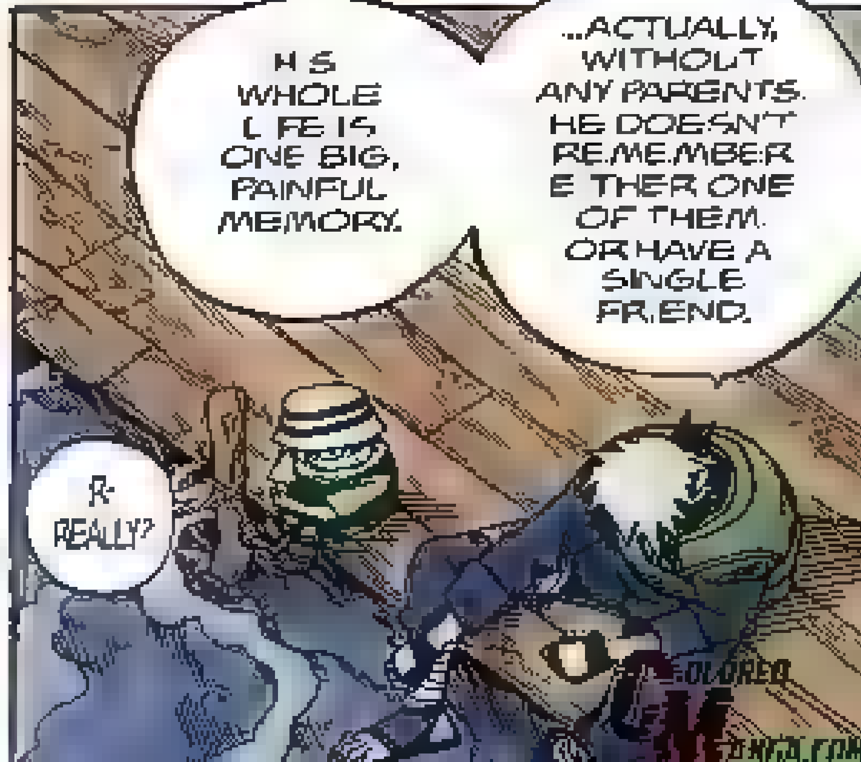
...



MR. TAZUNA TOLD US ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FATHER.



NARUTO GREW UP WITHOUT A FATHER, SAME AS YOU.



...ACTUALLY, WITHOUT ANY PARENTS. HE DOESN'T REMEMBER EITHER ONE OF THEM. OR HAVE A SINGLE FRIEND.
HIS WHOLE LIFE IS ONE BIG, PAINFUL MEMORY.
R-REALLY?

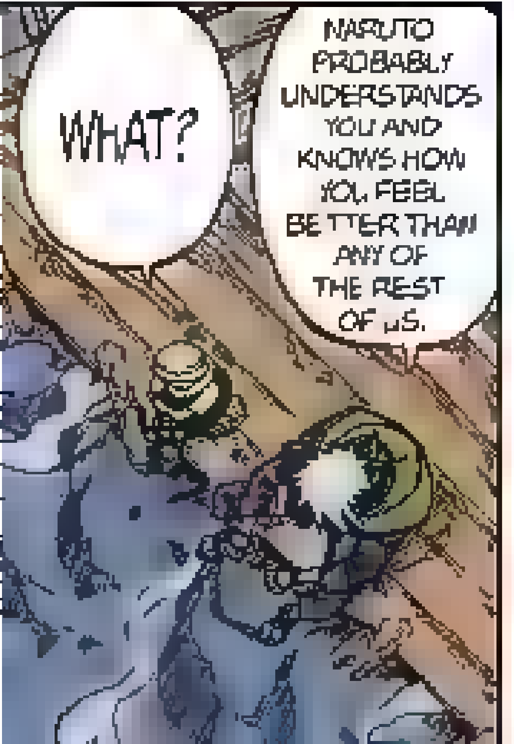


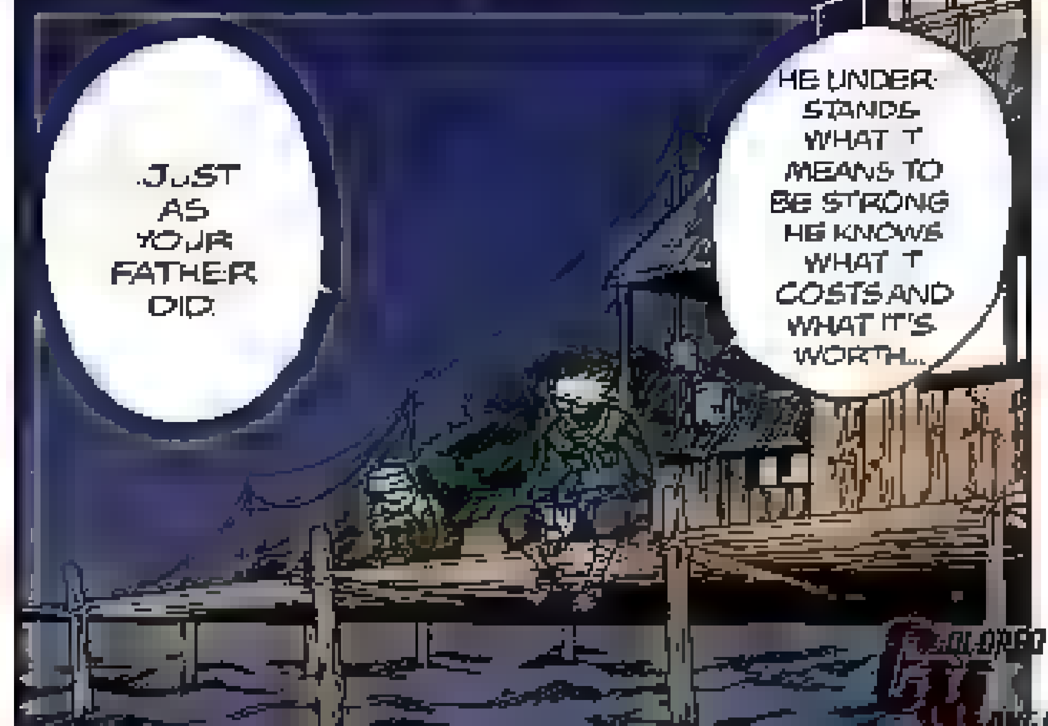
AND IN ALL THE TIME I'VE KNOWN HIM, I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM CRY. OR USE HIS TROUBLES AS AN EXCUSE TO SULK OR BE A COWARD. NOT ONCE.
HE ALWAYS.


THAT'S HIS DREAM, AND HE'S RISKED HIS LIFE FOR IT
TRIES HIS HARDEST, HOPING SOMEONE WILL NOTICE AND GIVE HIM A KIND WORD OR A PAT ON THE BACK

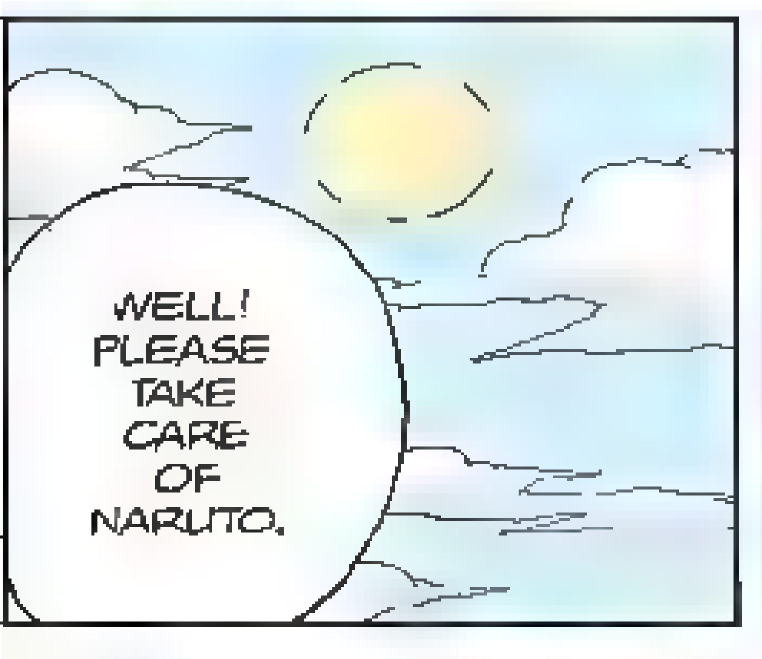

I THINK ONE DAY HE MUST HAVE JUST GOTTEN FED UP WITH CRYING.




WHAT?
NARUTO PROBABLY UNDERSTANDS YOU AND KNOWS HOW YOU FEEL BETTER THAN ANY OF THE REST OF US.

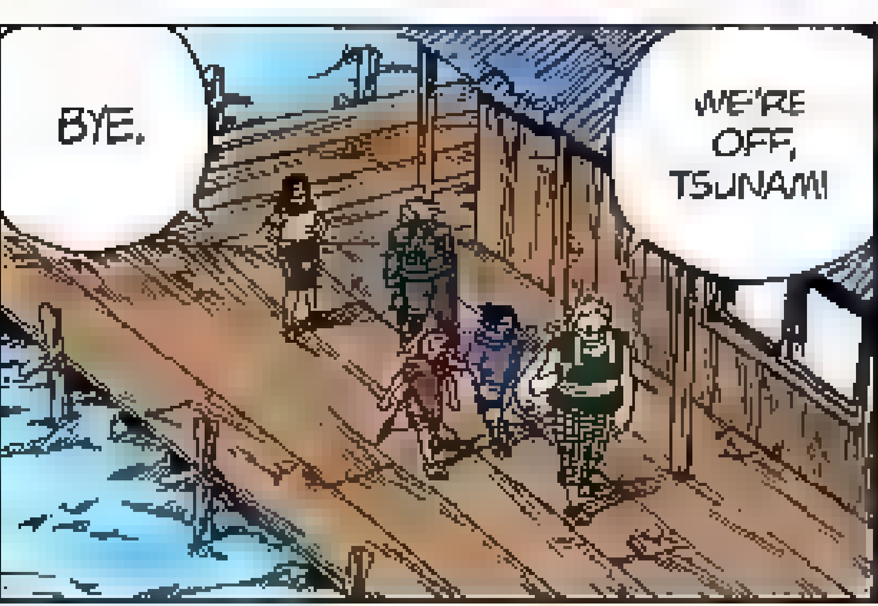

HE UNDERSTANDS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE STRONG HE KNOWS WHAT IT COSTS AND WHAT IT'S WORTH...
JUST AS YOUR FATHER DID.

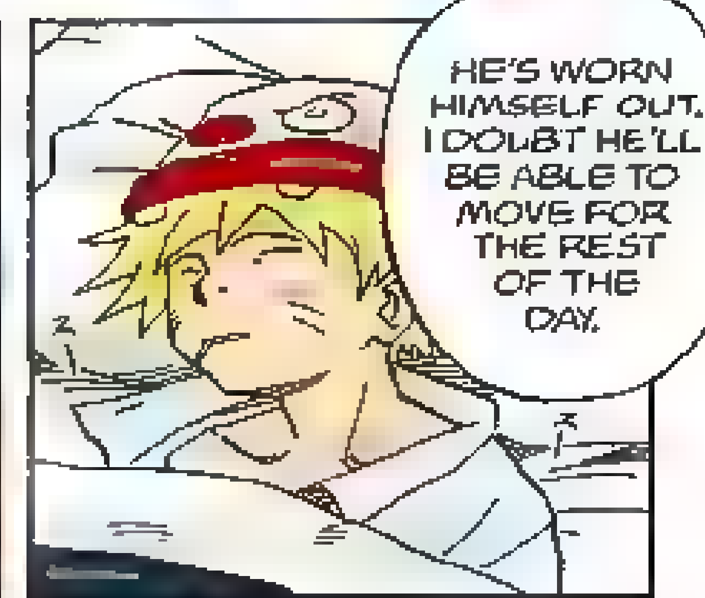

HE CAN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE...
...BECAUSE YOU'VE GOTTEN UNDER HIS SKIN


WELL! PLEASE TAKE CARE OF NARUTO.




...


WE'RE OFF, TSUNAMI
BYE.


HE'S WORN HIMSELF OUT. I DOUBT HE'LL BE ABLE TO MOVE FOR THE REST OF THE DAY.



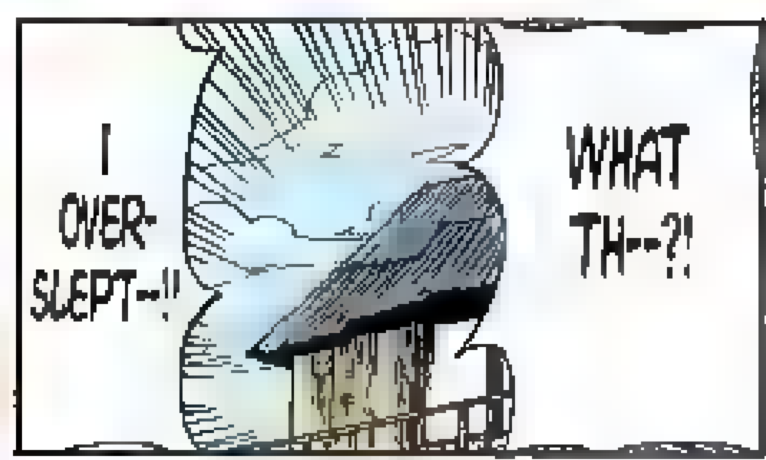




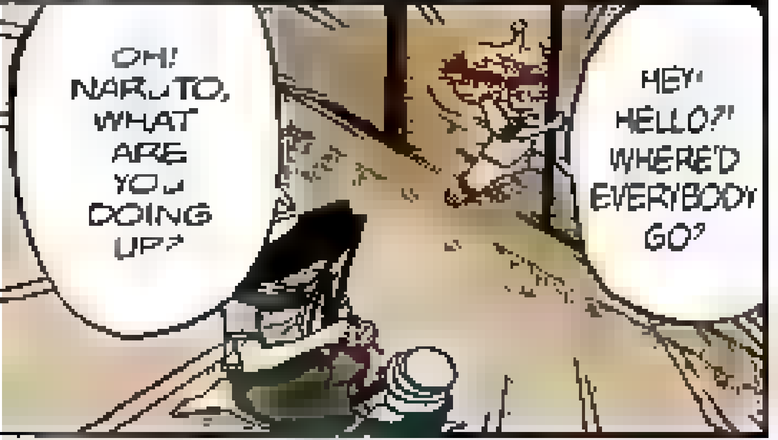
ARE YOU READY TO ATTACK?!



ZABUZA, PAY ATTENTION!!
TIME TO GO, HAKU.
OF COURSE.



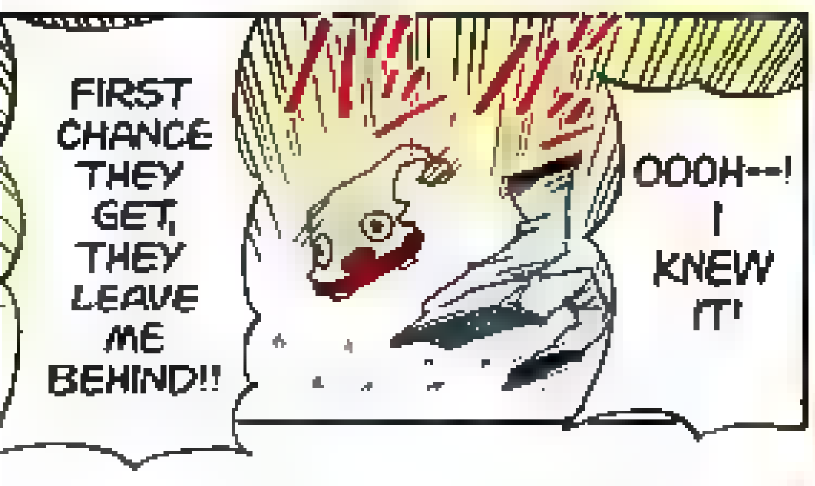
WHAT TH--?!
I OVER-SLEPT--!!



HEY! HELLO?! WHERE'D EVERYBODY GO?
OH! NARUTO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP?



MASTER KAKASHI WANTED YOU TO TAKE TODAY OFF



OOOH--! I KNEW IT!
FIRST CHANCE THEY GET, THEY LEAVE ME BEHIND!!

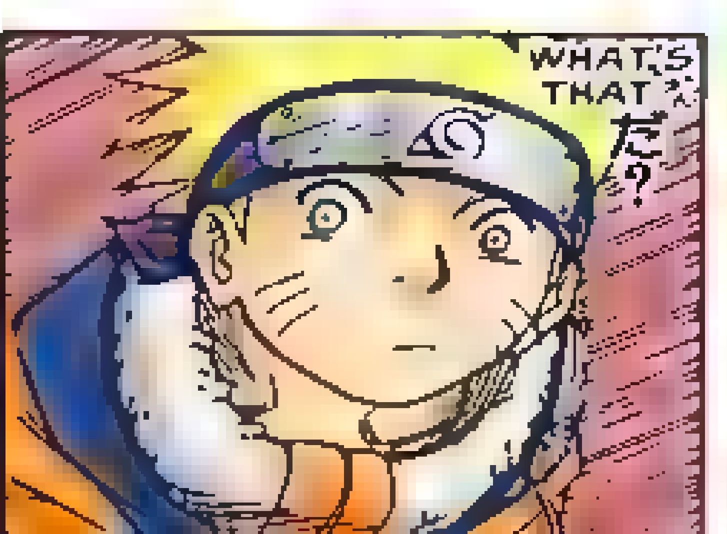
I'M OUTTA HERE!

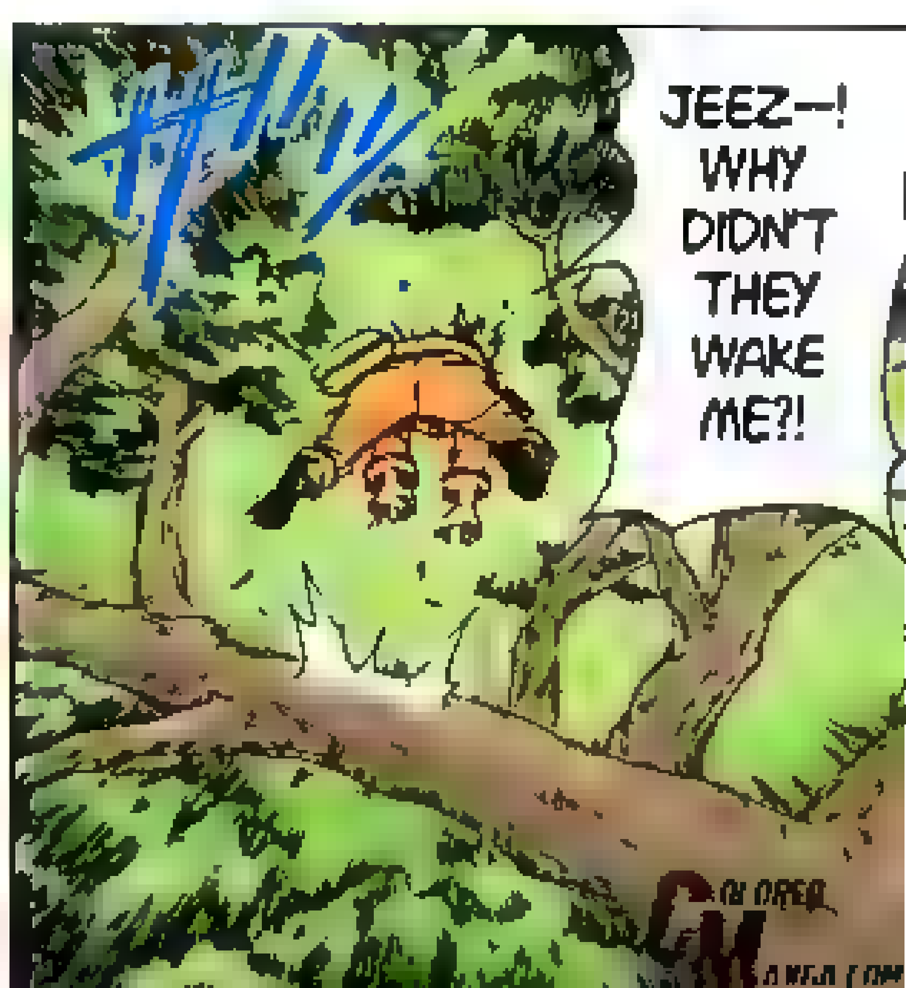
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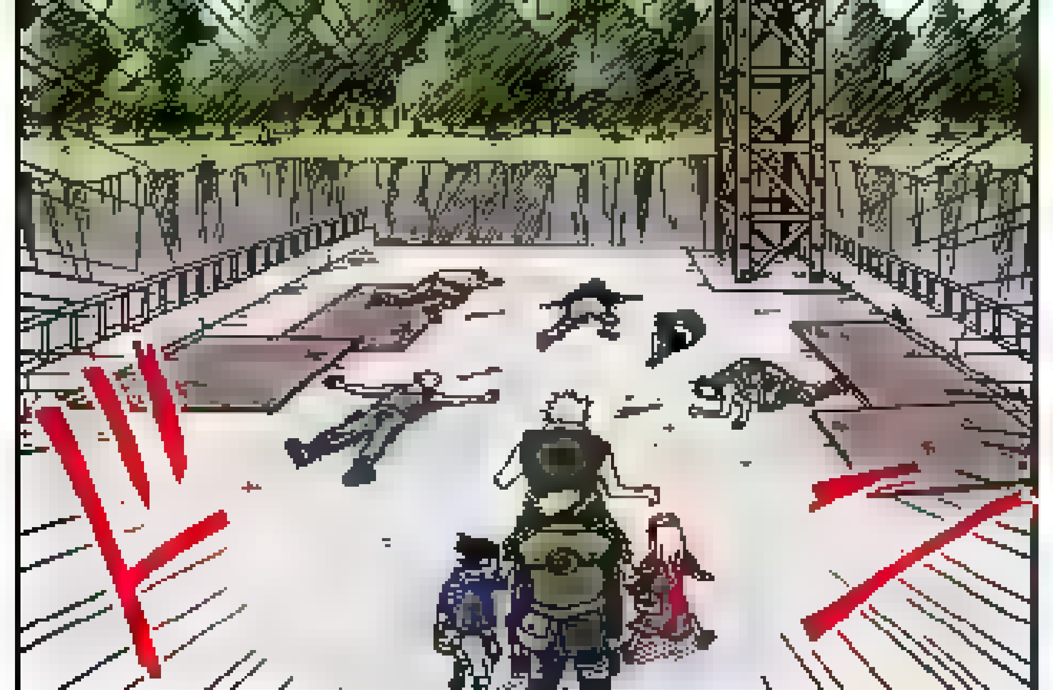
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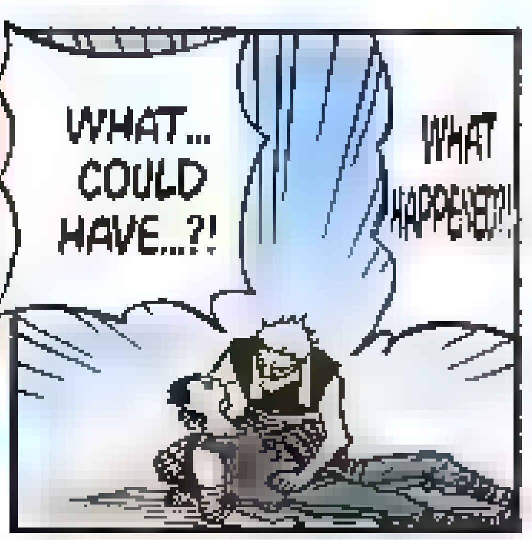
















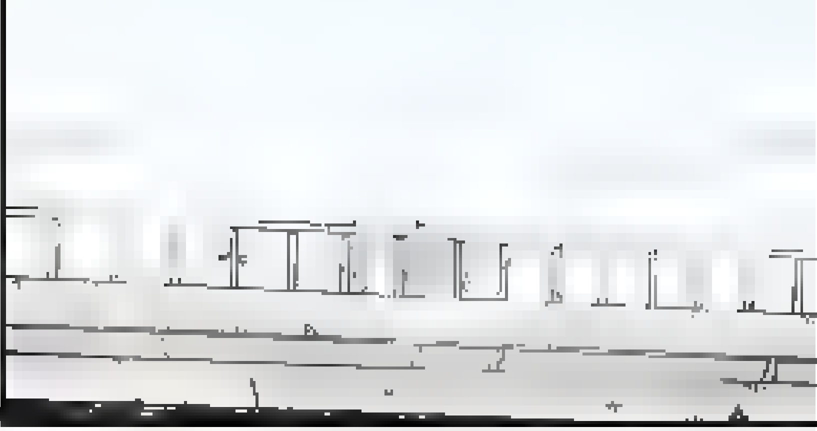
INARI COULD YOU PLEASE HELP ME DO THE LAUNDRY!?

OKAY, MOM BUT I'M IN THE BATHROOM NOW!!

HEH

カチャ

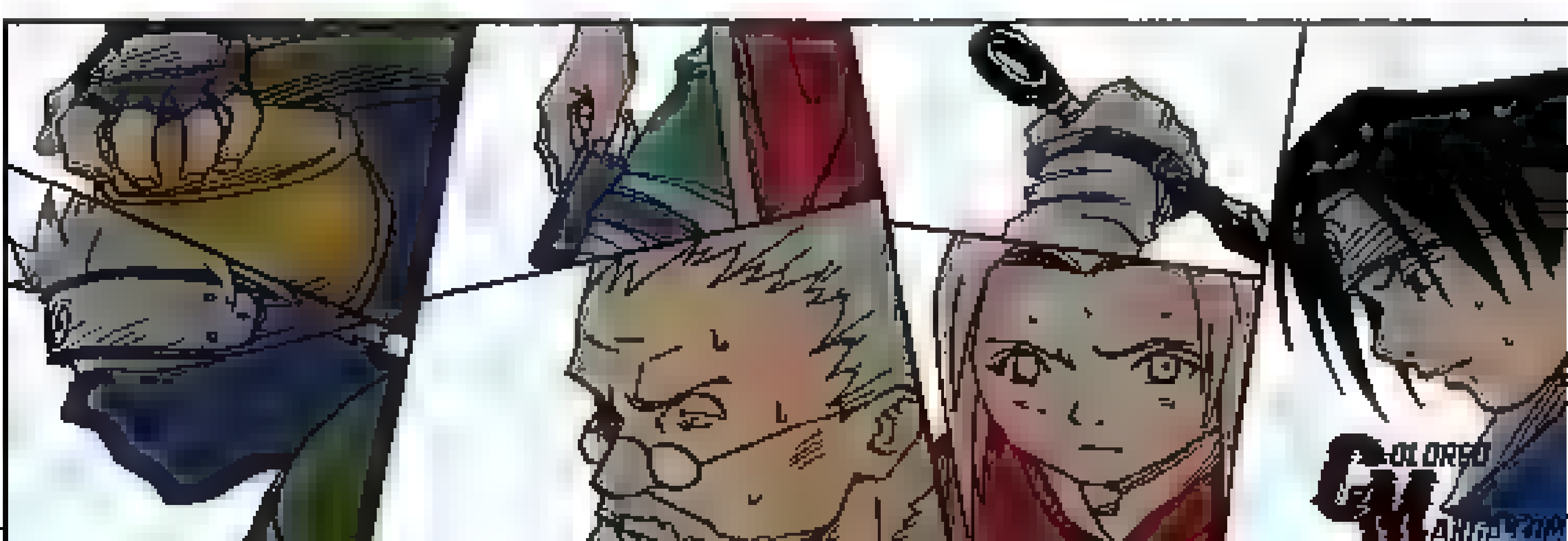




!

!

THEY'RE COMING!!



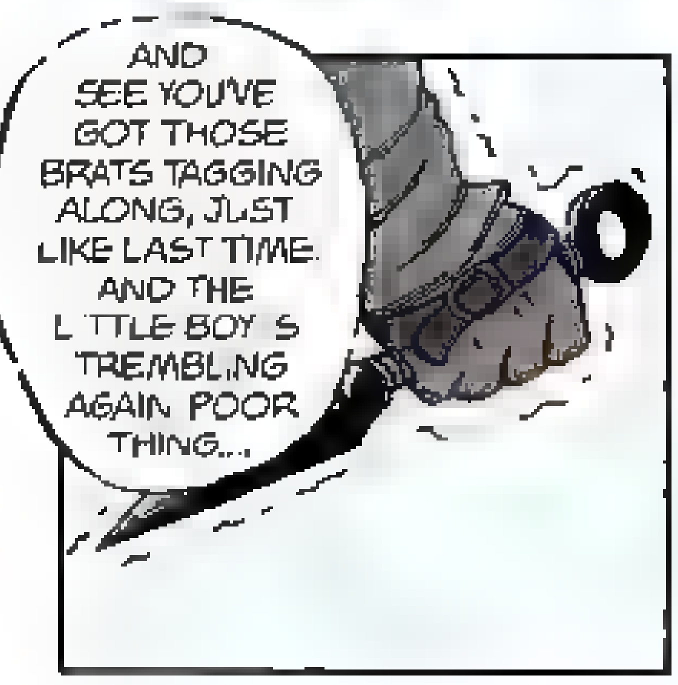

I WAS RIGHT. HE SURVIVED...
...AND HE'S COME BACK TO FINISH THINGS.


MASTER KAKASHI, IS THIS...?
THAT MAN WE MET...HIS "HIDING IN THE MIST" TECHNIQUE... ISN'T IT?



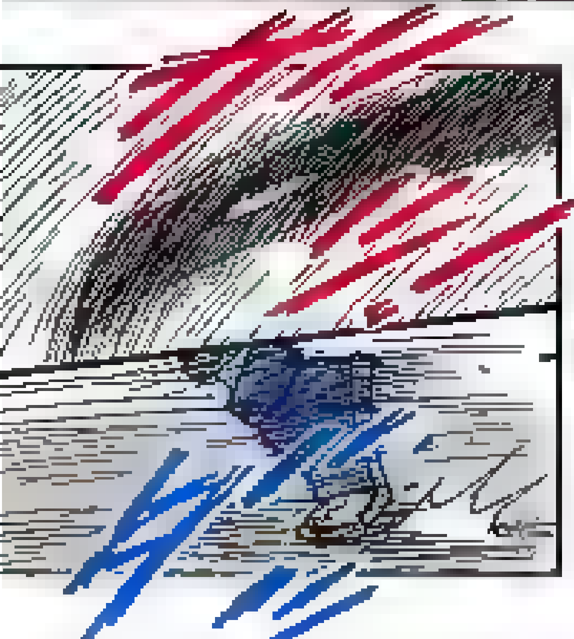


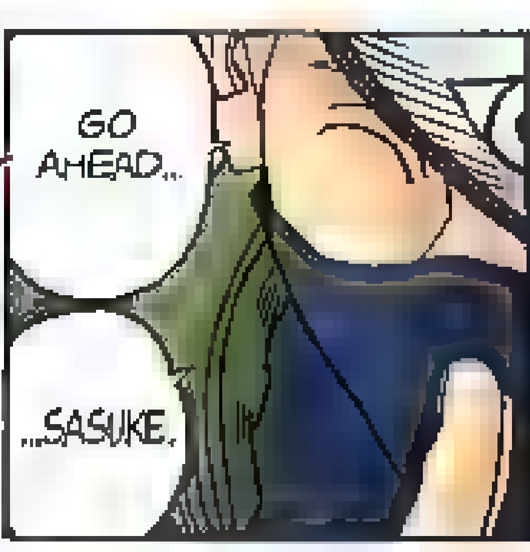

BEEN A WHILE, KAKASHI...

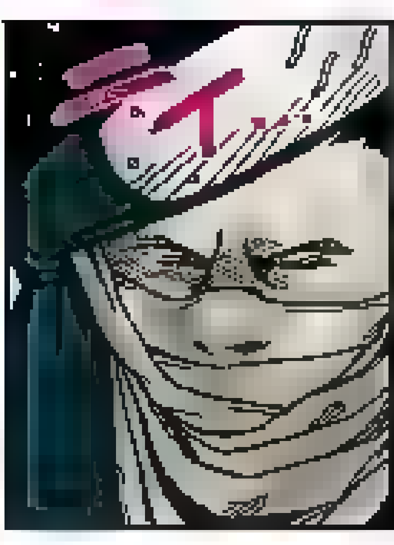

AND SEE YOU'VE GOT THOSE BRATS TAGGING ALONG, JUST LIKE LAST TIME. AND THE LITTLE BOY'S TREMBLING AGAIN POOR THING...



!!

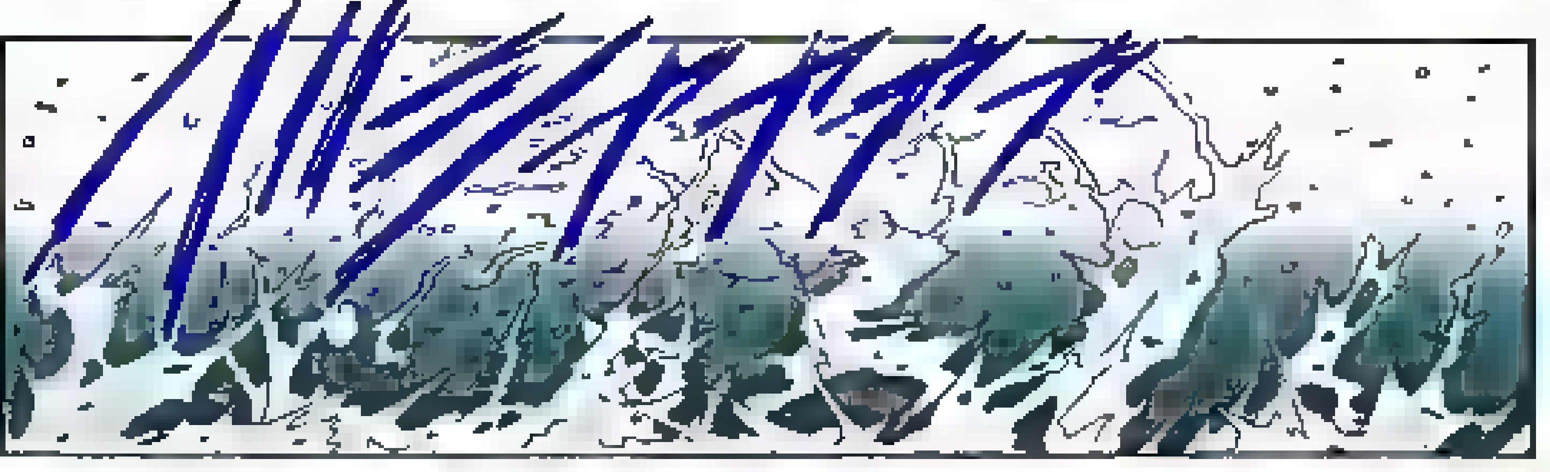


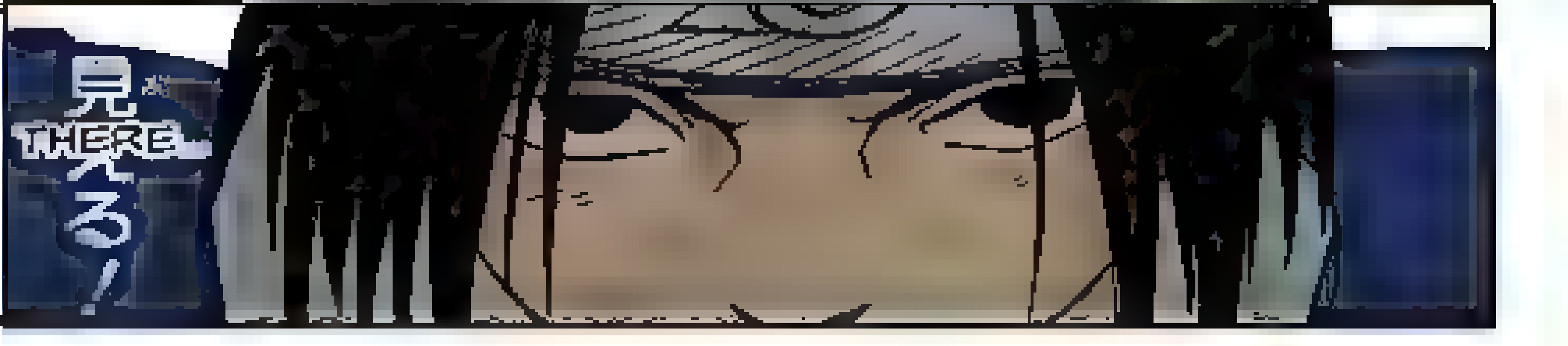

GO AHEAD...
...SASUKE.


T...


!!
I'M SHAKING WITH EAGERNESS FOR A REMATCH!









...INTO WORTHY RIVALS... EH, HAKU?

INDEED!

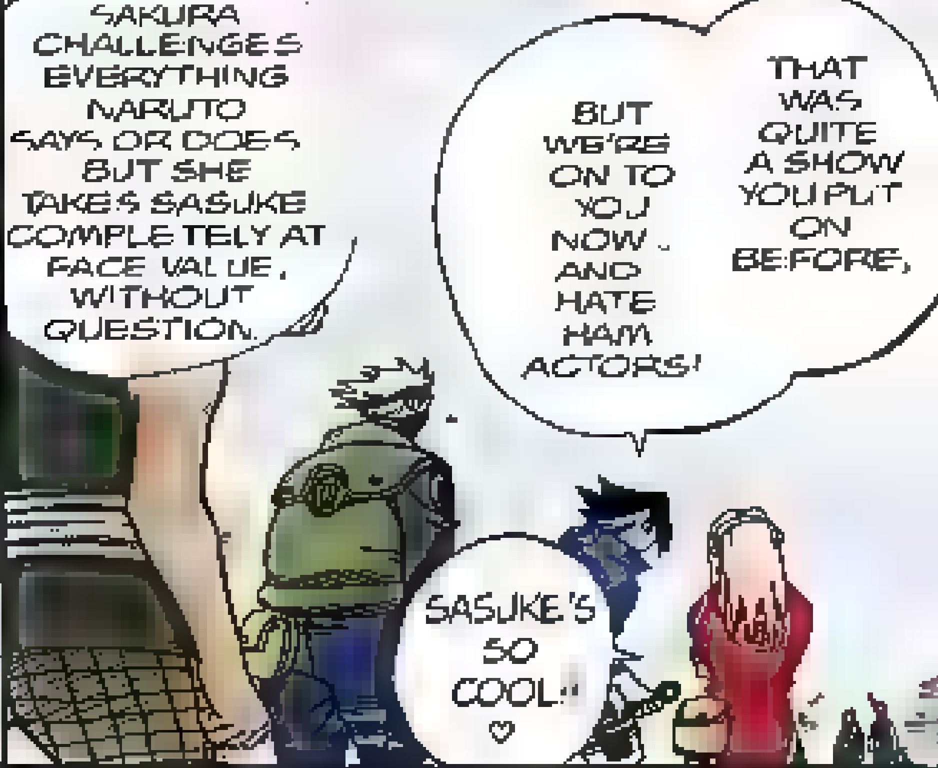


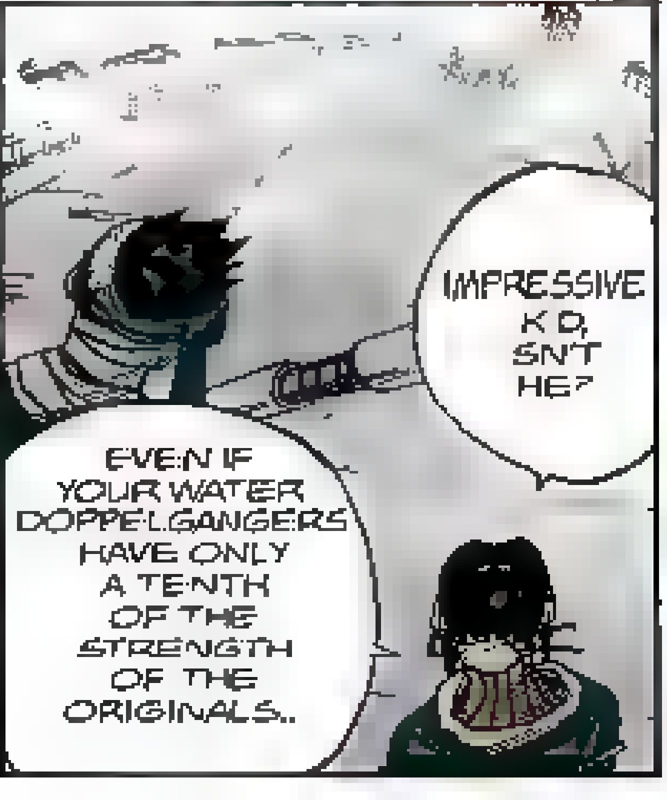

23：2つの急襲…!!
AMBUSH TiMES TWO...!!
LOOKS LIKE I WAS RIGHT.
OH!


IT SEEMS THE BRAT HAS MATURED INTO A WORTHY RIVAL... EH, HAKU?
INDEED!

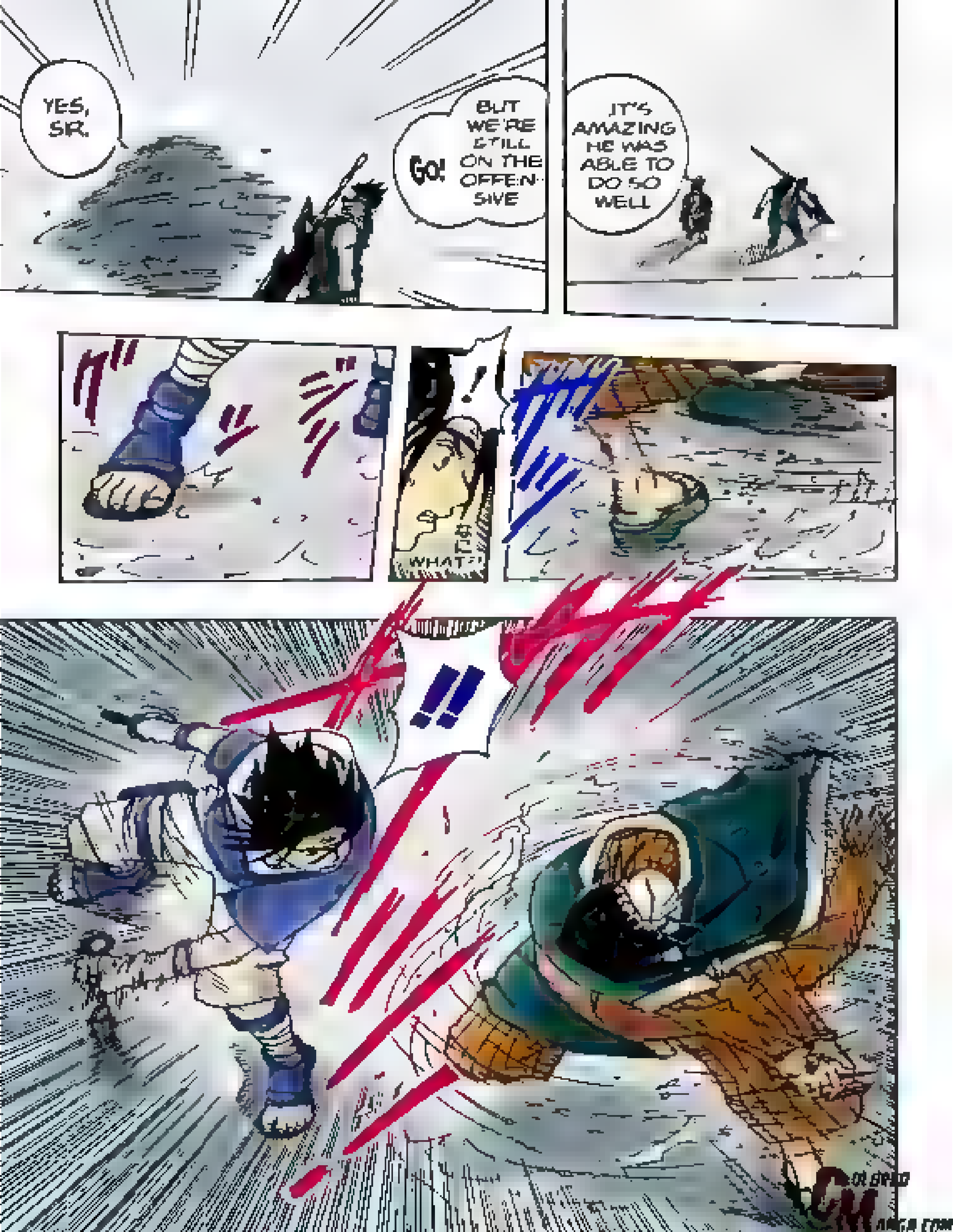
OUR MYSTERIOUS MASKED FRIEND...
...IS PLAYING ON ZABUZA'S TEAM.
HE HAS NERVE, SHOWING UP LIKE THIS!

THIS ONE'S MINE.

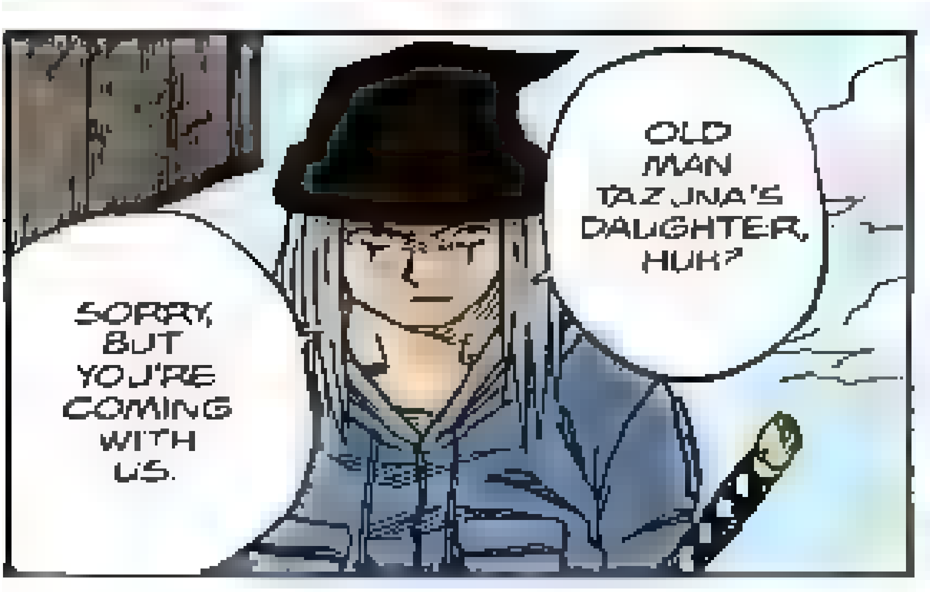


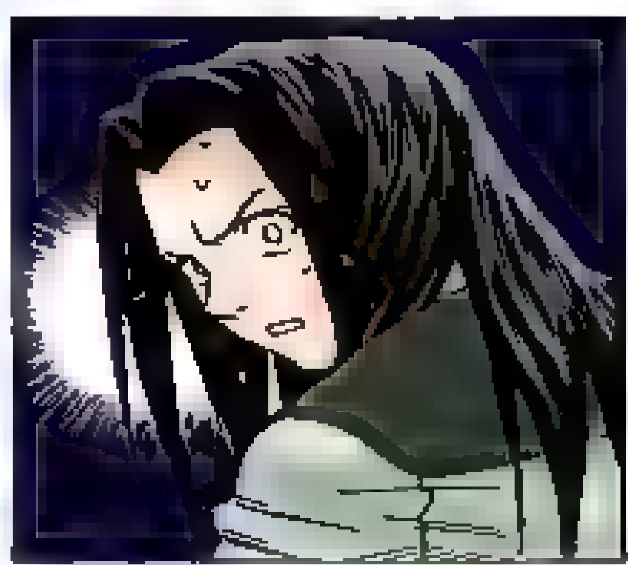





IT'S AMAZING HE WAS ABLE TO DO SO WELL
BUT WE'RE STILL ON THE OFFEN-SIVE
GO!
YES, SIR.
!
WHAT?!
!!

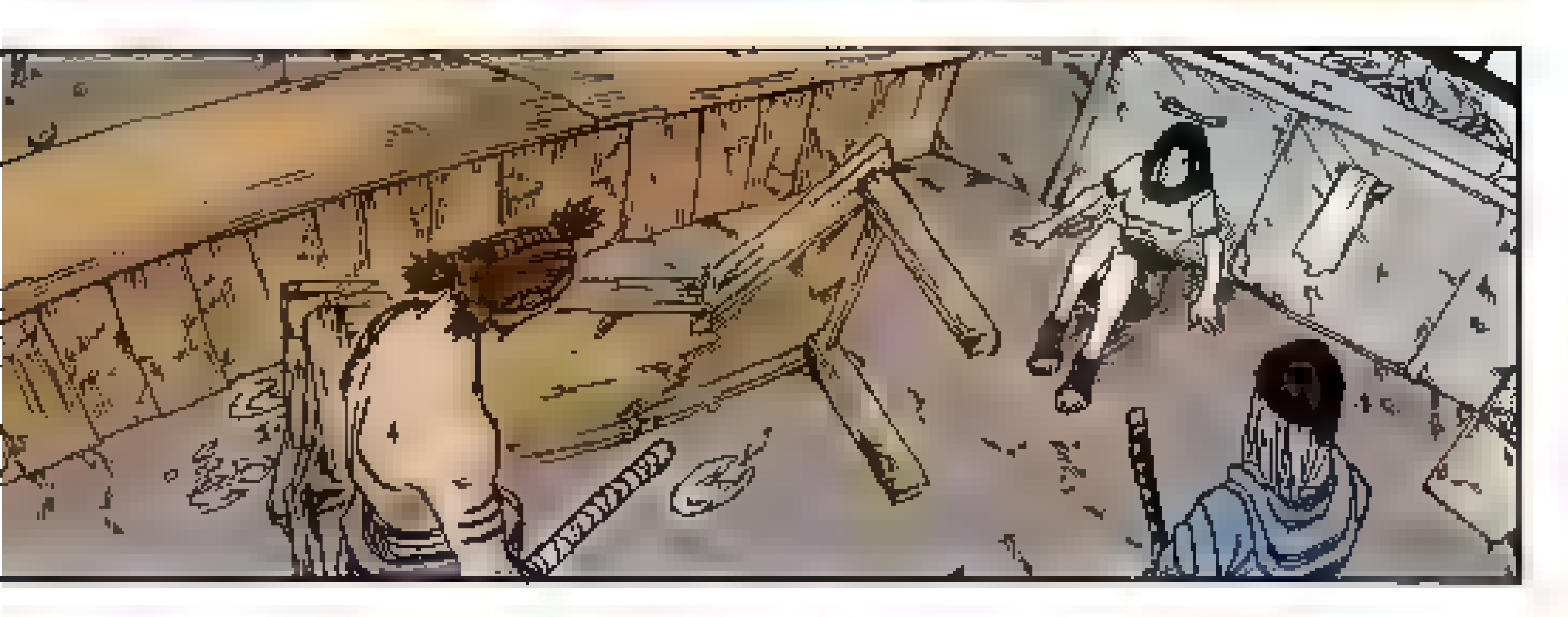
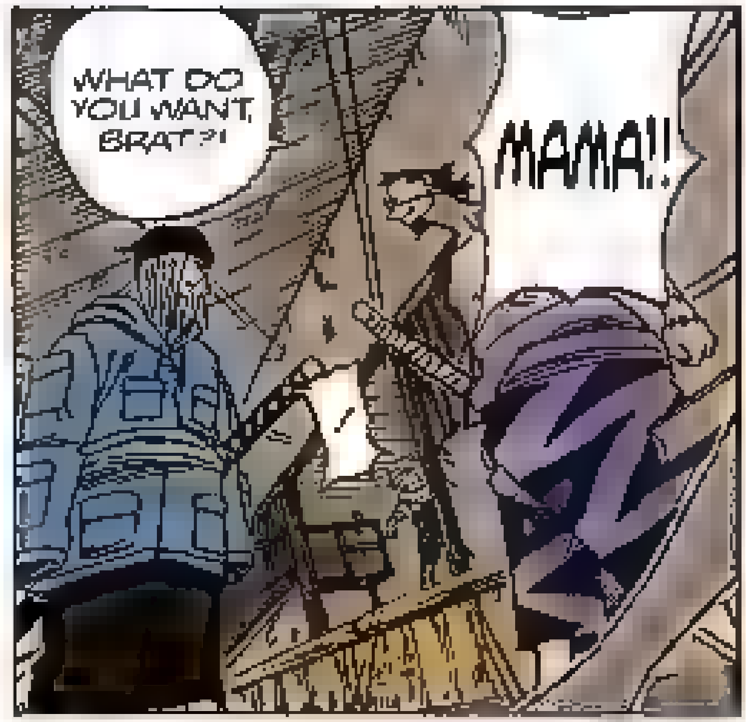

!


OLD MAN TAZUNA'S DAUGHTER, HUH?
SORRY, BUT YOU'RE COMING WITH US.




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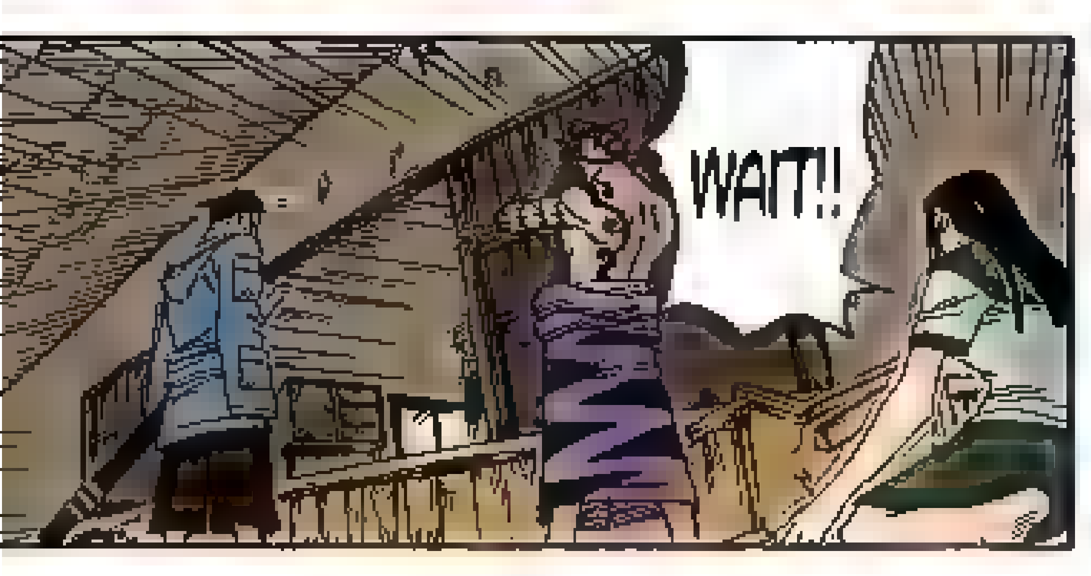
!!
AIEE~!!


MAMA!!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, BRAT?!

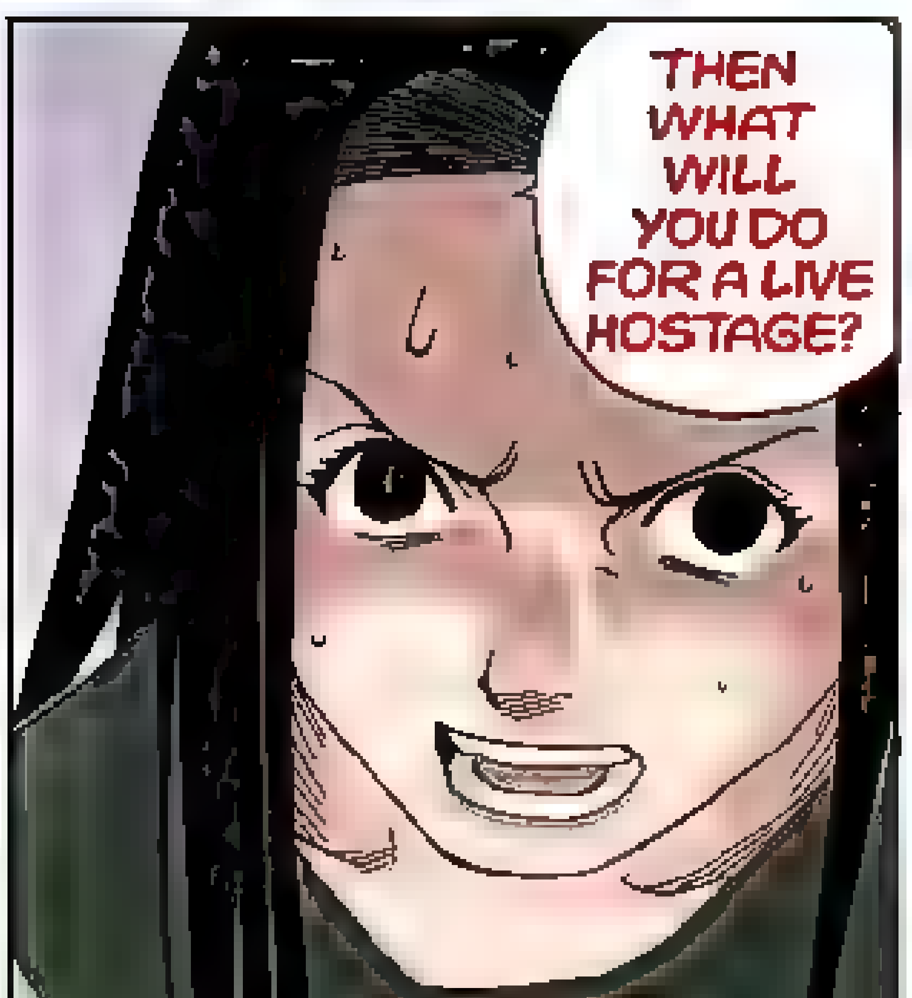
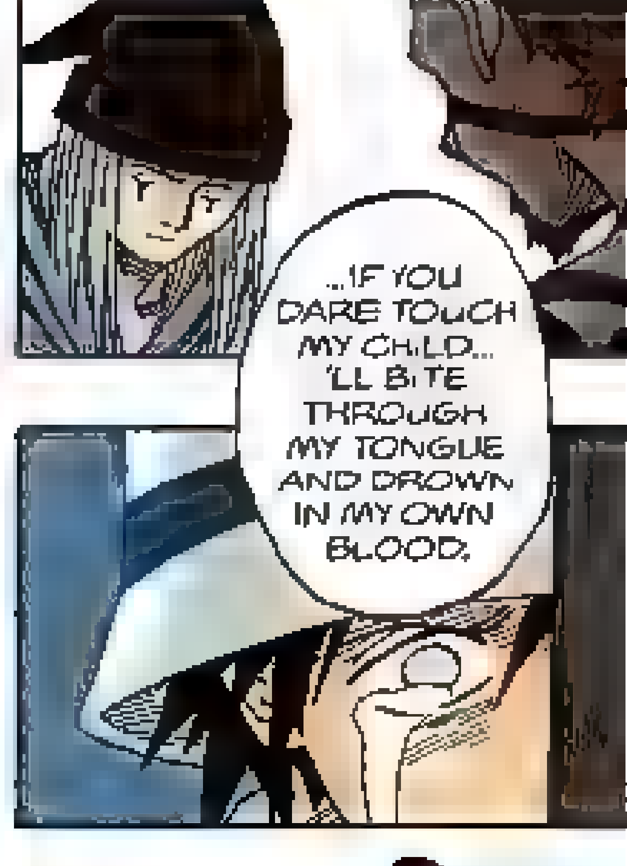
RUN, INARI! DON'T COME IN!!!


SHOULD WE GRAB HIM, TOO?
WE ONLY NEED ONE HOSTAGE

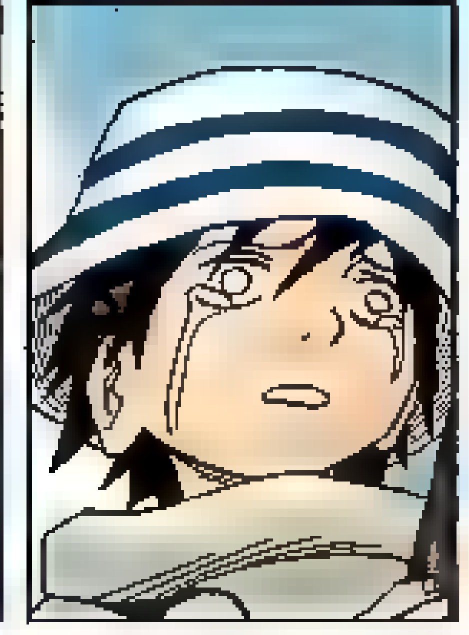
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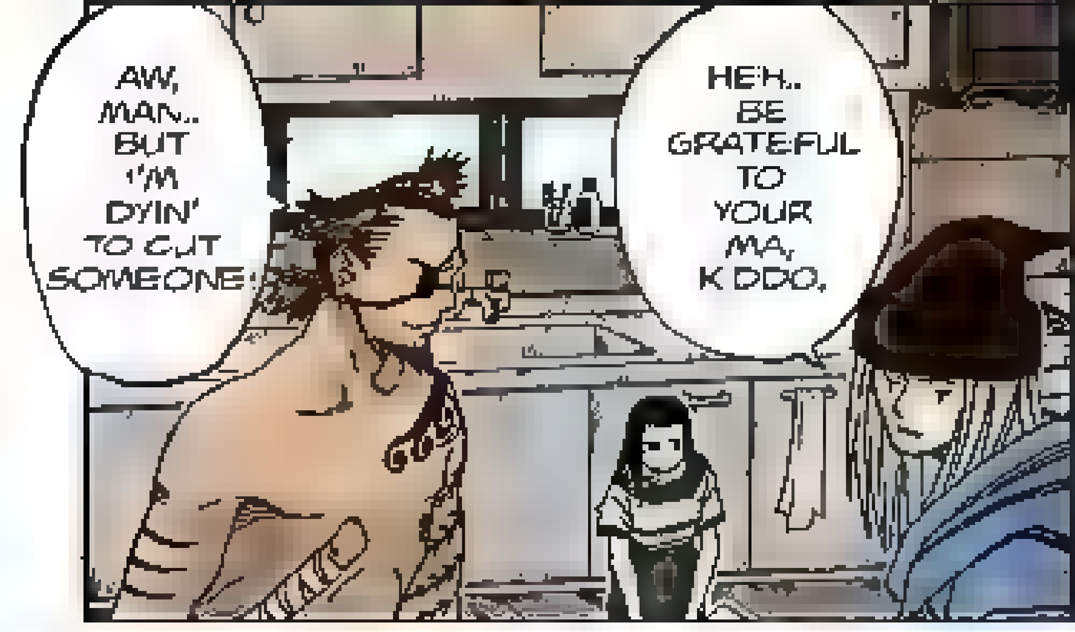

HEH-HEH. TOO BAD--
FOR HIM!

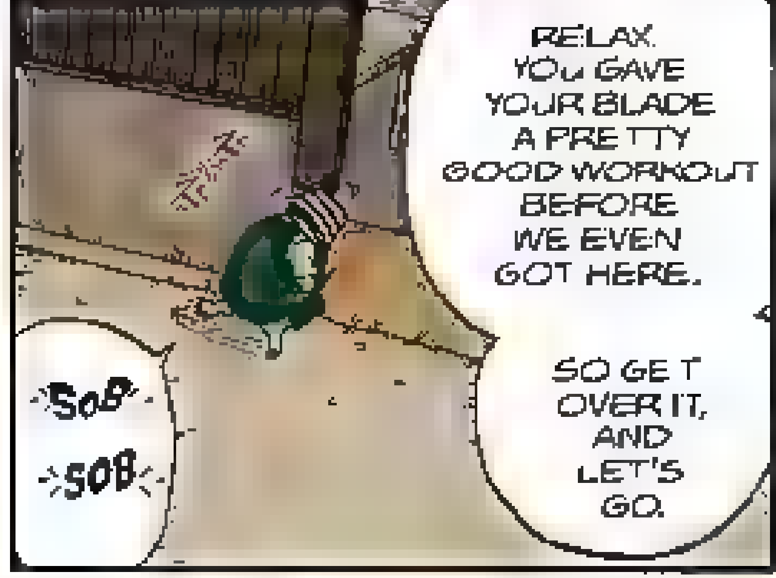
ビク
HOSTAGE...?!

WAIT!!

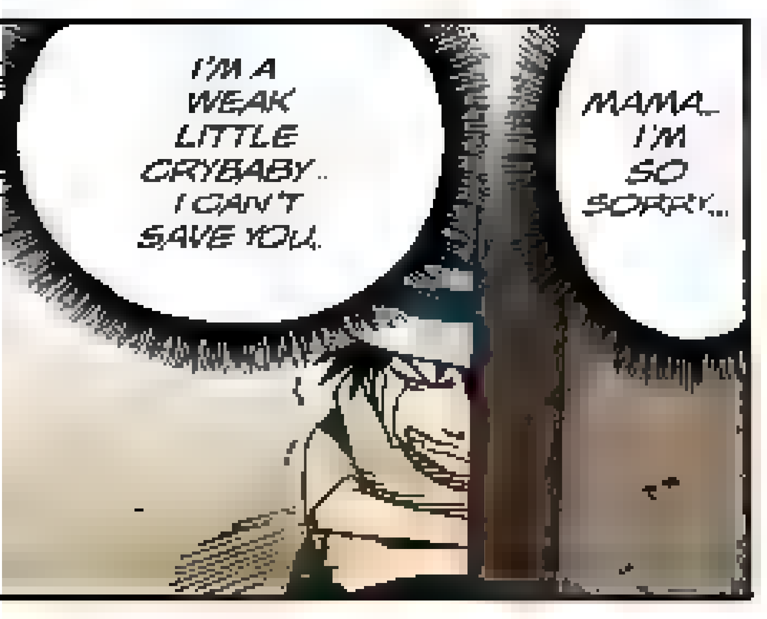
!!

THEN WHAT WILL YOU DO FOR A LIVE HOSTAGE?

...IF YOU DARE TOUCH MY CHILD... 'LL BITE THROUGH MY TONGUE AND DROWN IN MY OWN BLOOD.

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HEH.. BE GRATEFUL TO YOUR MA, KIDDO.
AW, MAN.. BUT I'M DYIN' TO CUT SOMEONE.

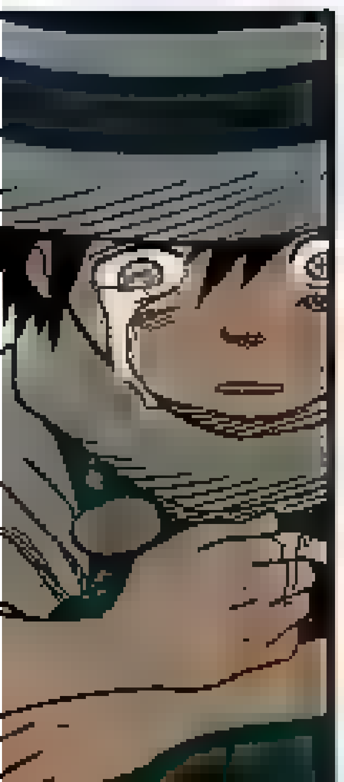

RELAX. YOU GAVE YOUR BLADE A PRETTY GOOD WORKOUT BEFORE WE EVEN GOT HERE.
SO GET OVER IT, AND LET'S GO.
SOB
SOB

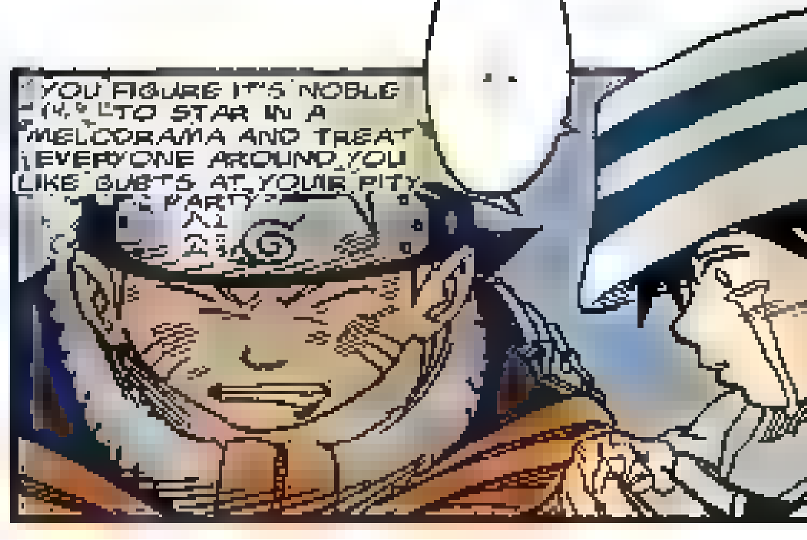
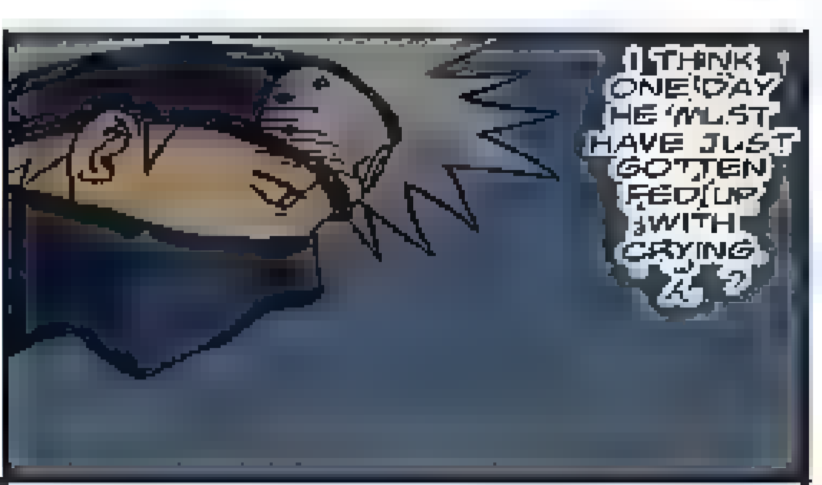

MAMA.. I'M SO SORRY..
I'M A WEAK LITTLE CRYBABY.. I CAN'T SAVE YOU.


AND I'M AFRAID!
I DON'T WANT TO DIE

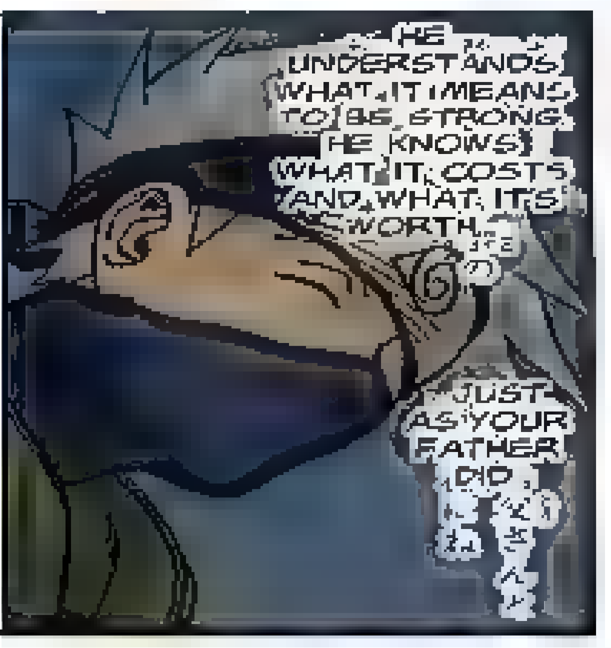
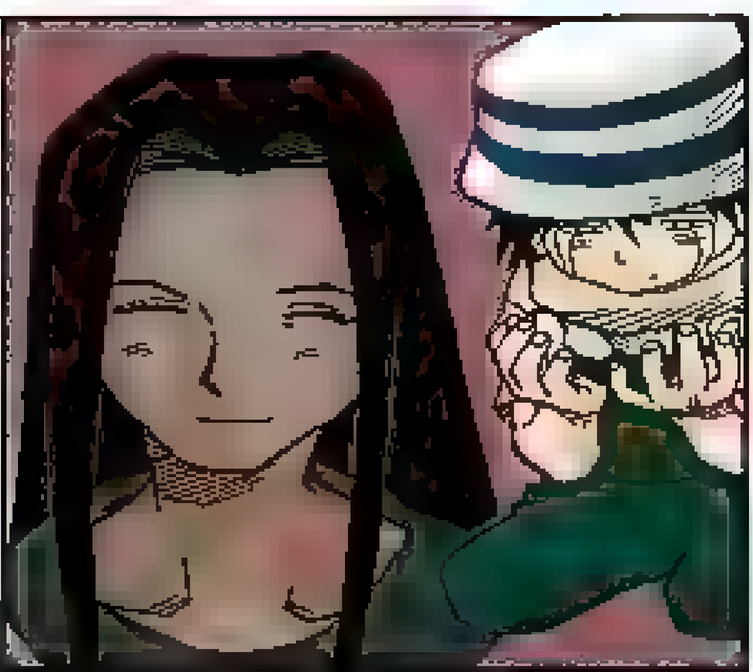
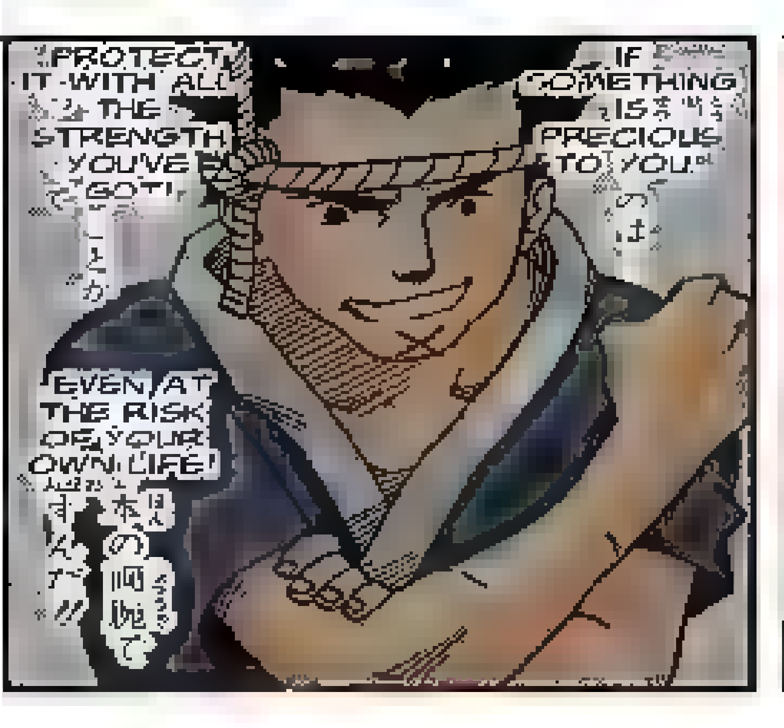

ポタ
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YOU
BIG
BABY!!




YOU FIGURE IT'S NOBLE TO STAR IN A MELODRAMA AND TREAT EVERYONE AROUND YOU LIKE GUESTS AT YOUR PITY PARTY?
..

I THINK ONE DAY HE MUST HAVE JUST GOTTEN FED UP WITH CRYING.

T TAKES A REALLY BIG MAN TO SIT AROUND AND CRY, YOU BRAT!
YOU BIG BABY!!

...

HE UNDERSTANDS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE STRONG. HE KNOWS WHAT IT COSTS AND WHAT IT'S WORTH...
JUST AS YOUR FATHER DID.


IF SOMETHING IS PRECIOUS TO YOU...
PROTECT IT WITH ALL THE STRENGTH YOU'VE GOT!
EVEN AT THE RISK OF YOUR OWN LIFE!

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EVERYONE ELSE IS SO AWESOME...
いいよなあ……

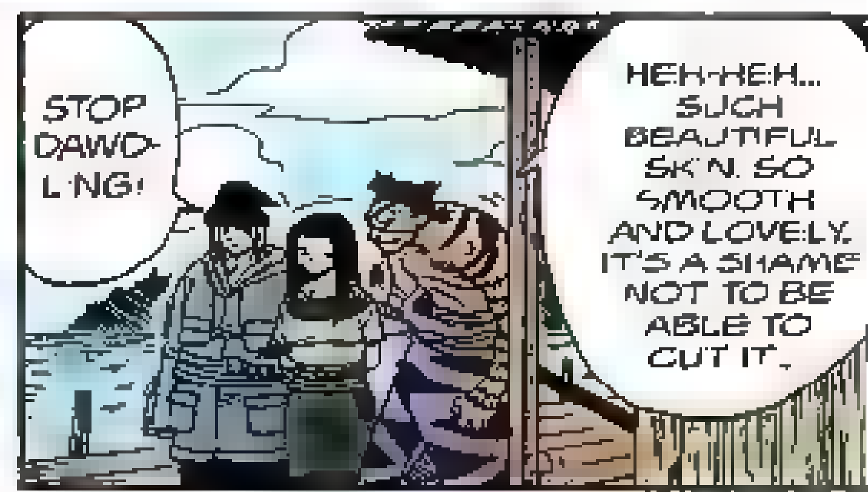
COOL...
なんかあの……すごいいよ

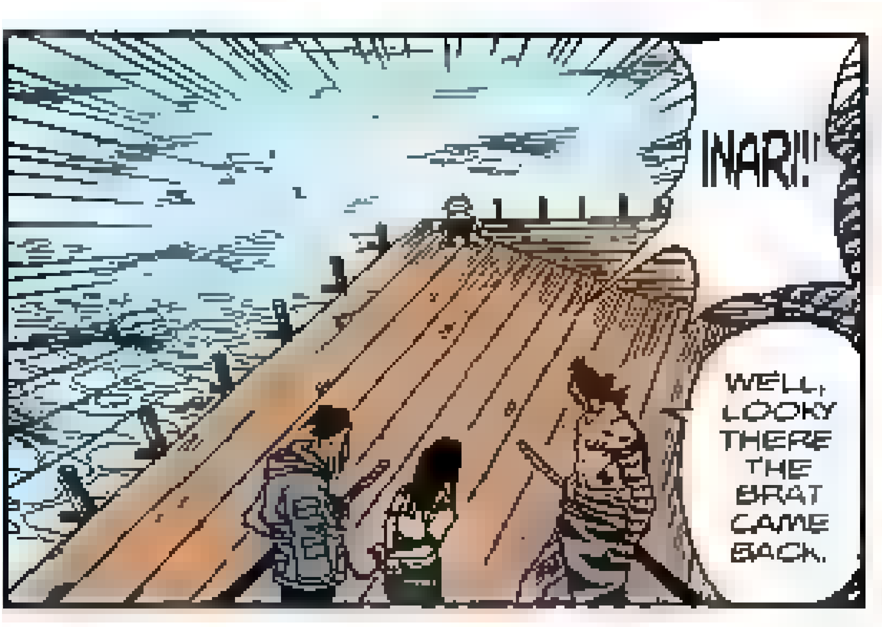
AND STRONG...
みんな……いよなあ……

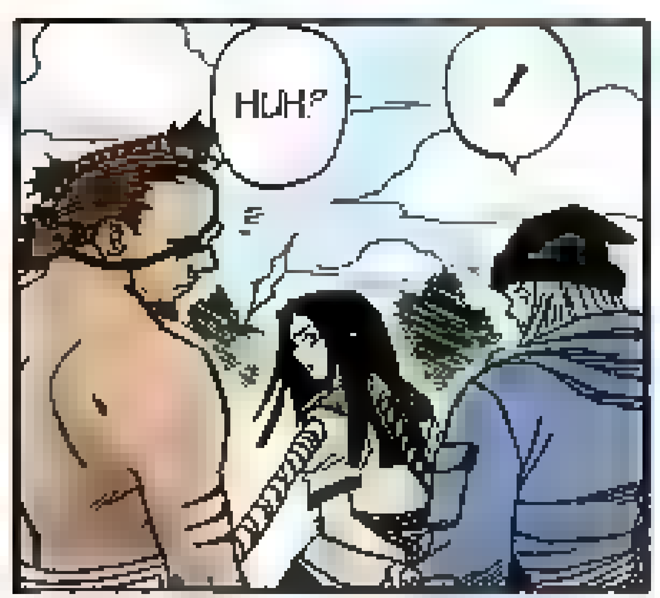
CLENCH

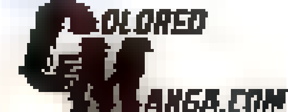

COULD I...
BE STRONG TOO...
...DADDY?!
...CAN I...

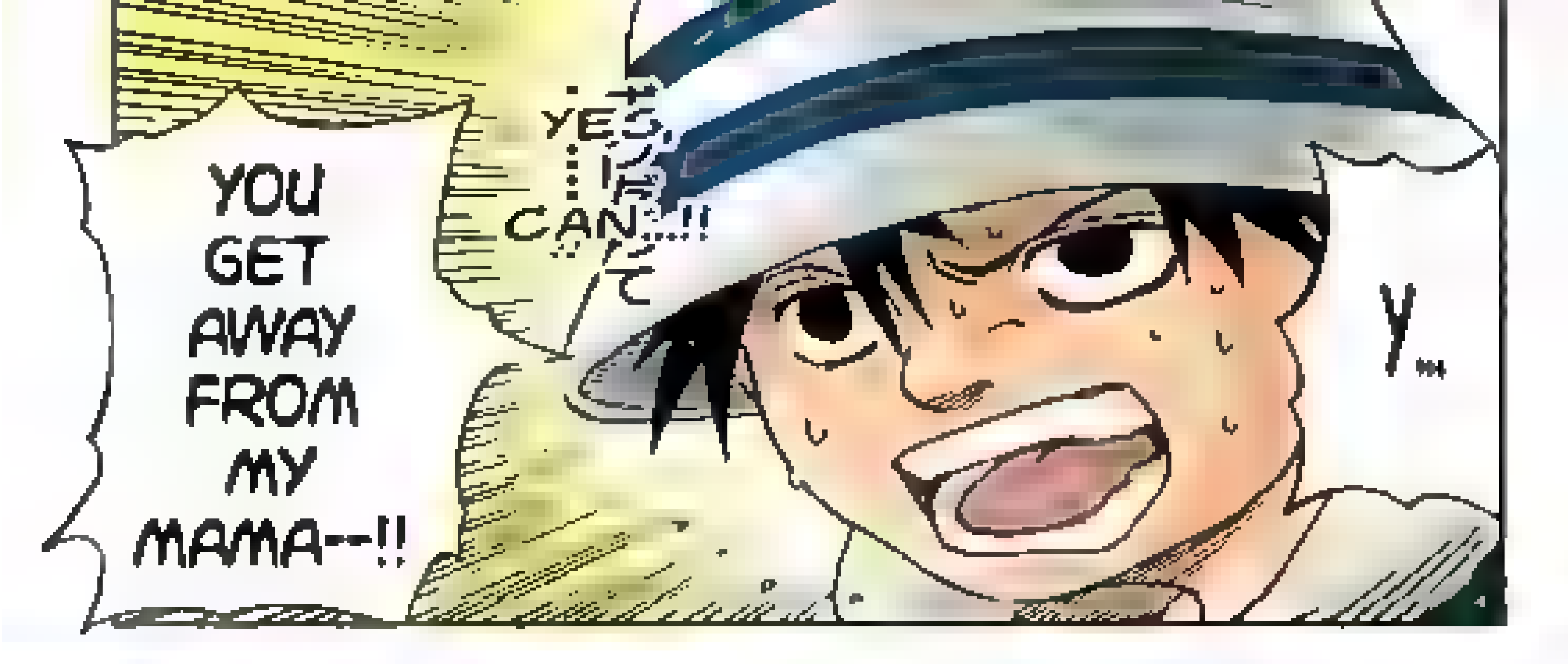

WAIT!!

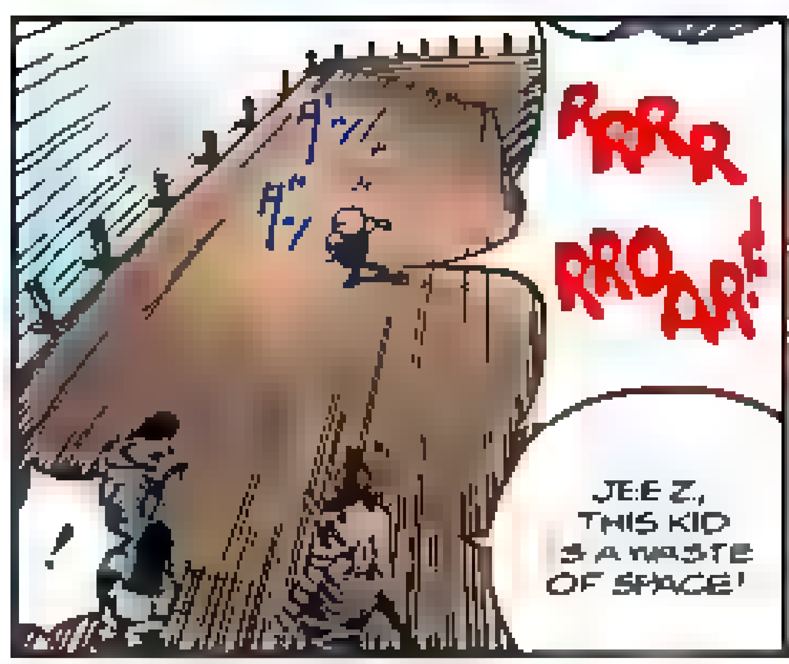

STOP DAWDLING!
HEH-HEH... SUCH BEAUTIFUL SKIN. SO SMOOTH AND LOVELY. IT'S A SHAME NOT TO BE ABLE TO CUT IT...

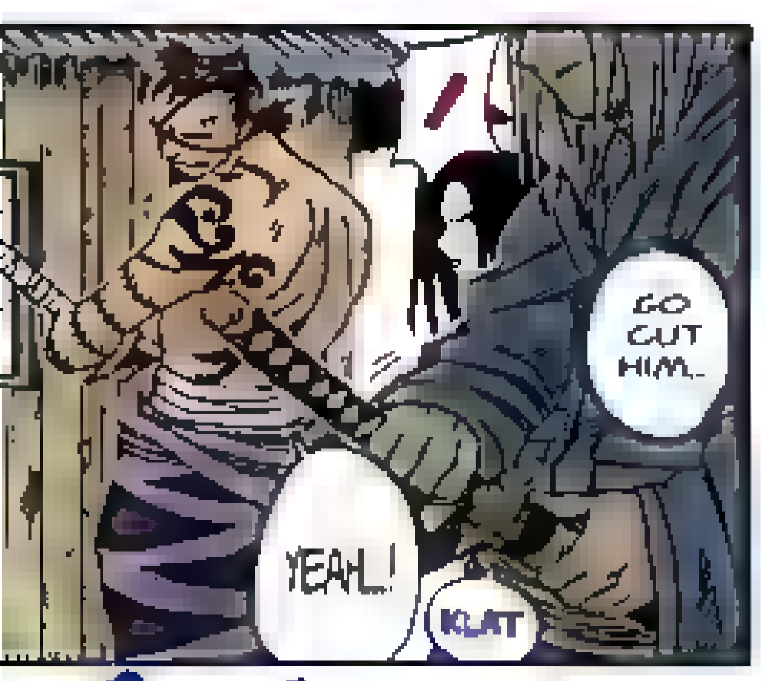

INARI!!
WELL, LOOKY THERE THE BRAT CAME BACK.


HUH?
!



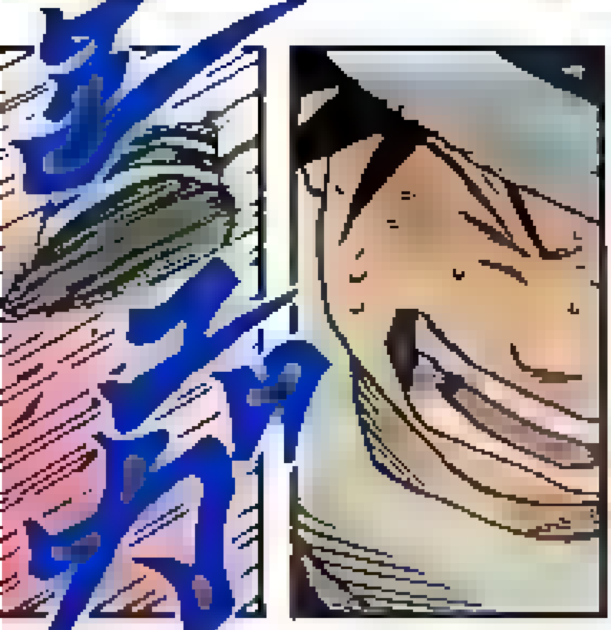

Y...
YES, I CAN...!!
YOU GET AWAY FROM MY MAMA--!!


RRRR RROAR!!
JEEZ, THIS KID IS A WASTE OF SPACE!
!


!
GO CUT HIM.
YEAH!
KLAT




INARI!





!

!

THE ART OF SUBSTITUTION...?!

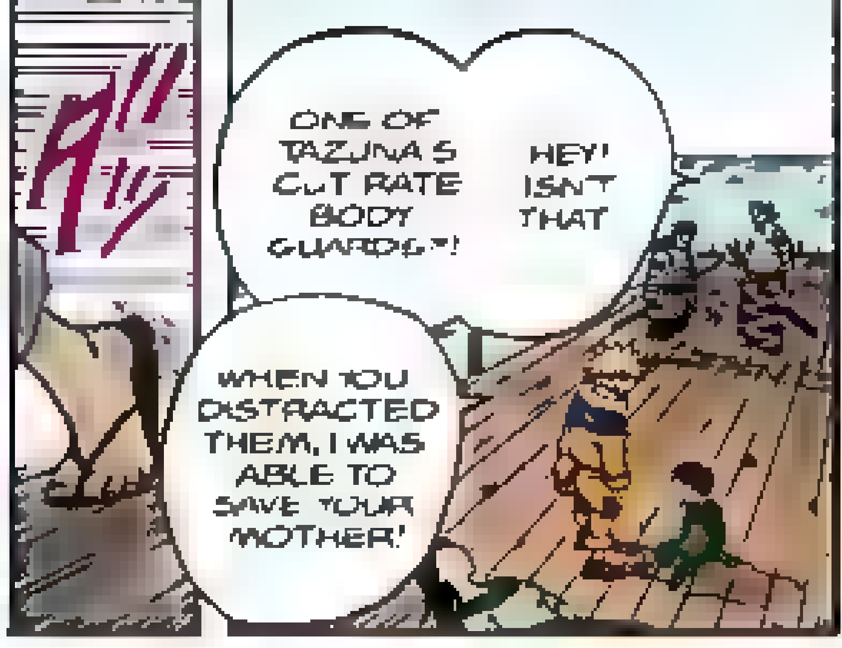
SORRY I'M LATE.

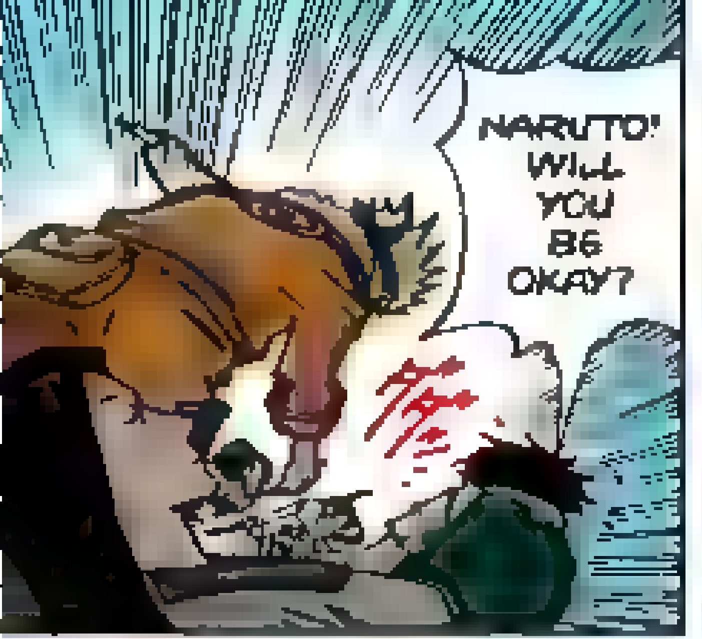
!

IT'S BEING A HERO, Y'KNOW? ALL THAT NICK OF TIME STUFF!

N-NARUTO...!

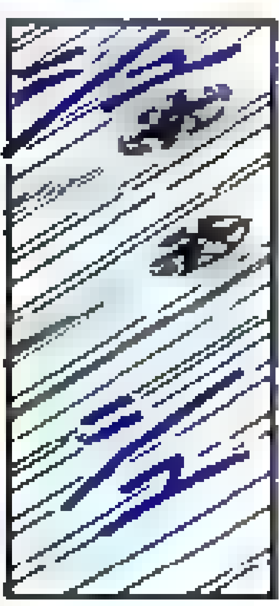
WAY TO GO, INARI!!!


HEY! ISN'T THAT
ONE OF TAZUNA'S CUT RATE BODY GUARDS?!
WHEN YOU DISTRACTED THEM, I WAS ABLE TO SAVE YOUR MOTHER!

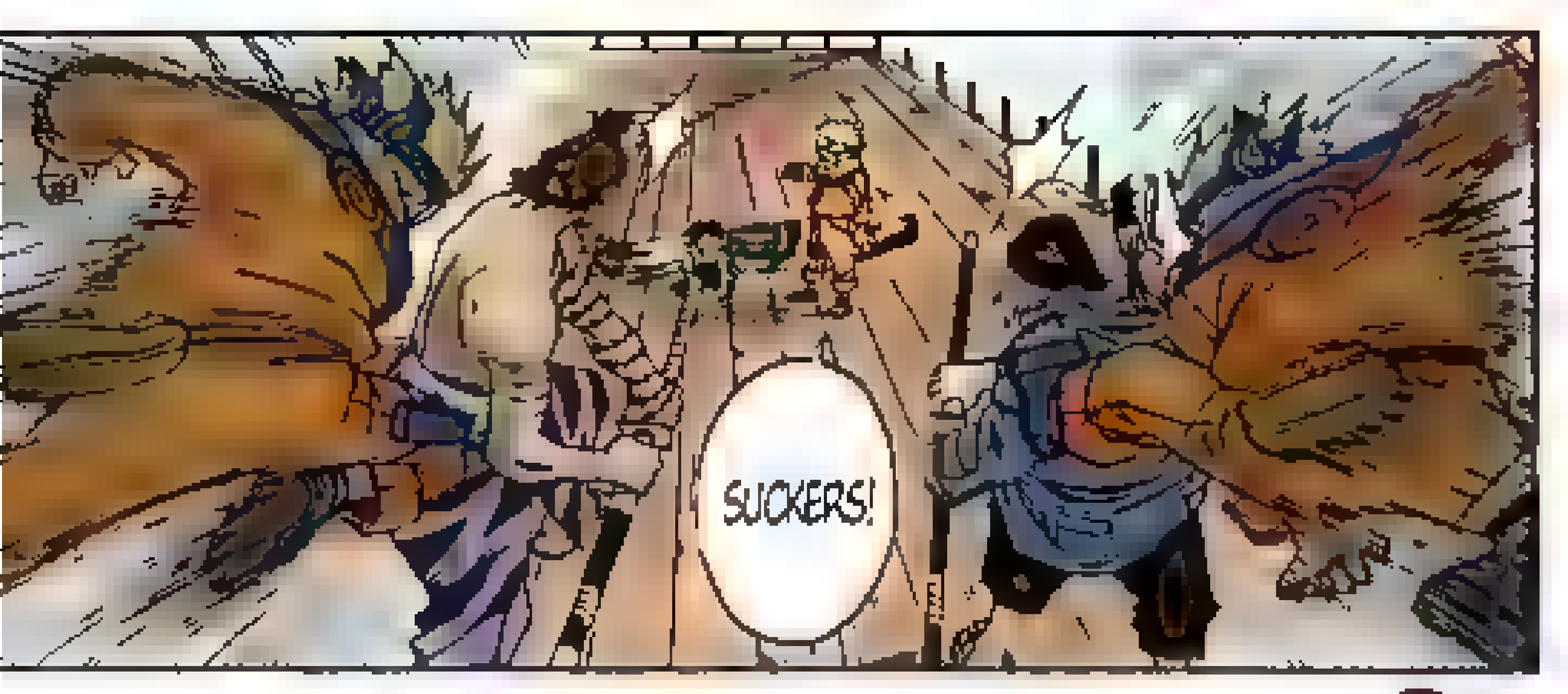

NARUTO! WILL YOU BE OKAY?


NO SWEAT.

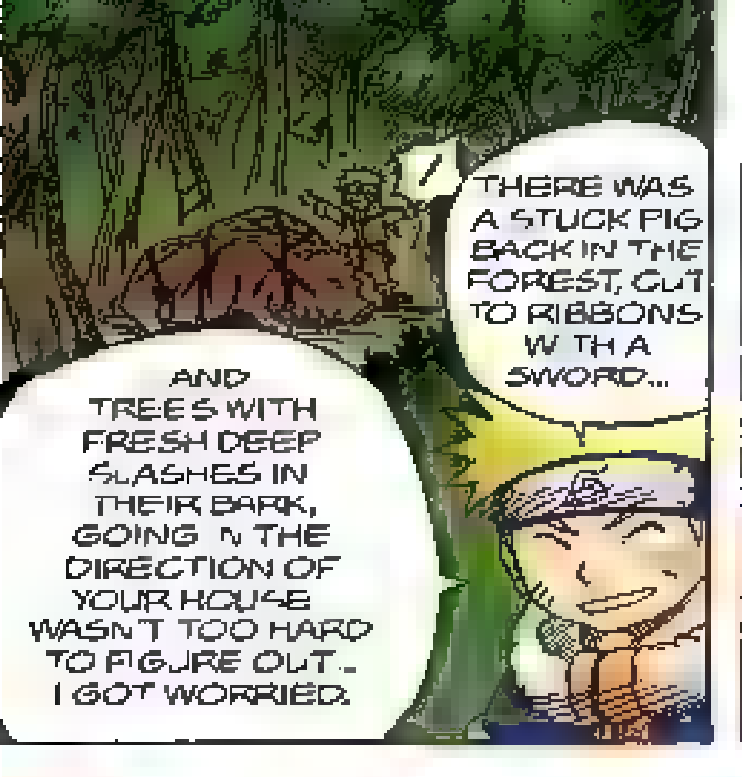


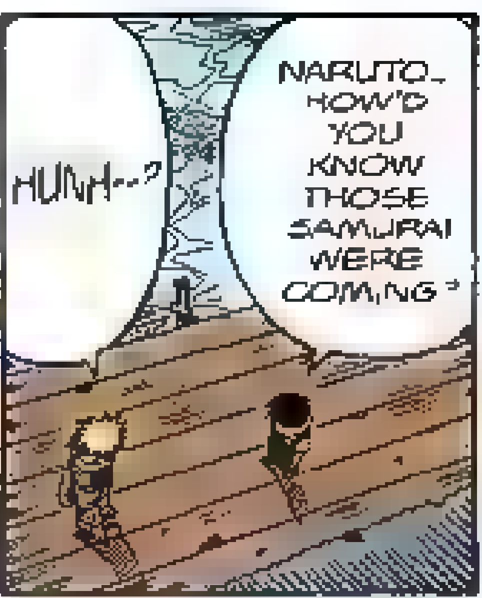


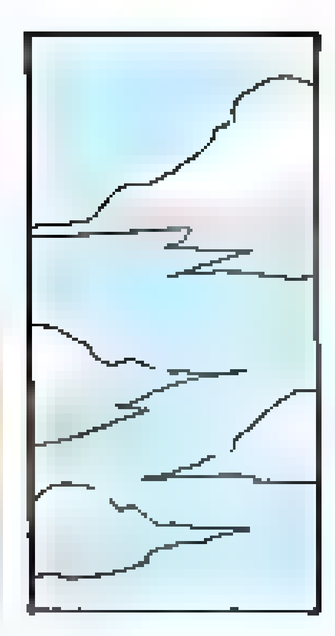

HAH! YOU EXPECT THOSE TOYS TO AFFECT US?


SUCKERS!

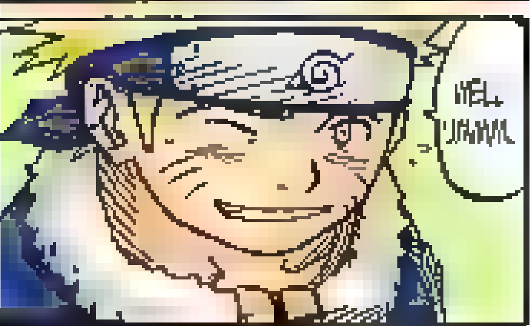


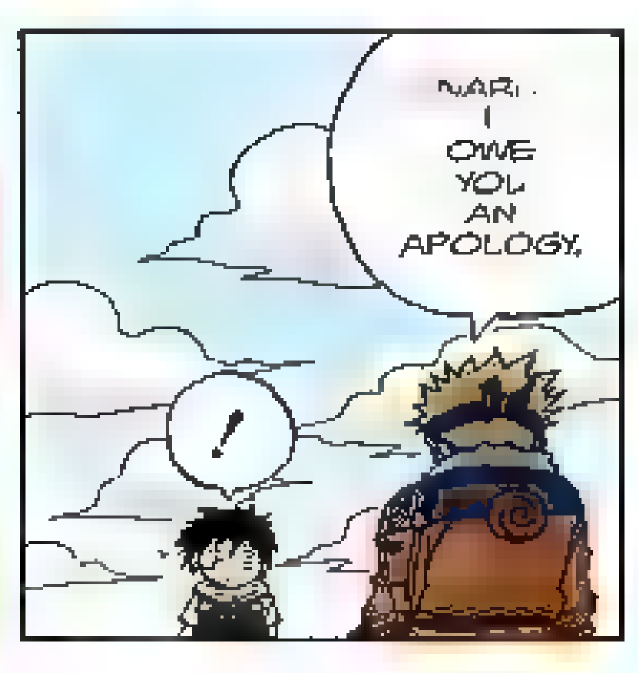

!
THERE WAS A STUCK PIG BACK IN THE FOREST, CUT TO RIBBONS WITH A SWORD...
AND TREES WITH FRESH DEEP SLASHES IN THEIR BARK, GOING IN THE DIRECTION OF YOUR HOUSE WASN'T TOO HARD TO FIGURE OUT.. I GOT WORRIED.


NARUTO.. HOW'D YOU KNOW THOSE SAMURAI WERE COMING?
HUNH...?



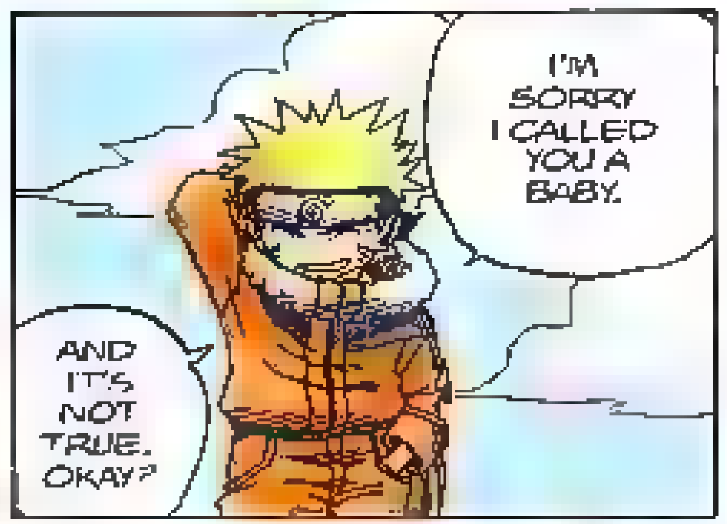

WHY?


WELL UMM...


NARU.. I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY.
!

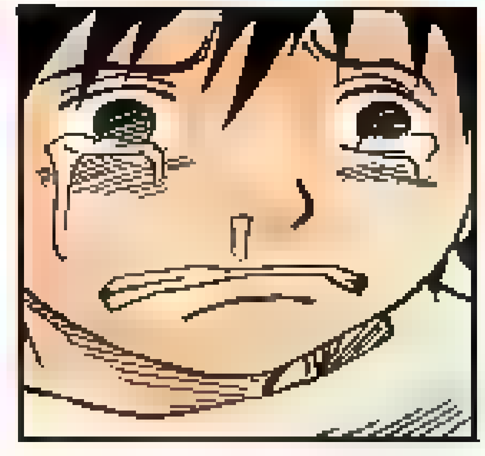

BUT FORGET THAT


!
BAP


I'M SORRY I CALLED YOU A BABY.
AND IT'S NOT TRUE. OKAY?

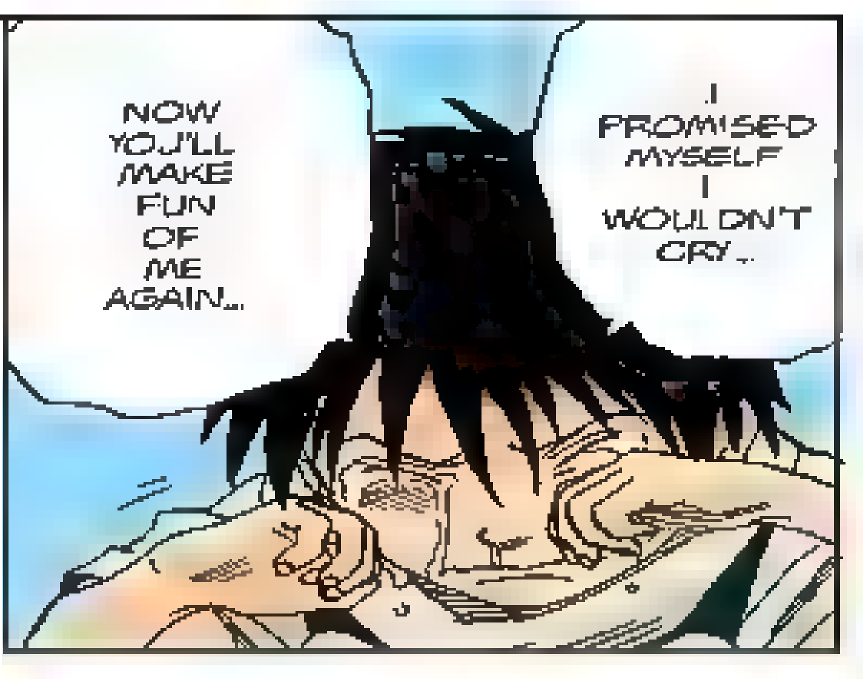
YOU'RE A BIG, STRONG BOY--!





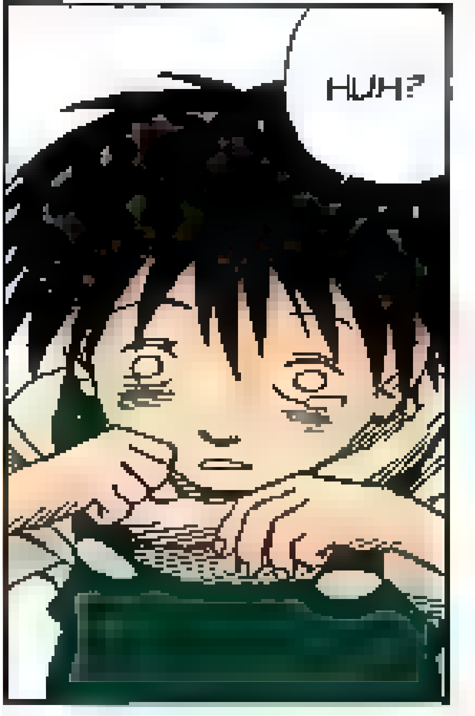


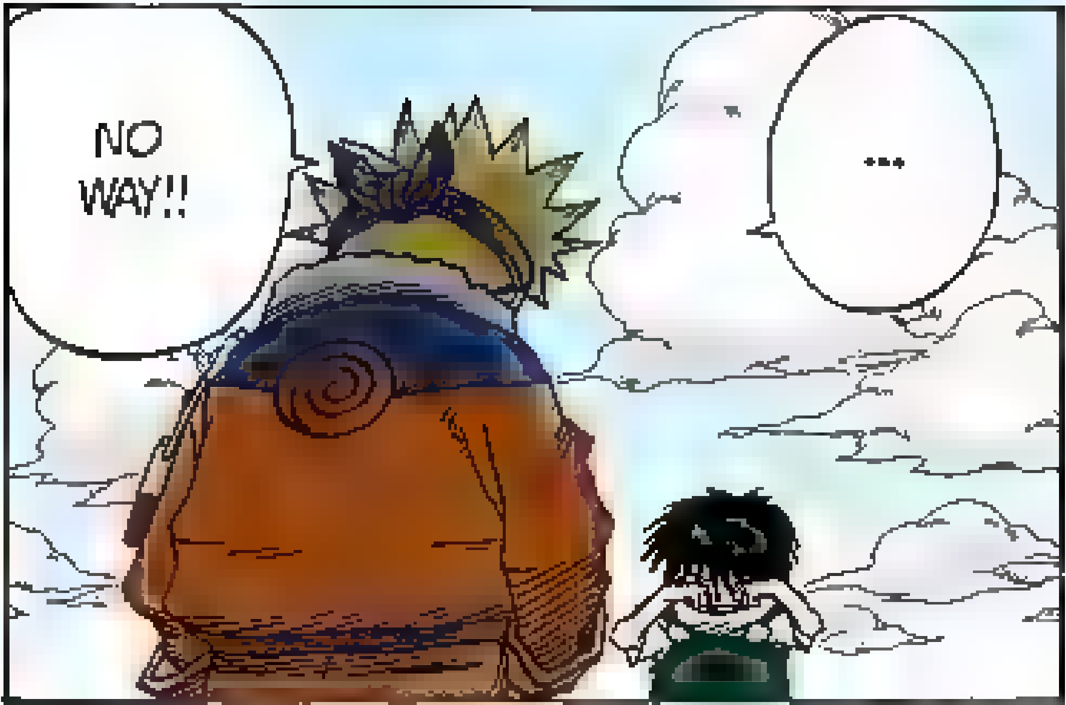


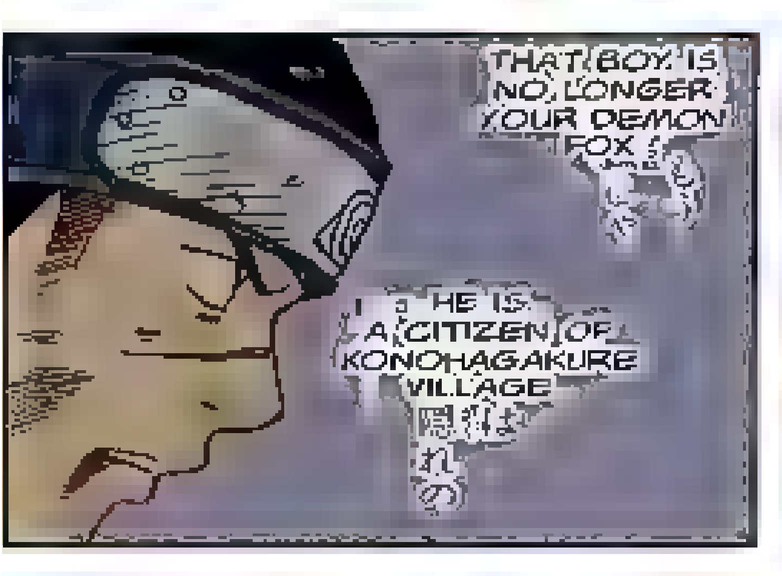


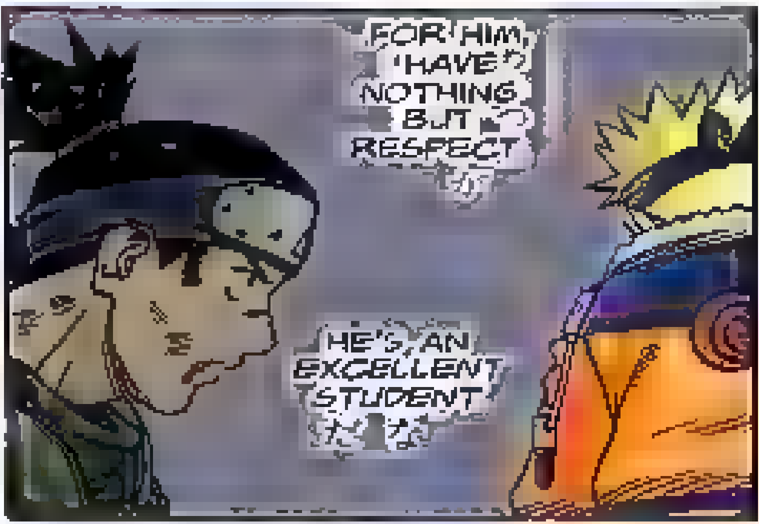


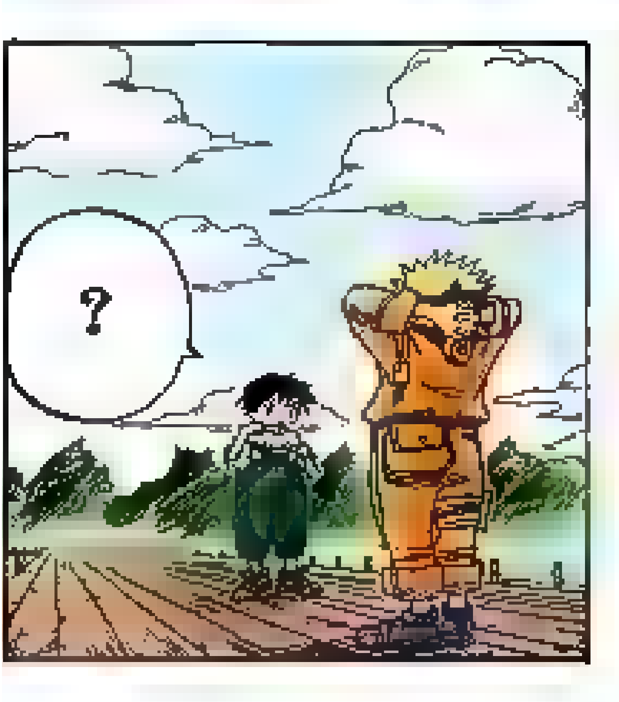



HUH?

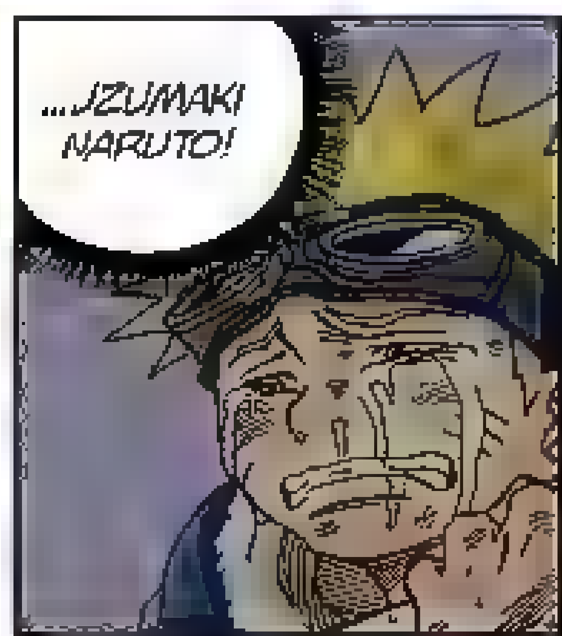

...
NO WAY!!


THAT BOY IS NO LONGER YOUR DEMON FOX!
HE IS A CITIZEN OF KONOHAGAKURE VILLAGE


FOR HIM, I 'HAVE' NOTHING BUT RESPECT
HE'S AN EXCELLENT STUDENT


?

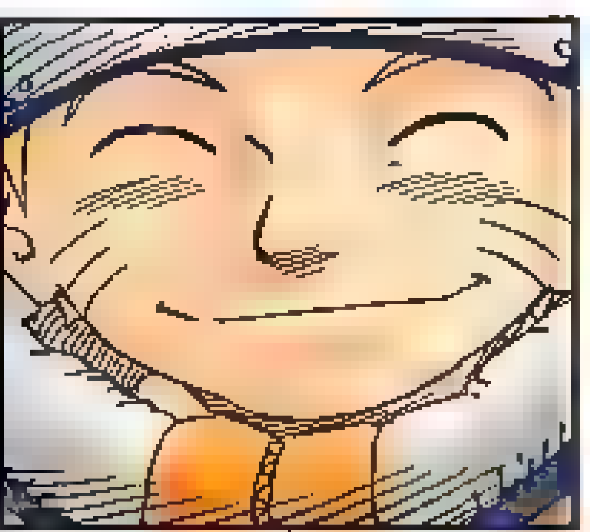

..

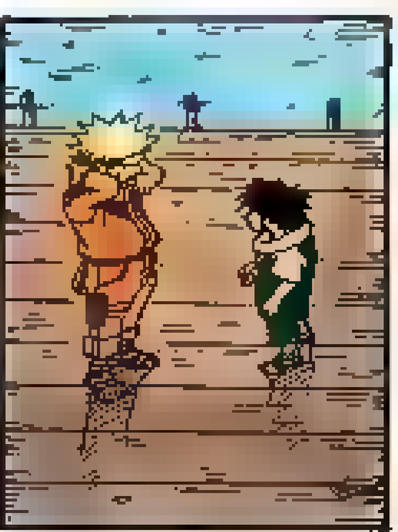

...UZUMAKI NARUTO!

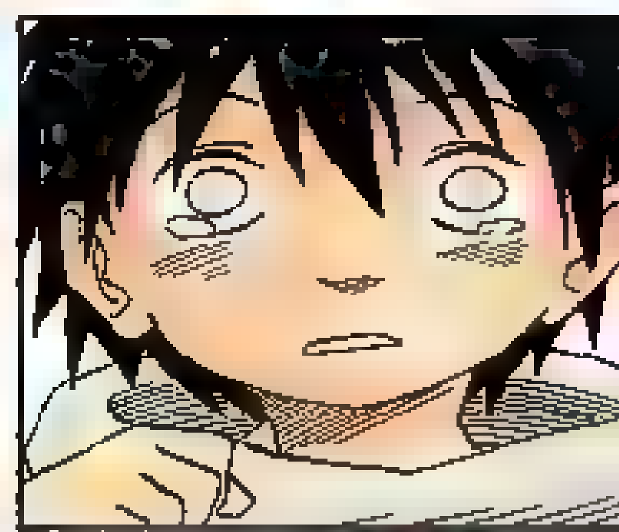


NOTHING WRONG WITH CRYING...

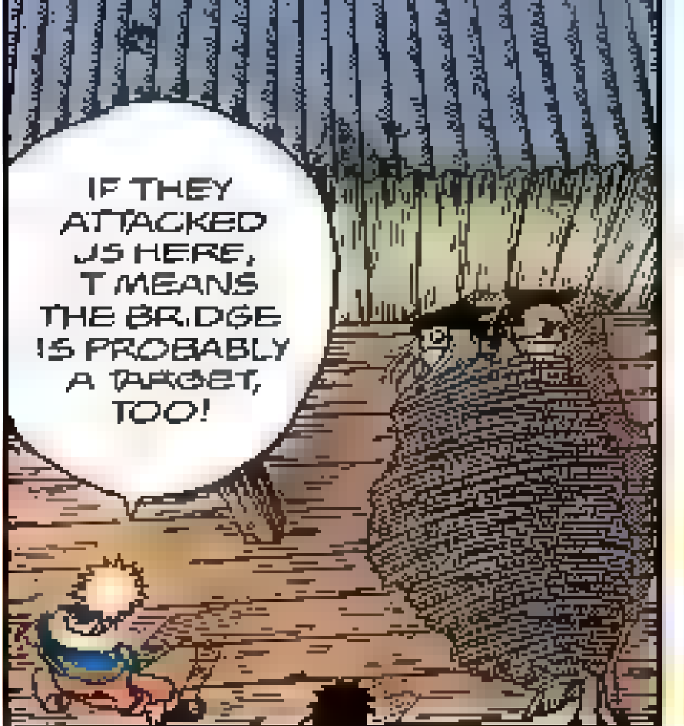
...WHEN YOU'RE HAPPY!







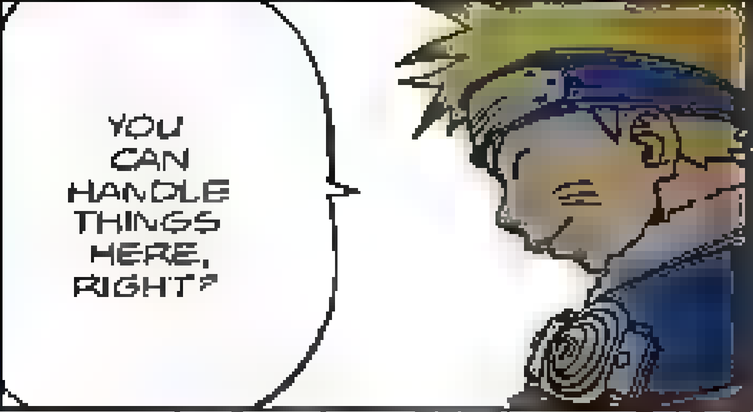












YOU BET!

MAN, THIS "HERO" THING IS A LOT OF WORK!!

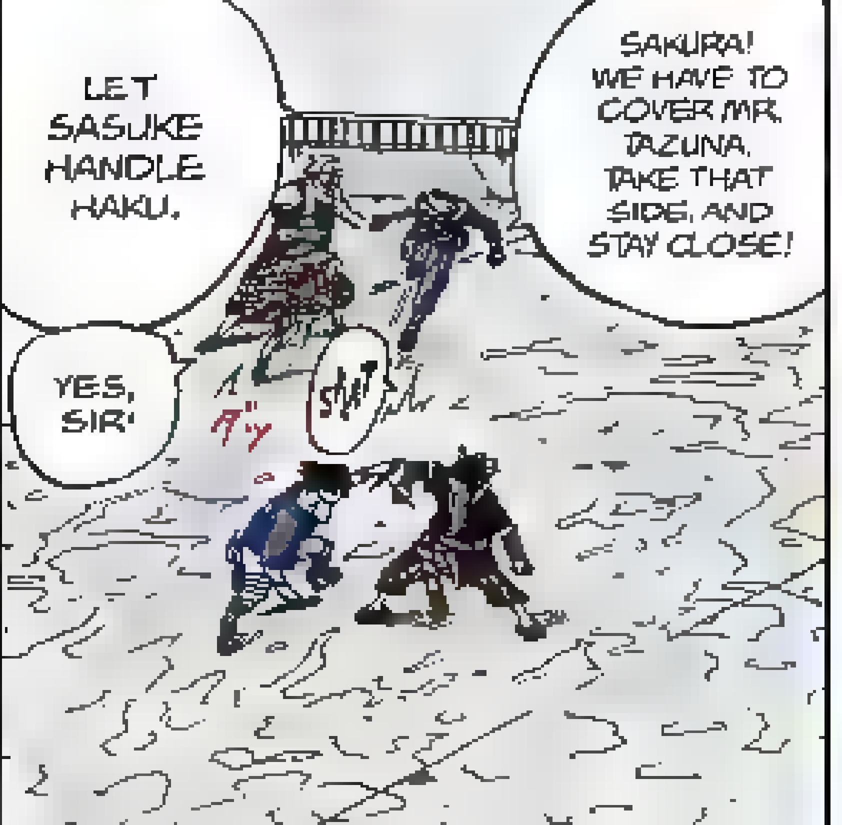




24：スピード!!

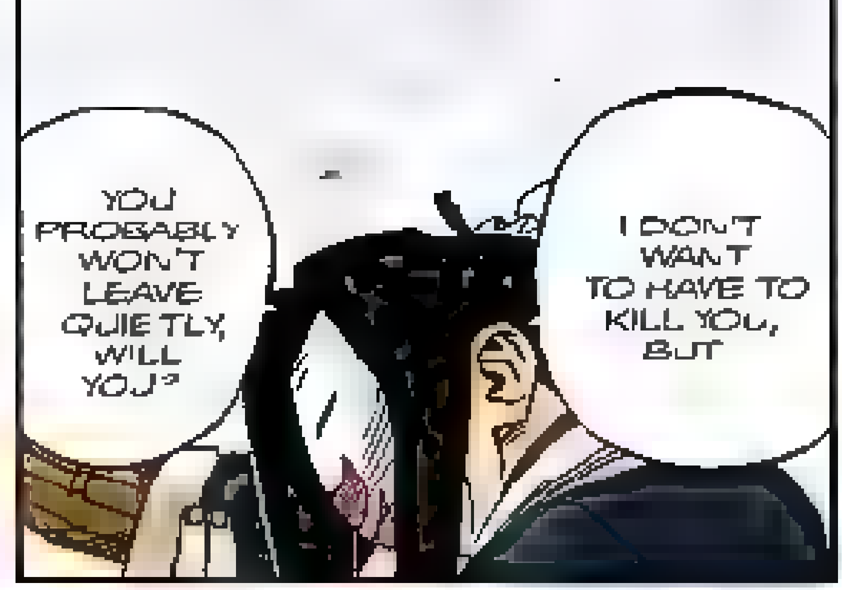
SPEED!!




LET SASUKE HANDLE HAKU.
SAKURA! WE HAVE TO COVER MR. TAZUNA. TAKE THAT SIDE, AND STAY CLOSE!
YES, SIR!


HE CAN KEEP UP WITH HAKU'S SPEED
AHA


HMM.

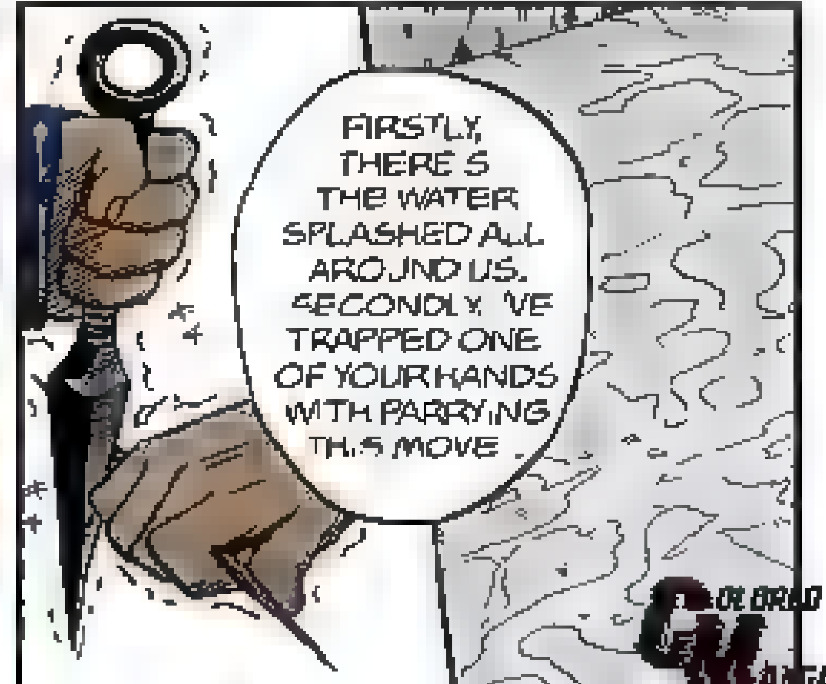




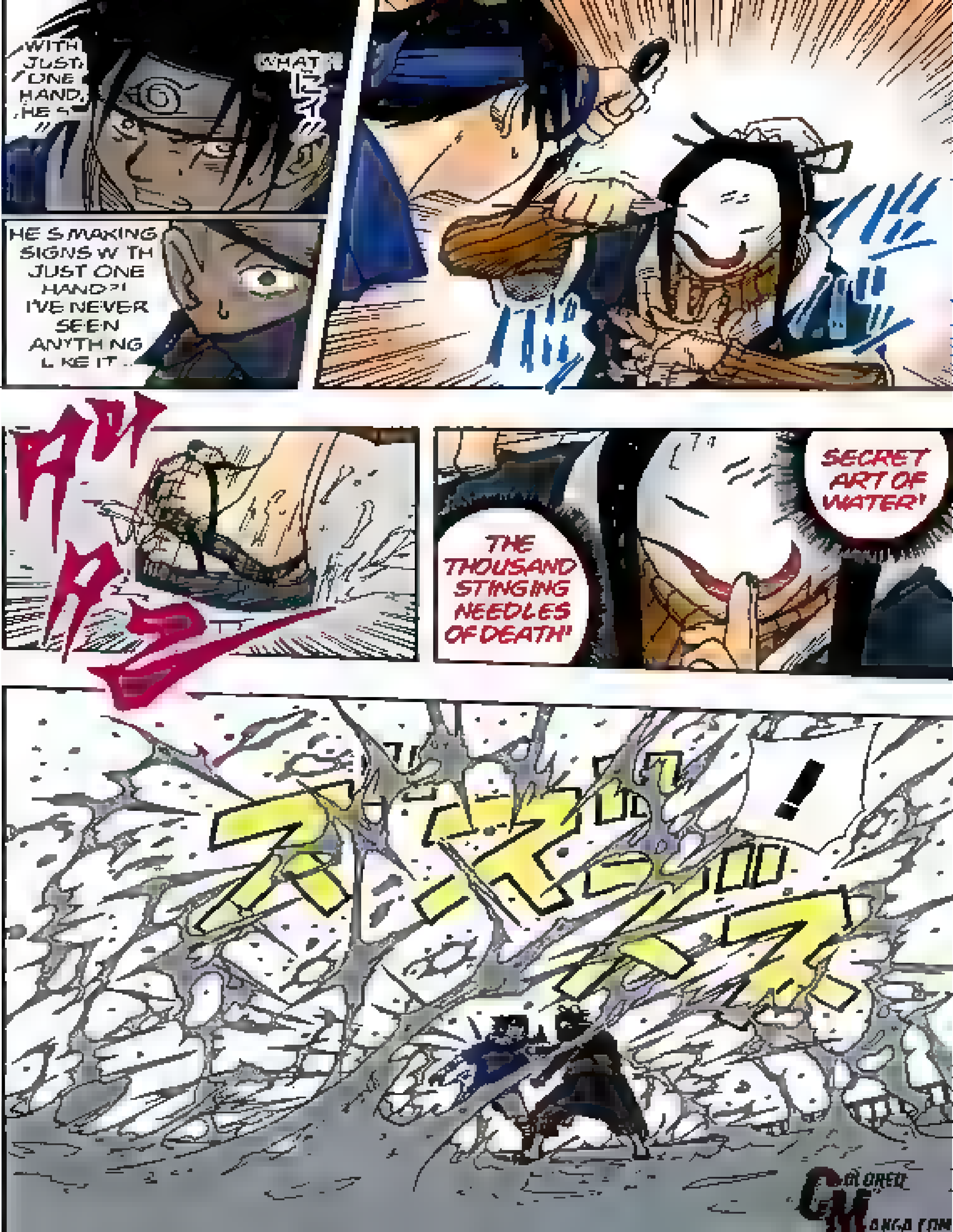
JUST AS I THOUGHT... HOWEVER, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MATCH MY SPEED FOR LONG...

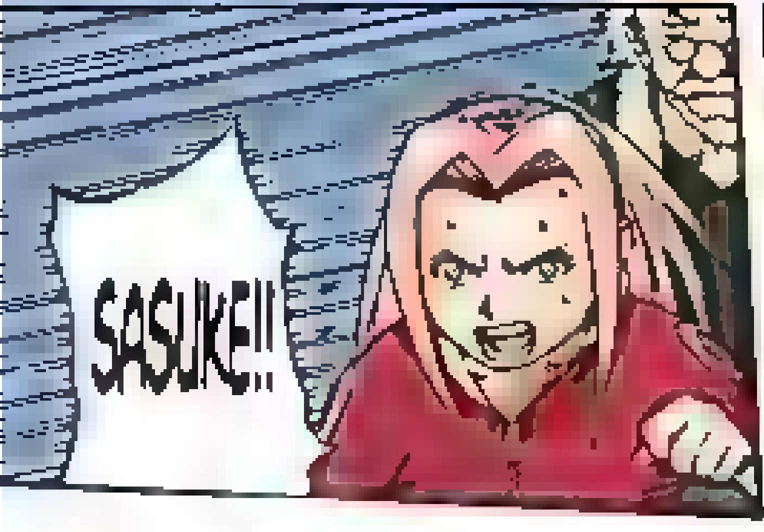
AND I'VE LAID THE GROUND-WORK FOR TWO ATTACKS.

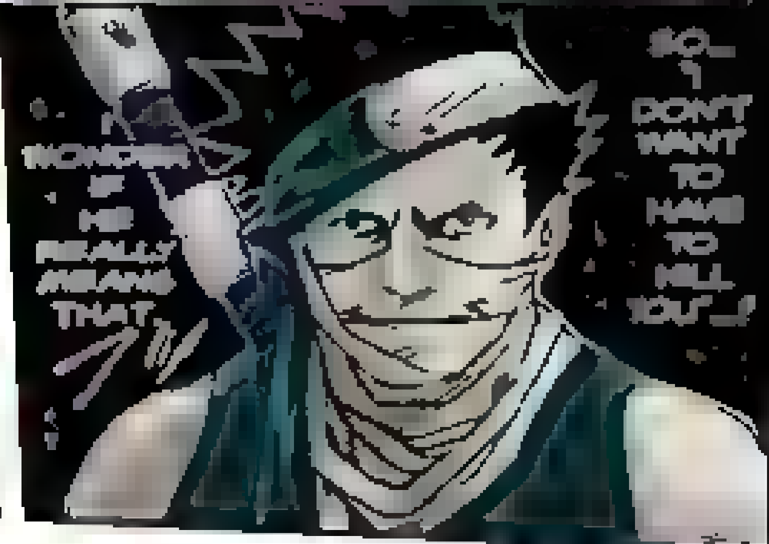
TWO ATTACKS?



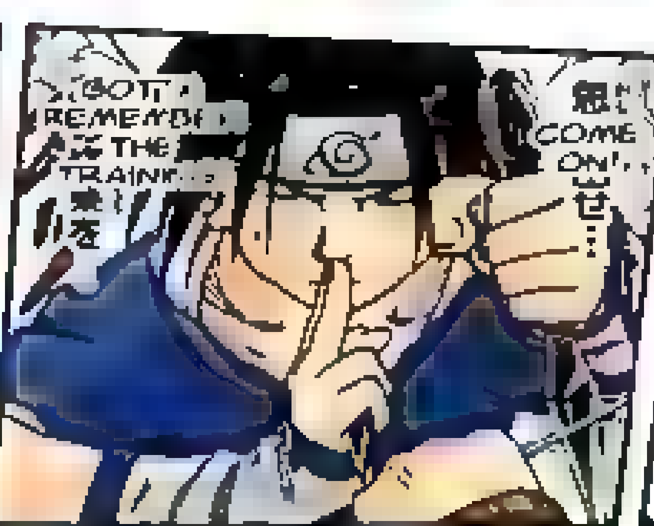



WITH JUST ONE HAND, HE'S"
WHAT!?
HE'S MAKING SIGNS WITH JUST ONE HAND?! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT...
SECRET ART OF WATER!
THE THOUSAND STINGING NEEDLES OF DEATH!
!





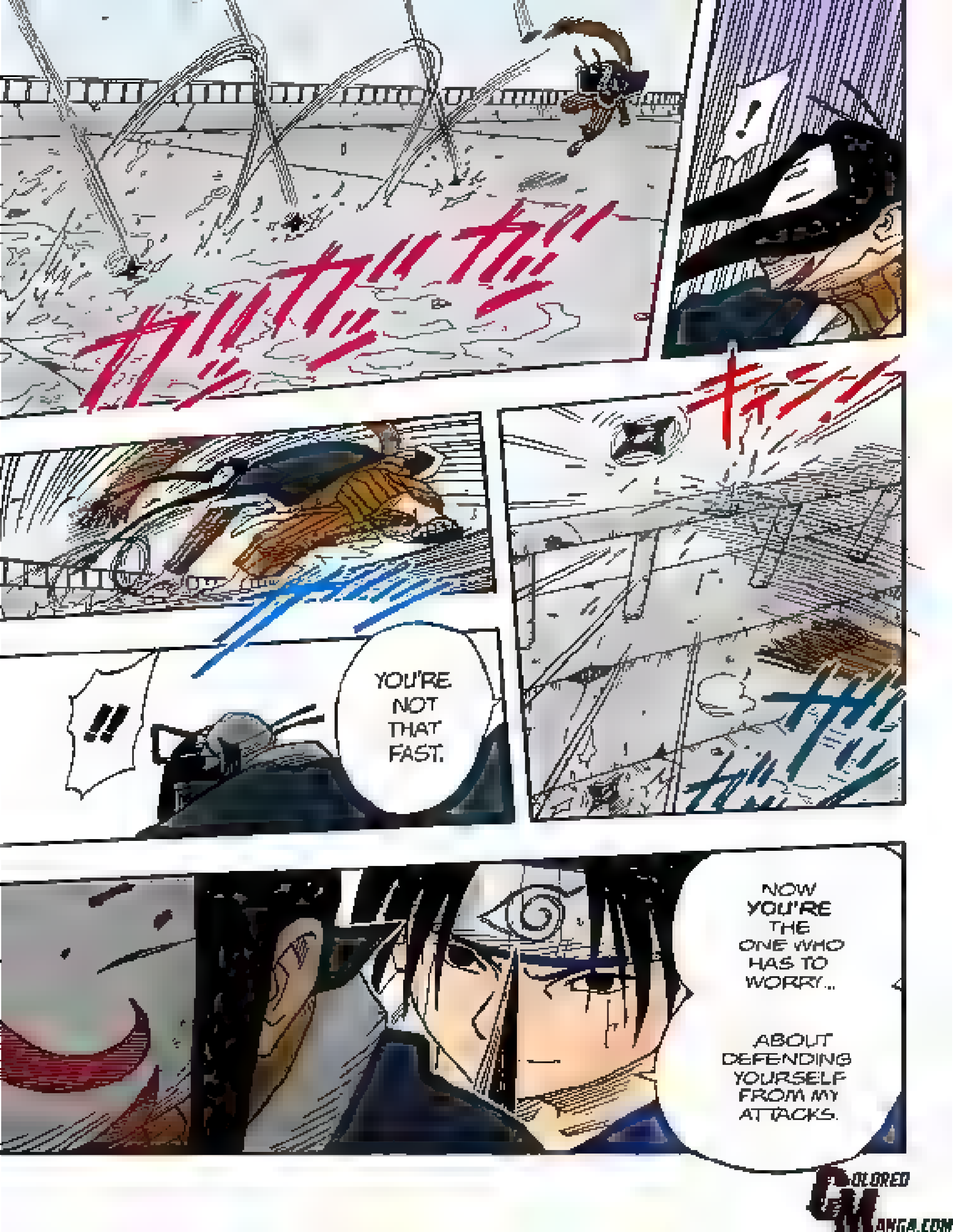




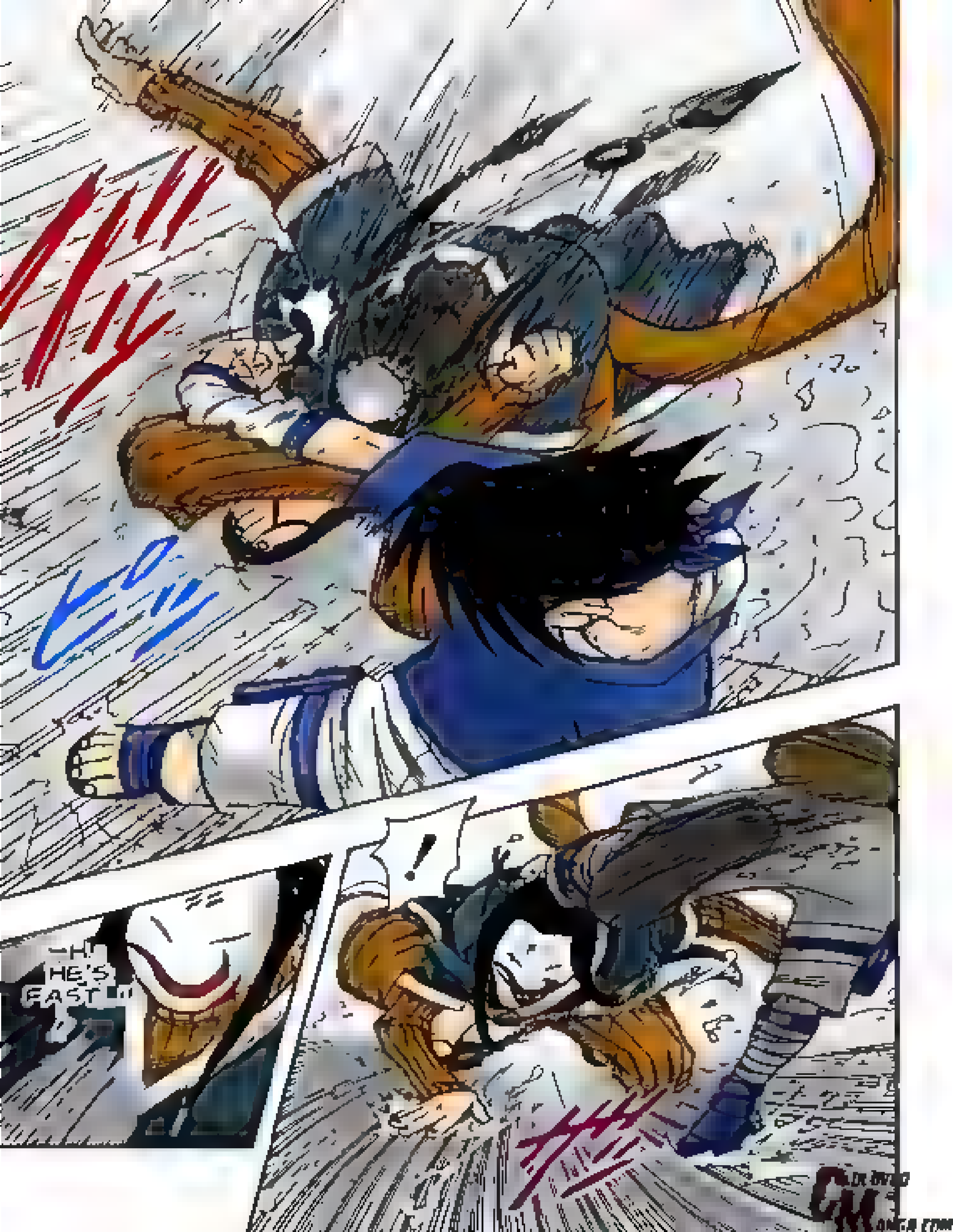
…AND FOCUS IT IN MY FEET!!


WHERE DID HE ?!

!


!
!!
YOU'RE NOT THAT FAST.
NOW YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS TO WORRY...
ABOUT DEFENDING YOURSELF FROM MY ATTACKS.
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!
-H! HE'S FAST!!

WHAT...?

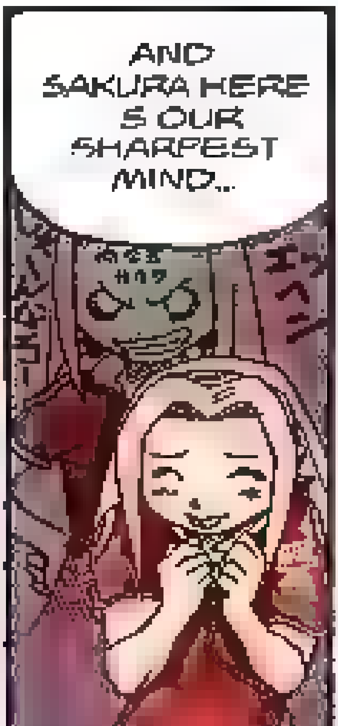
HAKU... IS ACTUALLY LOSING A BATTLE OF SPEED?

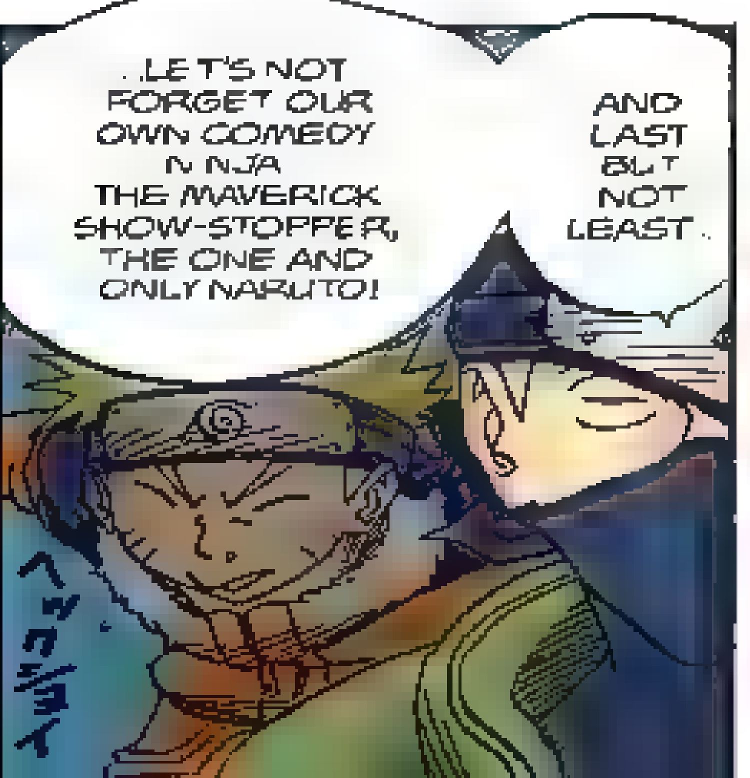
UHN!

YOU'RE FAST. I'M FASTER.

YOU HAD THAT COMING... FOR UNDERESTIMATING MY TEAM... AND FOR NAME CALLING.

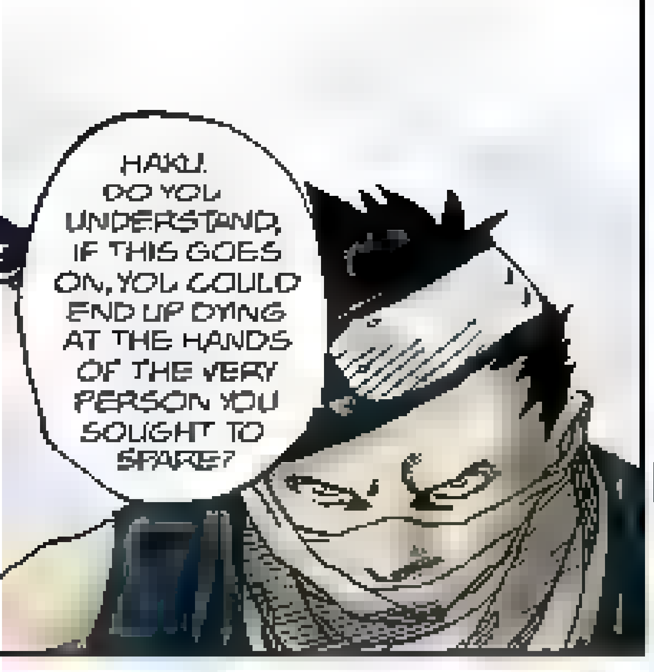
HE MAY NOT LOOK LIKE MUCH... BUT SASUKE HERE IS THE TOP-RATED ROOKIE FROM ALL OF KONOHAGAKURE VILLAGE.



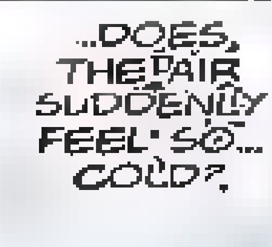


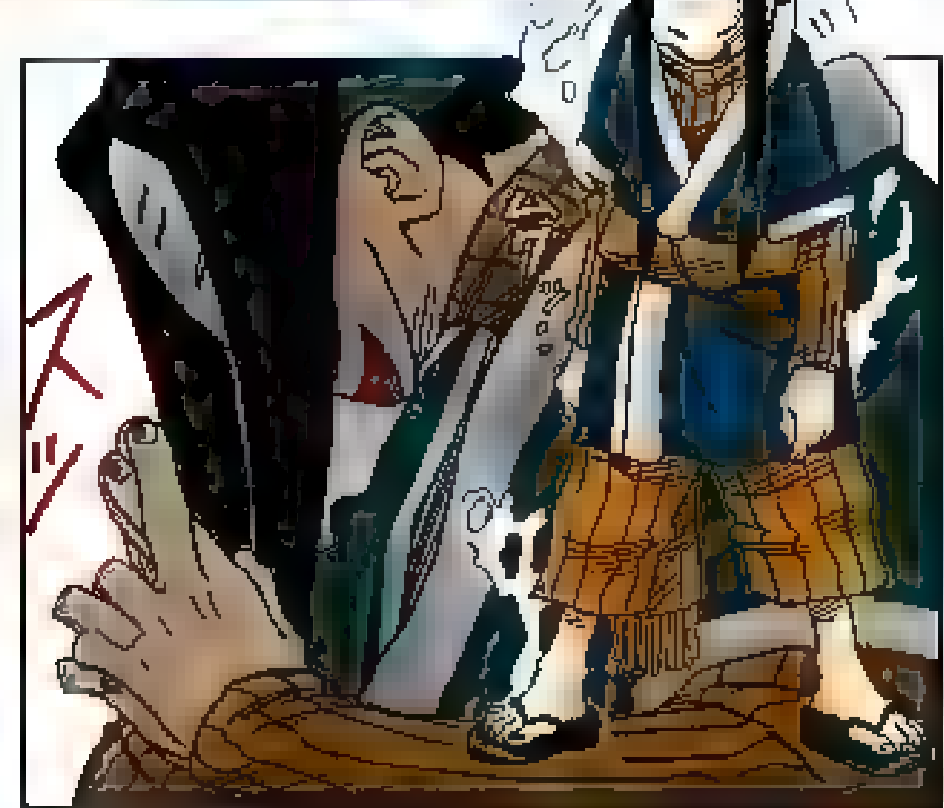

HEH HEH HEH...
HEH HEH HEH HEH...

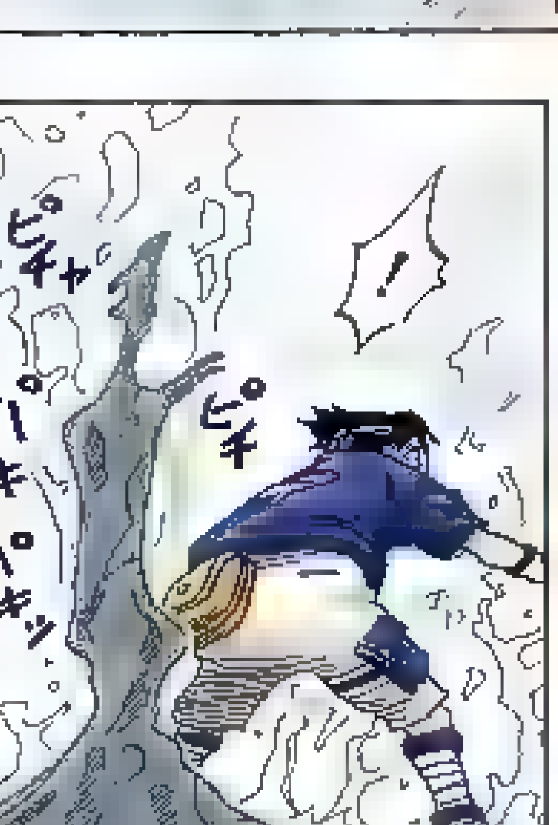

?


HAKU. DO YOU UNDERSTAND, IF THIS GOES ON, YOU COULD END UP DYING AT THE HANDS OF THE VERY PERSON YOU SOUGHT TO SPARE?

YES, I DO.
WHAT A PITY.
WH, WHY

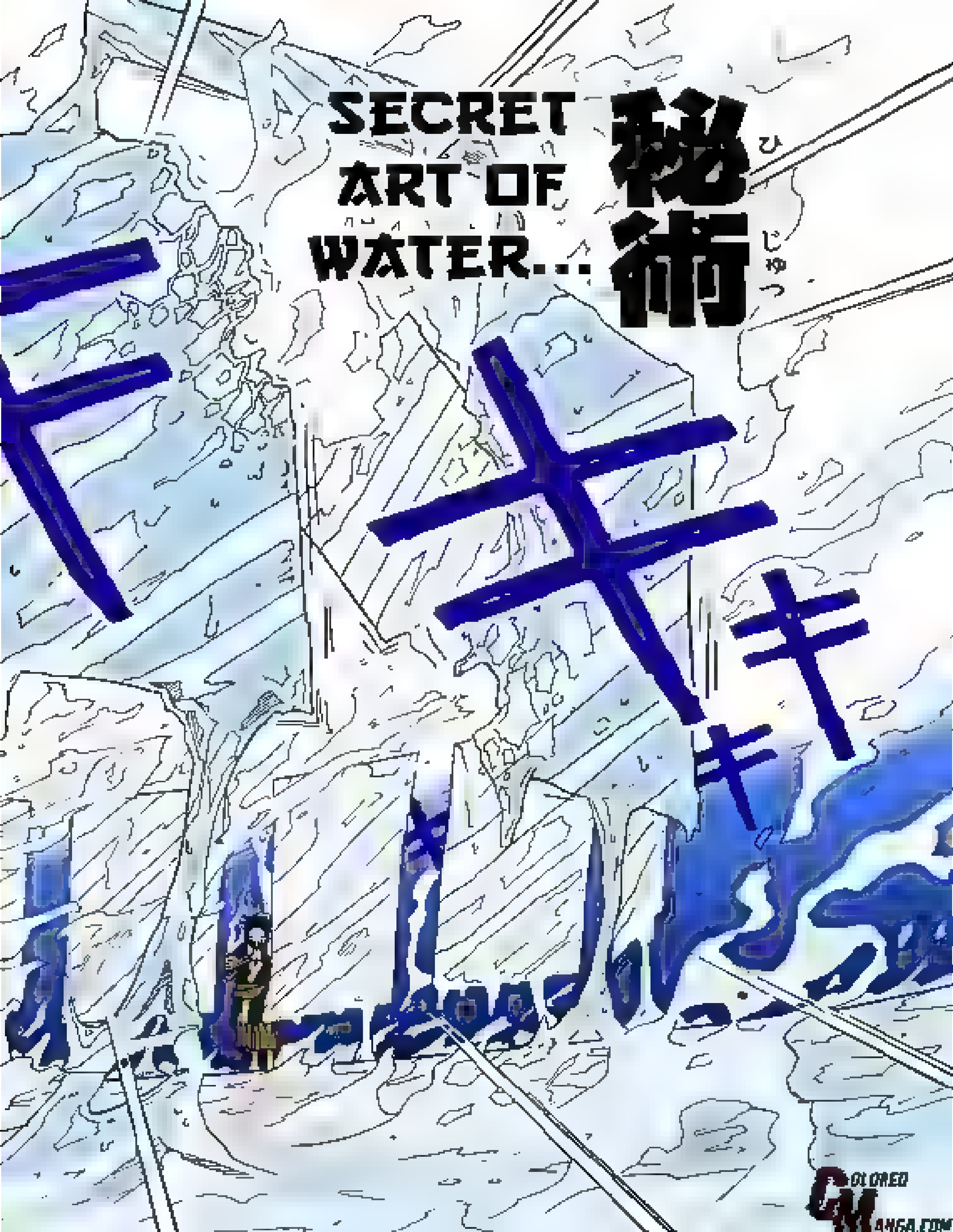

...DOES THE PAIR SUDDENLY FEEL SO... COLD?

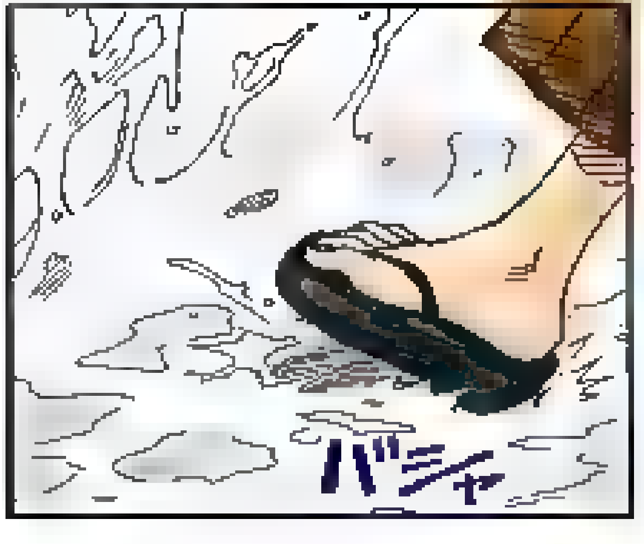
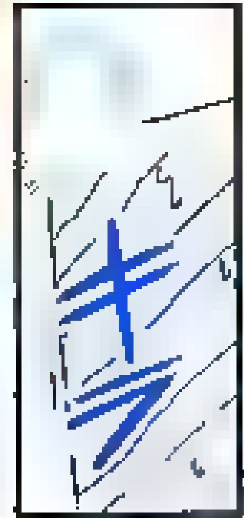
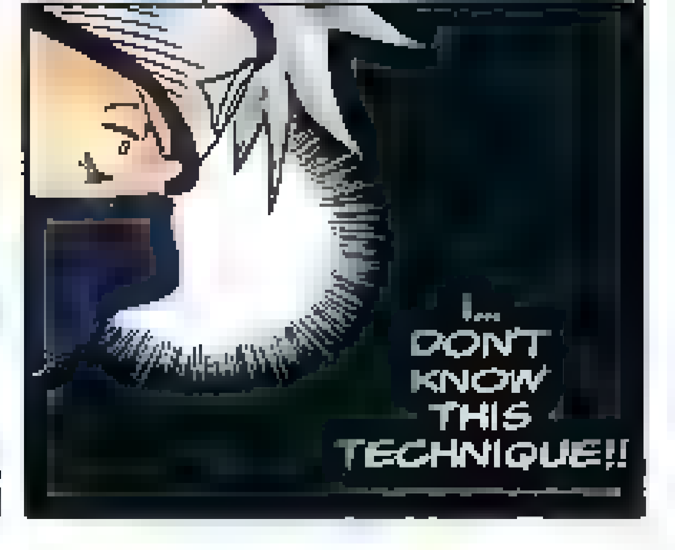

スッ


!
ピチャ
ピキ
パキパキッ

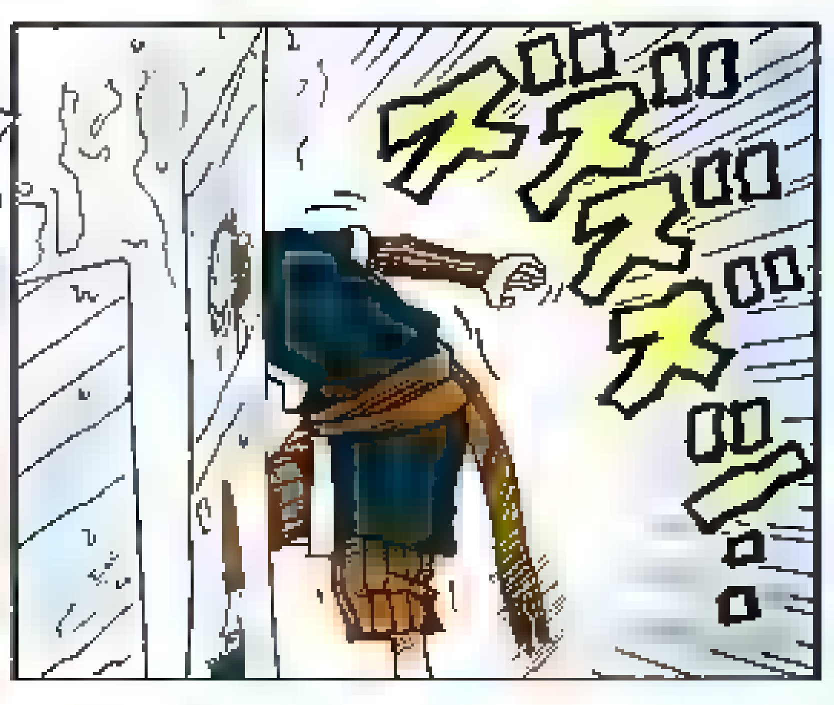

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ICE CRYSTAL MAGIC MIRROR TECHNIQUE!
魔鏡氷晶!!
まきょうひょうしょう
!!

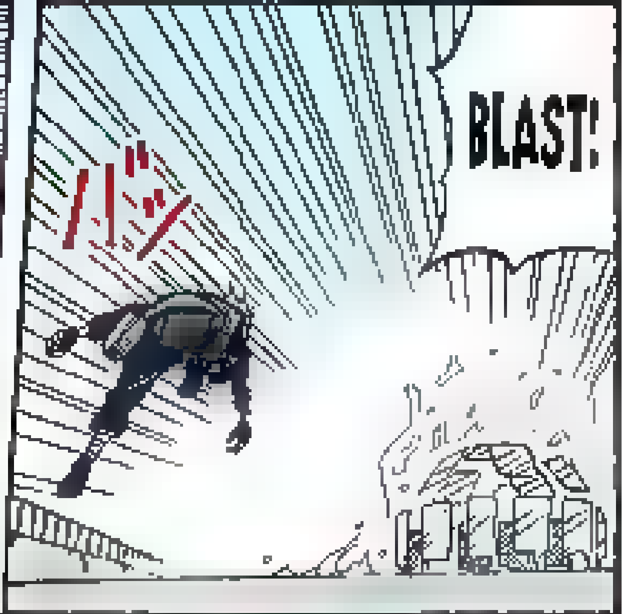

SECRET ART OF WATER...
秘術
ひじゅつ
COLORED MANGA.COM

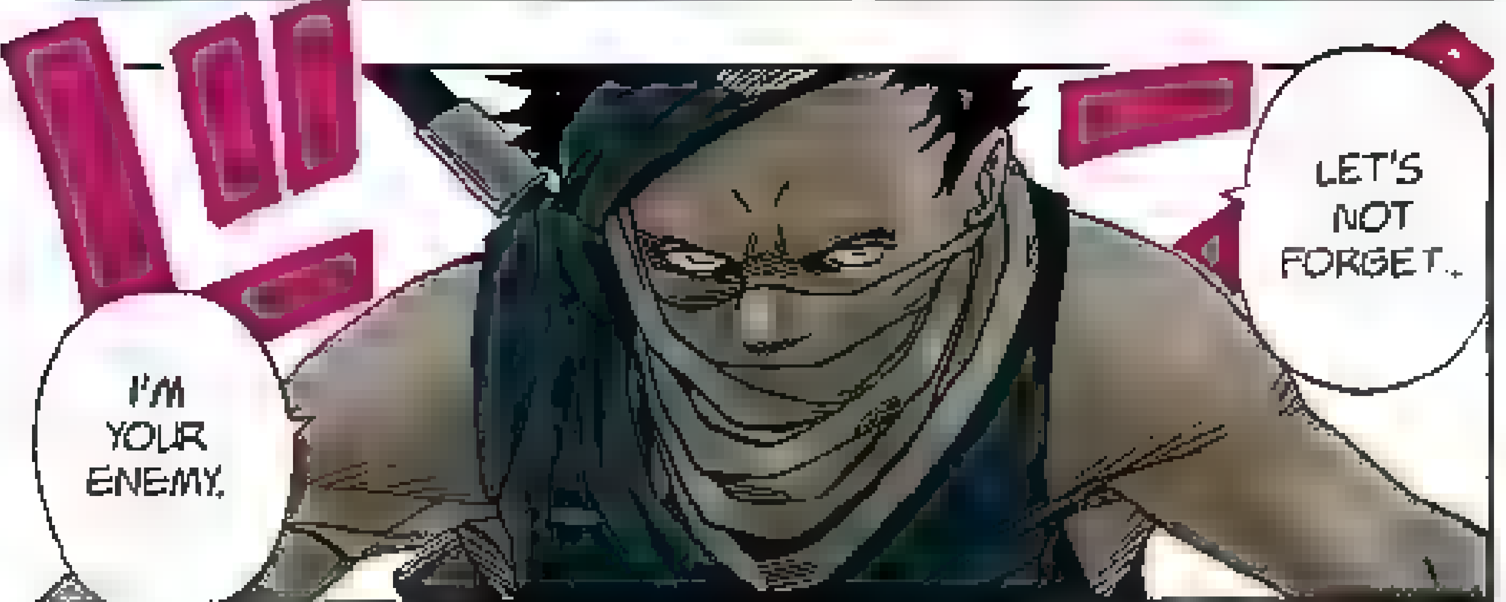

バシャ

キラ

I... DON'T KNOW THIS TECHNIQUE!!

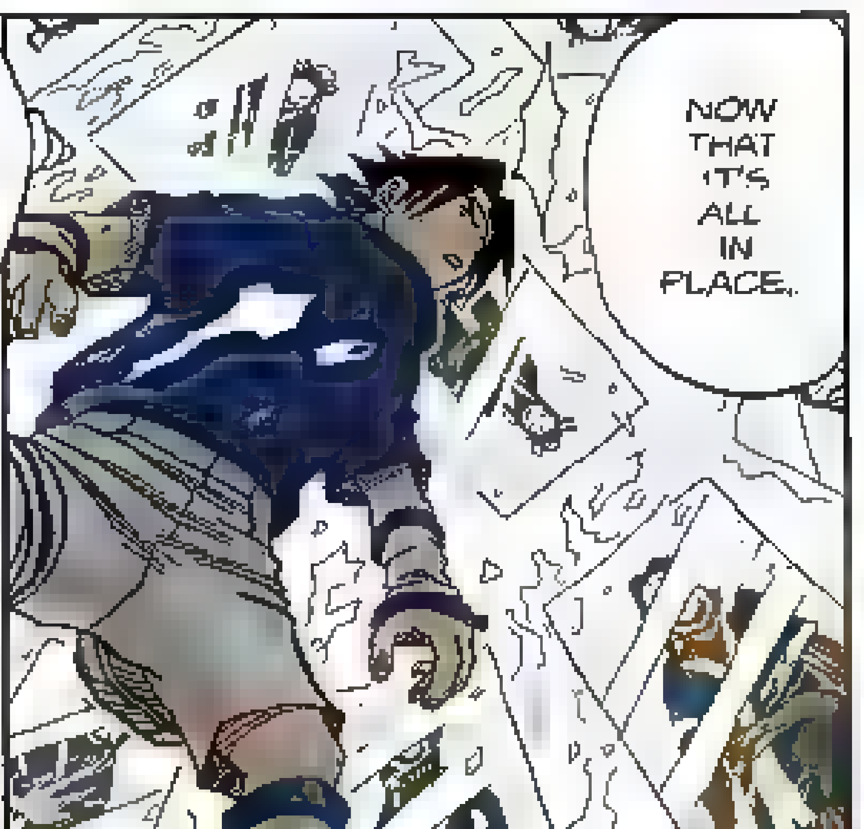
キラッ
スッ
パッ

WHA...?
!



!


BLAST!


LET'S NOT FORGET..
I'M YOUR ENEMY.


WHAT'S HE PLANNING TO DO WITH THESE MIRRORS?
NOW THAT IT'S ALL IN PLACE..
..LET ME SHOW YOU SOME REAL SPEED!

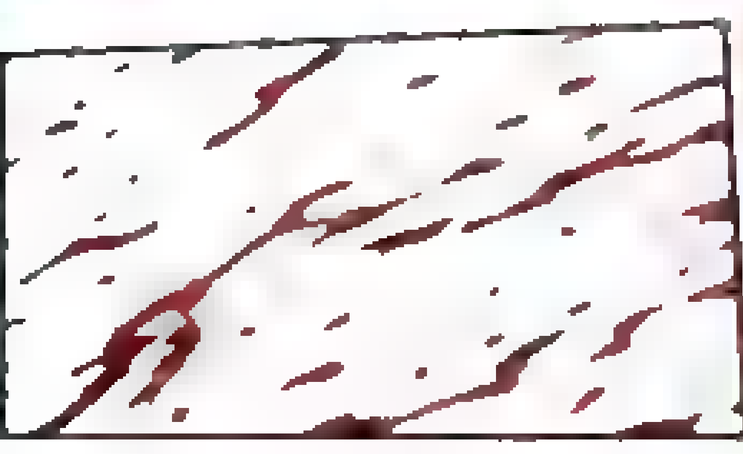

OUR CHILDREN CAN PLAY TOGETHER.. WHILE MY BOY KILLS YOURS.
NO...





AUUGH!!







SASUKE!!

YOU...!

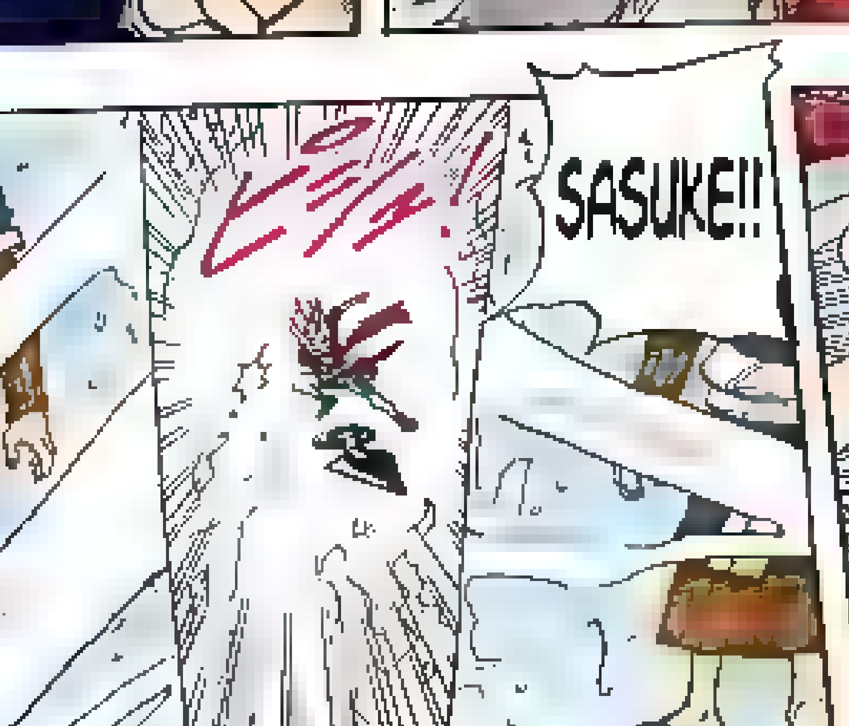
ANY SUDDEN MOVES AND I'LL KILL THOSE OTHER TWO!!

AAAARGH!!

MR. TAZUNA, I'M SORRY... BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO LEAVE YOU FOR JUST A LITTLE BIT.

...

GGH-GYAAGGGH!









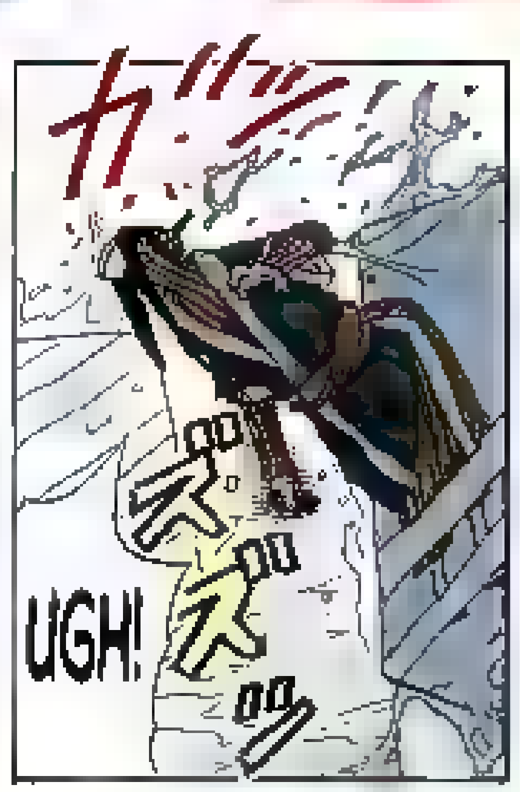
GRAB

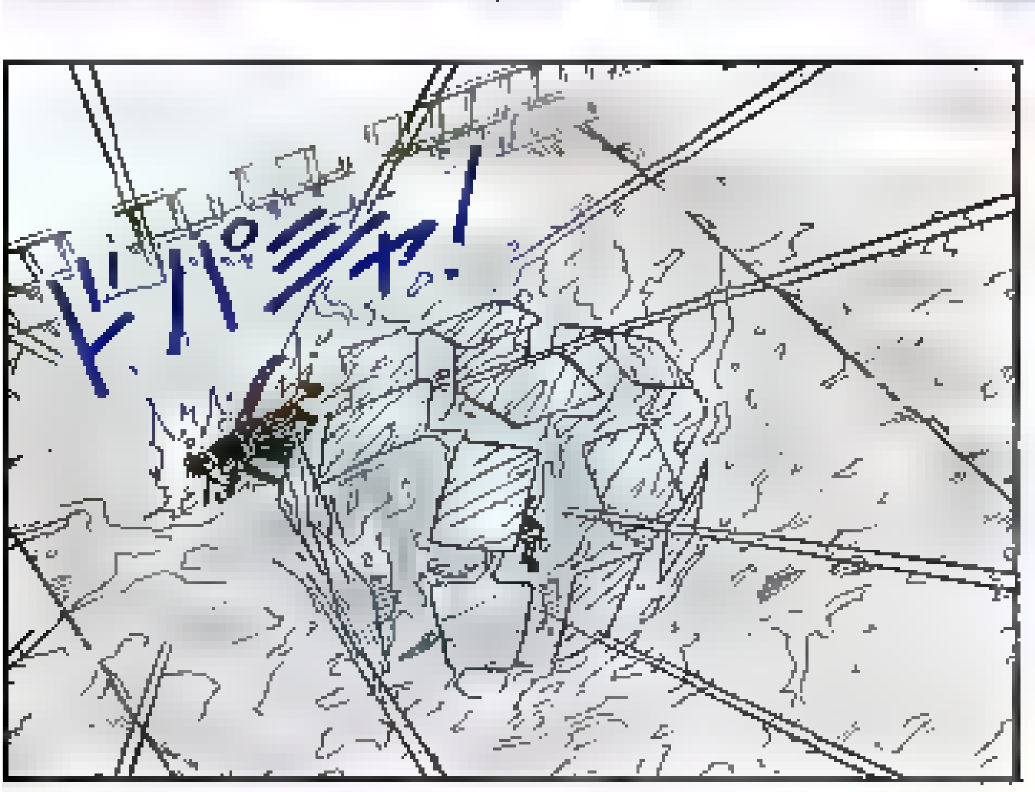
!!

HE CAUGHT IT!!

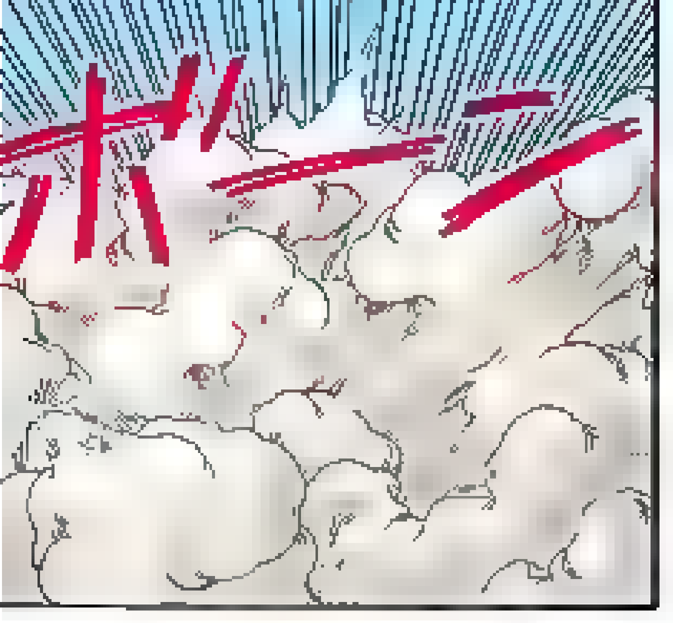
!

!!





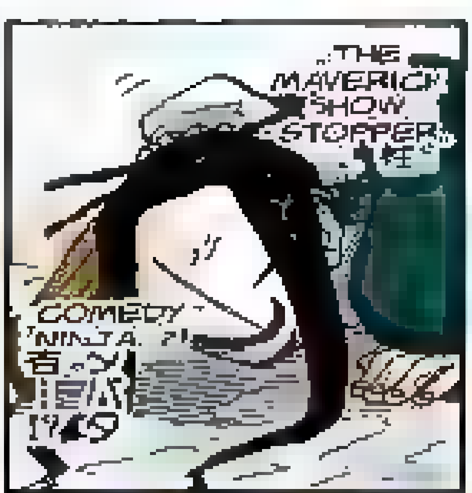


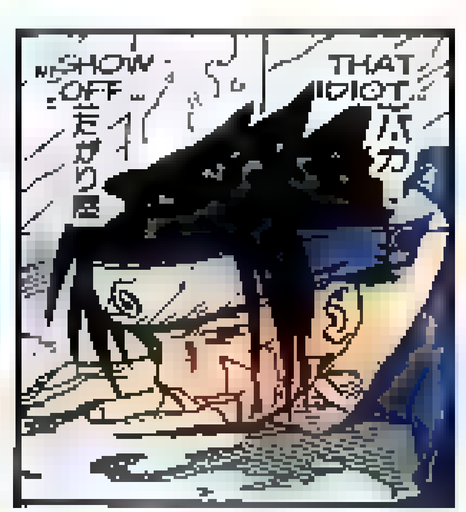












UZUMAKI NARUTO!

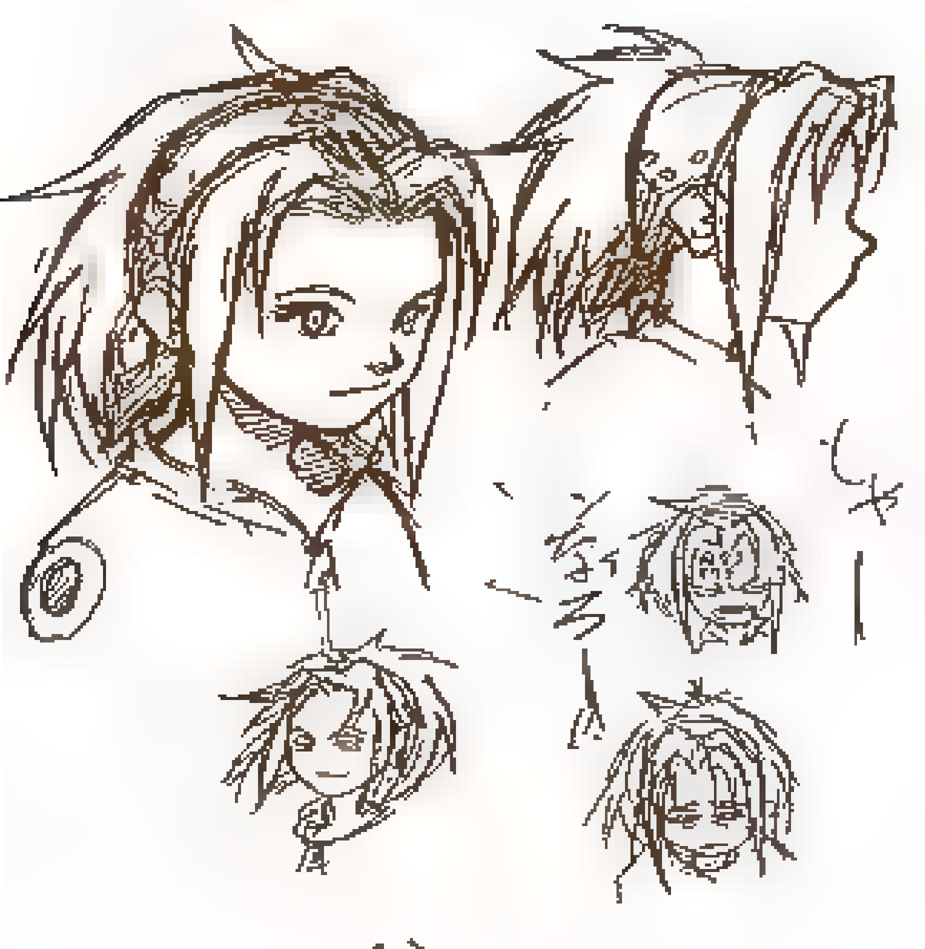
AT YOUR SERVICE!!



HARUNO SAKURA

EARLY CHARACTER DESIGNS

春野 サクラ



This was how I first imagined Sakura. Let's face it... she's really not that cute, is she? Especially back then! But that was mostly because I'm not that good with female characters in general so making one of them cute is always a big challenge for me.

When my editor, those around me, and even my own staff saw this design and read her personality profile, they all assured me that Sakura was "far from cute"! Heh-heh.



But I have my own reasons for being especially fond of Sakura, both in how she's designed, and in her personality. I believe everyone possesses an "Inner Sakura" type voice in their heart, including things like her entirely arbitrary choice of love object. I think it gives her a real humanity that's pretty sweet.

There's a lot more to being a good female manga character than just cuteness, you know. ...At least, that's my excuse. The troublemakers and the curmudgeons I can draw without breaking a sweat... but girls are really hard!

25：夢の為に…!!

FOR YOUR DREAMS…!!



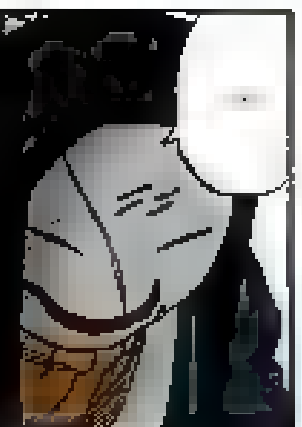
YOU KNOW HOW THE STORY GOES. THINGS LOOK BLEAK... TILL THE HERO ARRIVES ~

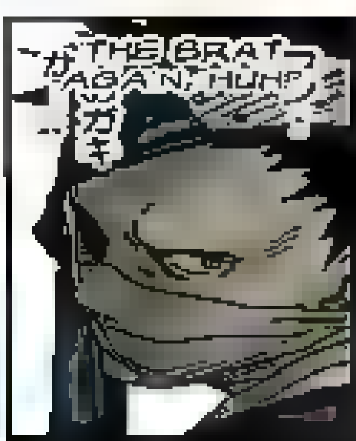
HERE I AM, TO SAVE THE DAY.

WHAT WE NEEDED WAS AN AMBUSH. INSTEAD, HE ALL BUT PAINTS A TARGET ON HIMSELF!

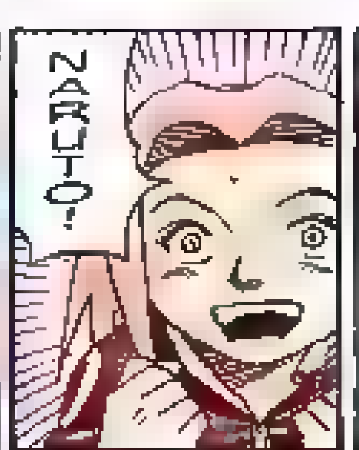
EXASPERATING LITTLE ~!

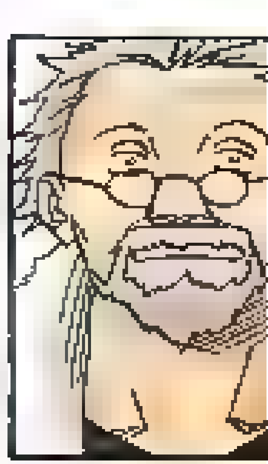
AND THEN - POW!! - BYE-BYE BAD GUYS!









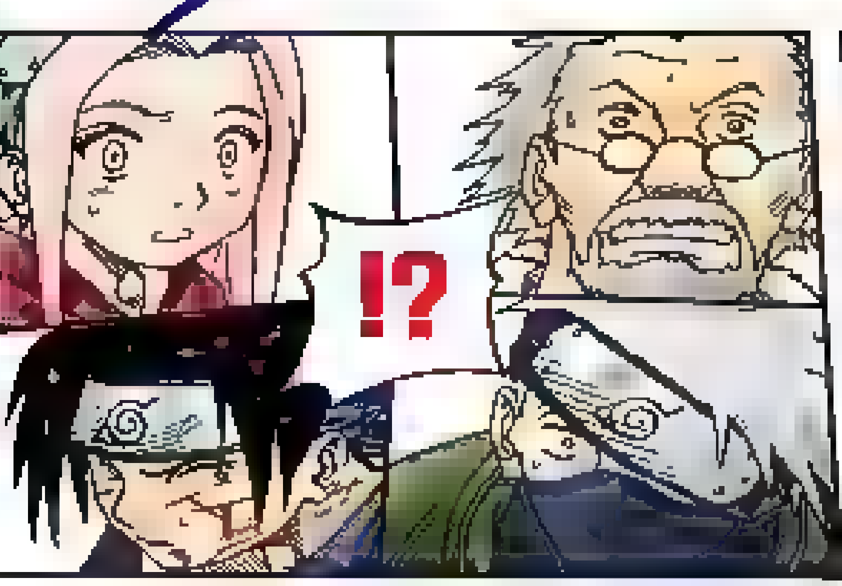





TRAINING
BLAST!
!
HERE IT COMES!!
!

!


!?


!?


HAKU... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

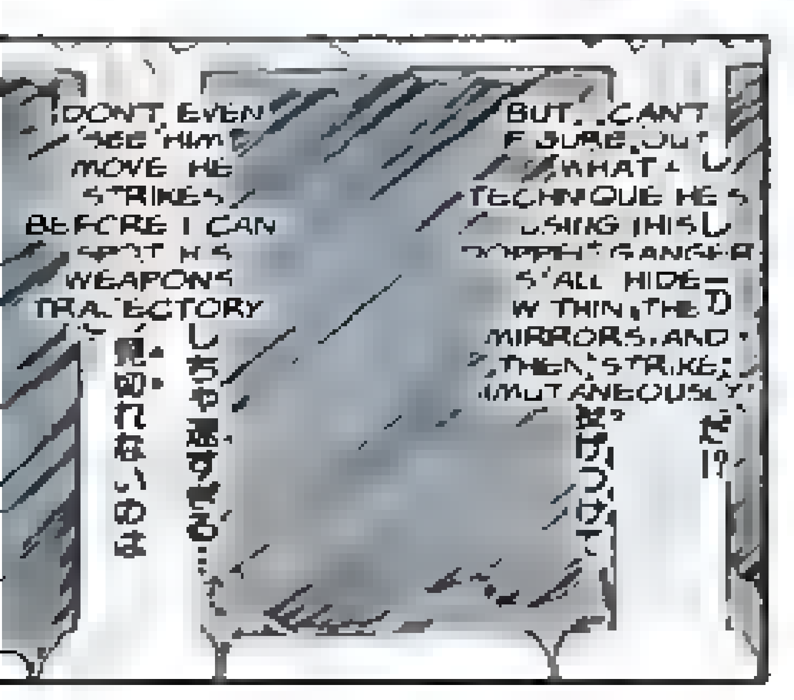

...ZABUZA, SIR, PLEASE LET ME HAVE THIS BOY.
I WANT TO FIGHT HIM IN MY OWN WAY ...

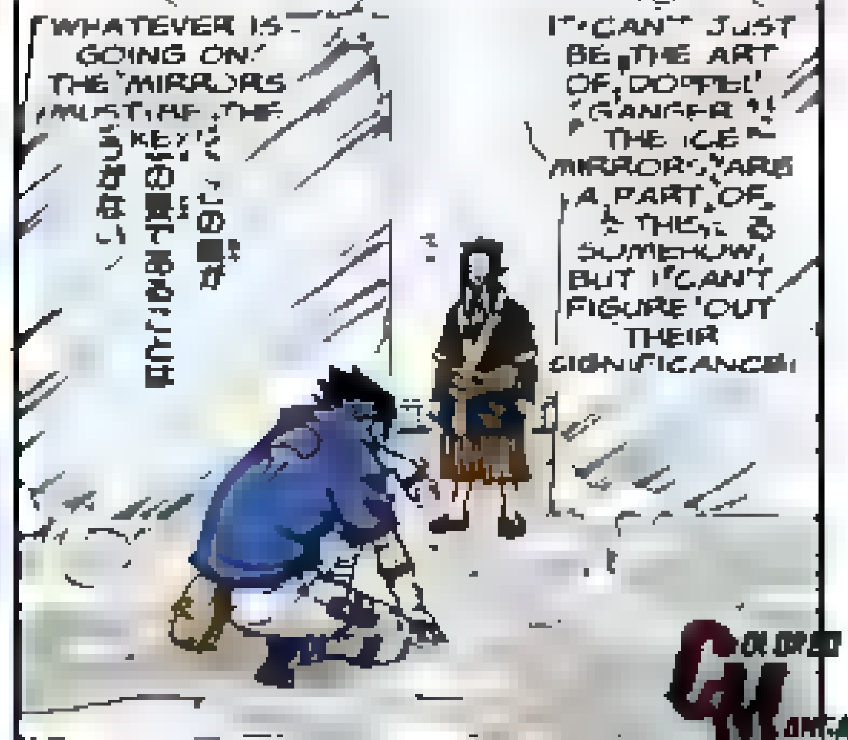





SO, YOU WANT ME TO KEEP MY HANDS OFF HIM, EH, HAKU?
HOW CHARMINGLY NAIVE OF YOU AS USUAL...


THAT GUY?! NAIVE? YEAH, RIGHT!
LOOK AT ME. IT'S LIKE I'M BEING CUT TO RIBBONS BY A THOUSAND NEEDLES
BUT THE CUTS ARE ALL SUPERFICIAL. HE'S KILLING ME BY INCHES SAVING THE VITAL TARGETS AND THE DEATHBLOW FOR LATER.

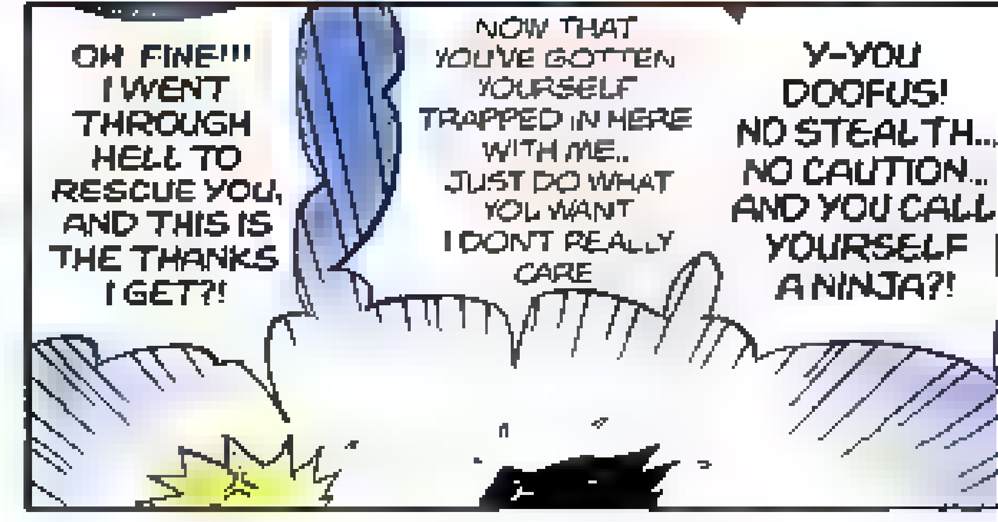

TECHNIQUE HE'S USING. THIS DOPPELGANGER'S ALL HIDE IN THE MIRRORS, AND THEN STRIKE SIMULTANEOUSLY!
I DON'T EVEN SEE HIM MOVE. HE STRIKES BEFORE I CAN SPOT HIS WEAPONS TRAJECTORY
しちゃ速すぎる…
見切れないのは

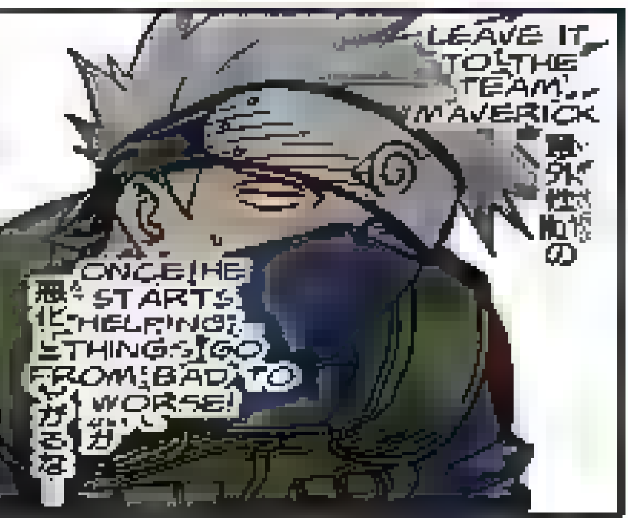

IT CAN'T JUST BE THE ART OF DOPPELGANGER!! THE ICE MIRRORS ARE A PART OF THIS SOMEHOW, BUT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT THEIR SIGNIFICANCE!
WHATEVER IS GOING ON! THE MIRRORS MUST BE THE KEY!


ONLY CHANCE IS TO CONCENTRATE THE BATTLE HERE
AND TRUST NARUTO TO GET ME FREE FROM OUTSIDE
ナルトに
側から

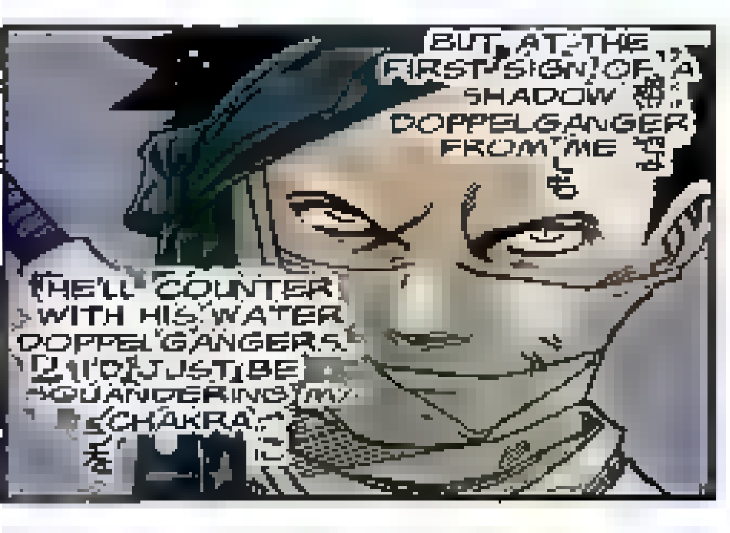
YO! SASUKE! I'M HERE TO RESCUE YOU!

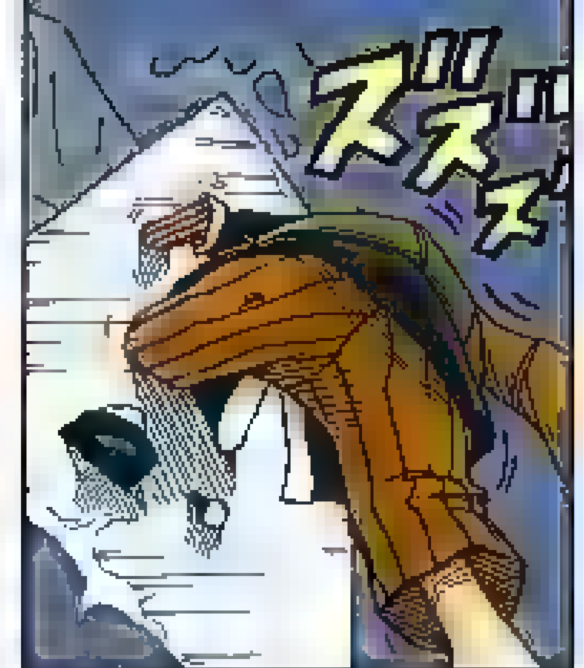
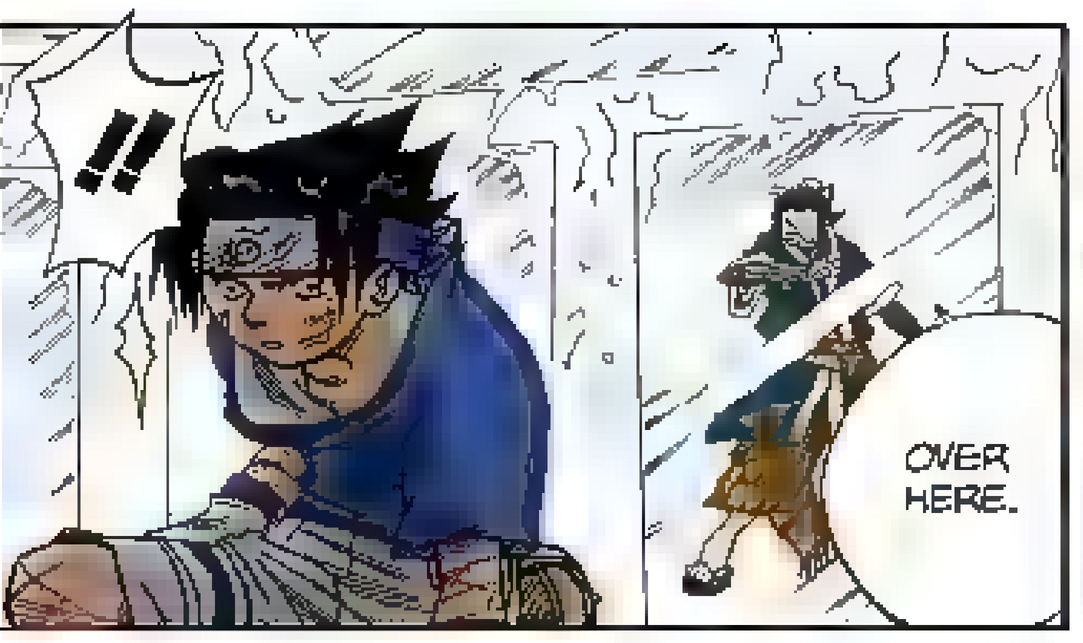
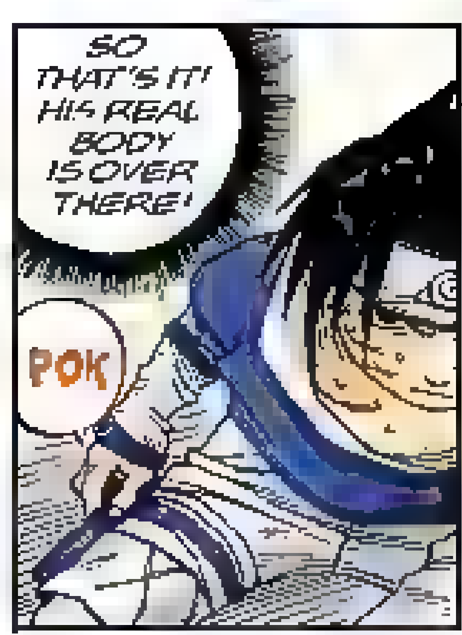
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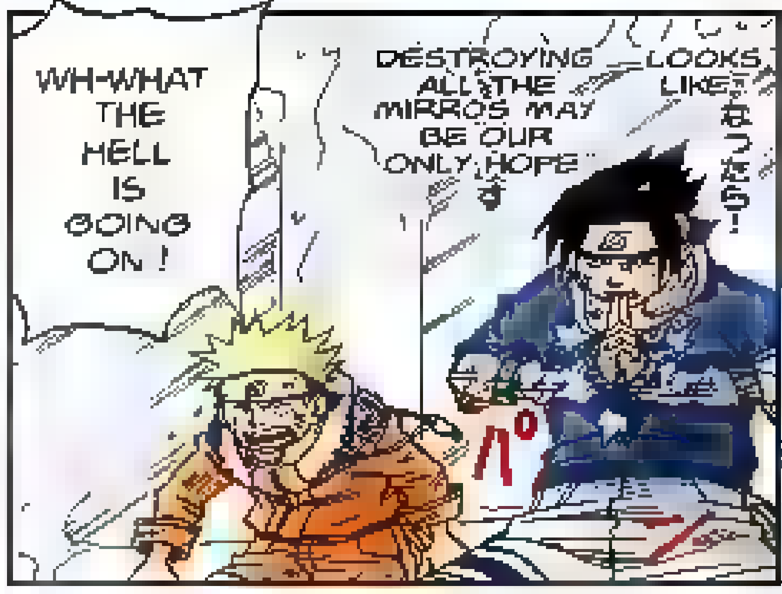
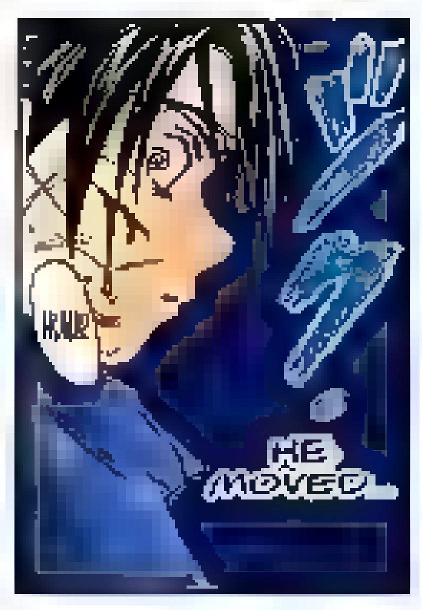








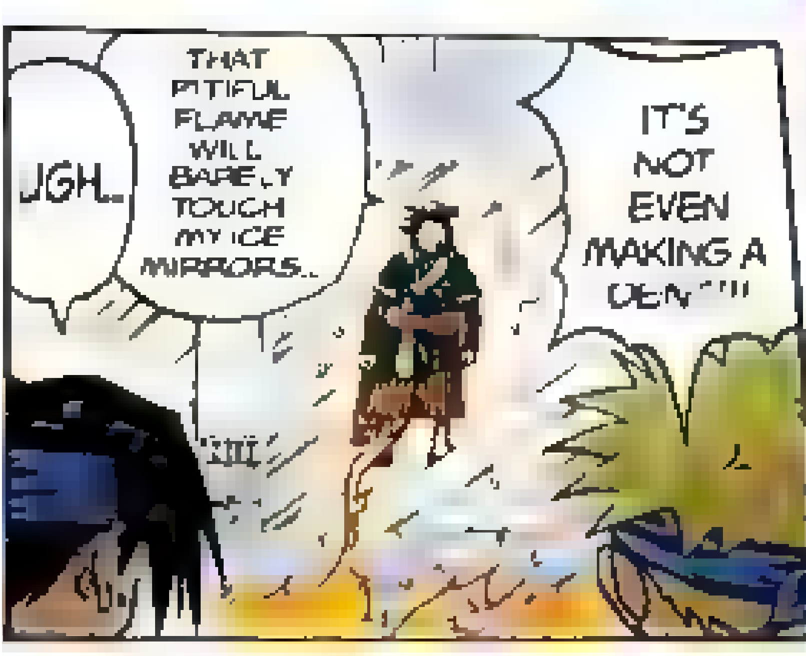

!
!


!!
OVER HERE.

SO THAT'S IT! HIS REAL BODY IS OVER THERE!
POK

FIRE STYLE!
THESE ARE MIRRORS MADE OF ICE, SO...

WH-WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON!
DESTROYING ALL THE MIRROS MAY BE OUR ONLY HOPE
LOOKS LIKE...

HE MOVED...

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FIREBALL TECHNIQUE!!

豪火球の術!!

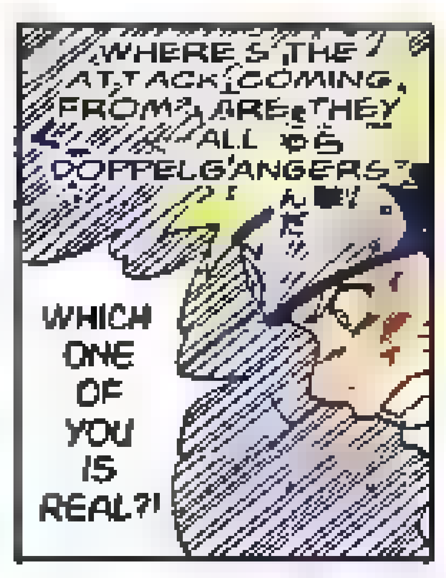


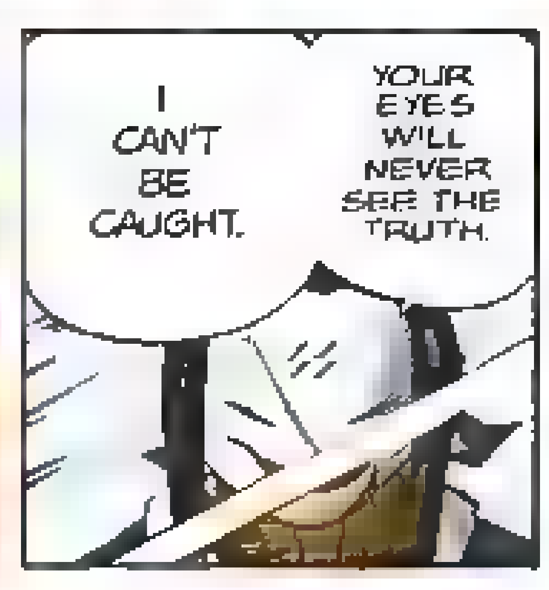


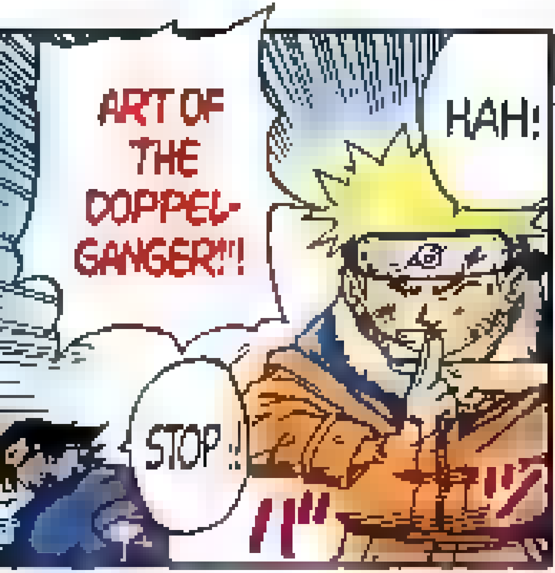



キラ
スッ


GAAH!!
CHOP
AUGH!!

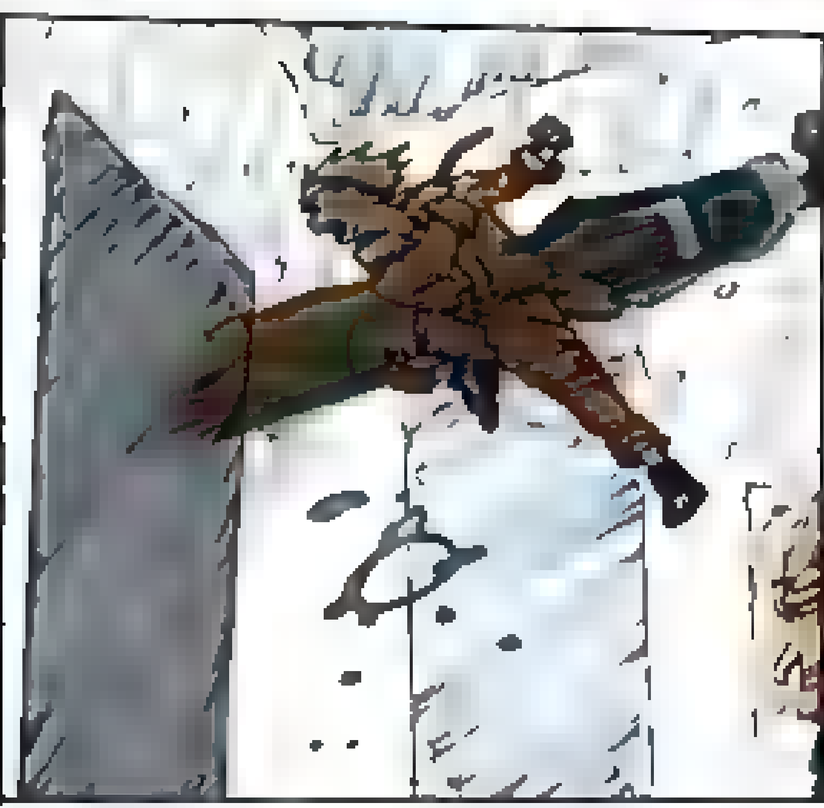

WHERE'S THE ATTACK COMING FROM? ARE THEY ALL DOPPELGANGERS?
WHICH ONE OF YOU IS REAL?!


YOUR EYES WILL NEVER SEE THE TRUTH.
I CAN'T BE CAUGHT.


HAH!
ART OF THE DOPPEL-GANGER!!
STOP!!

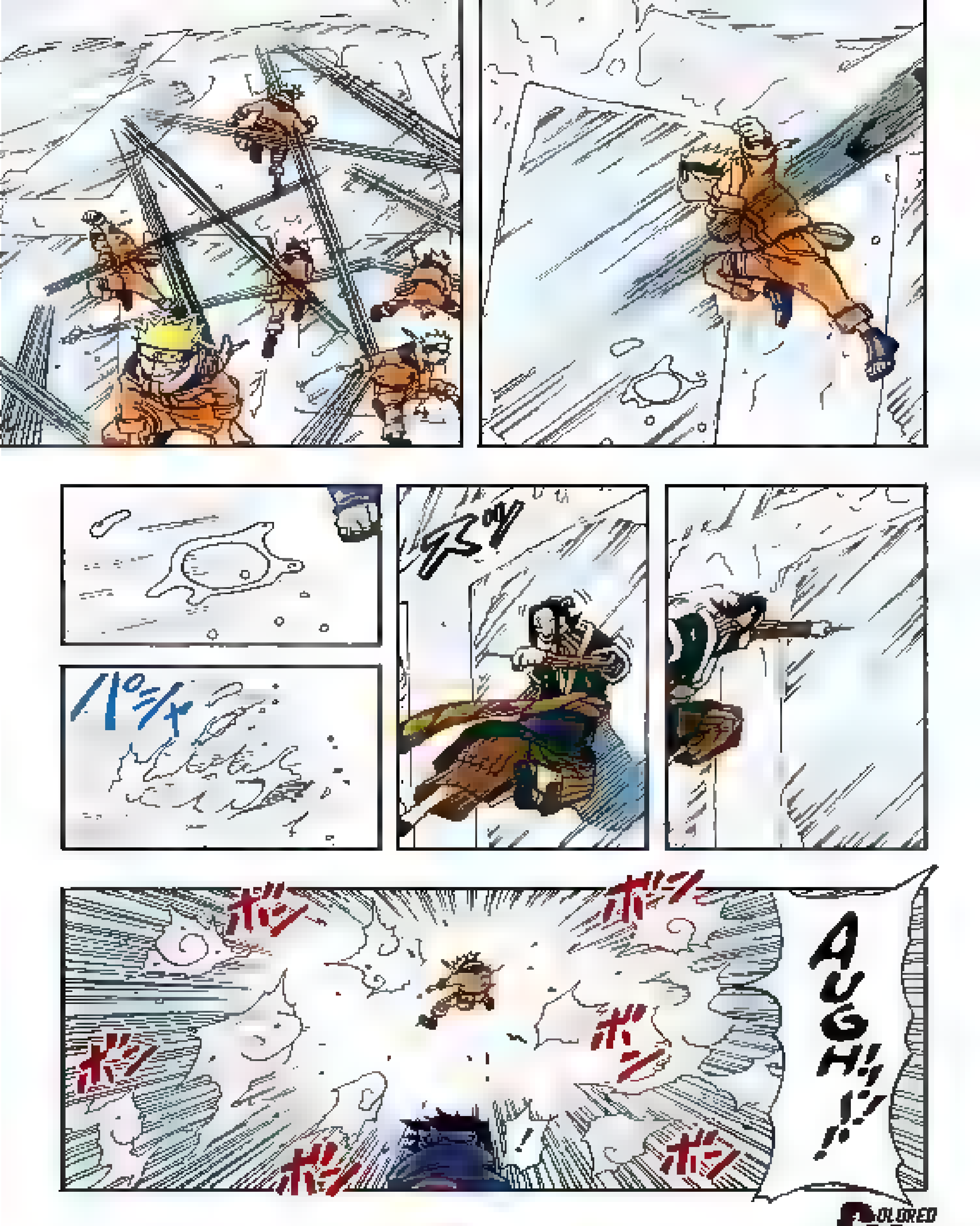


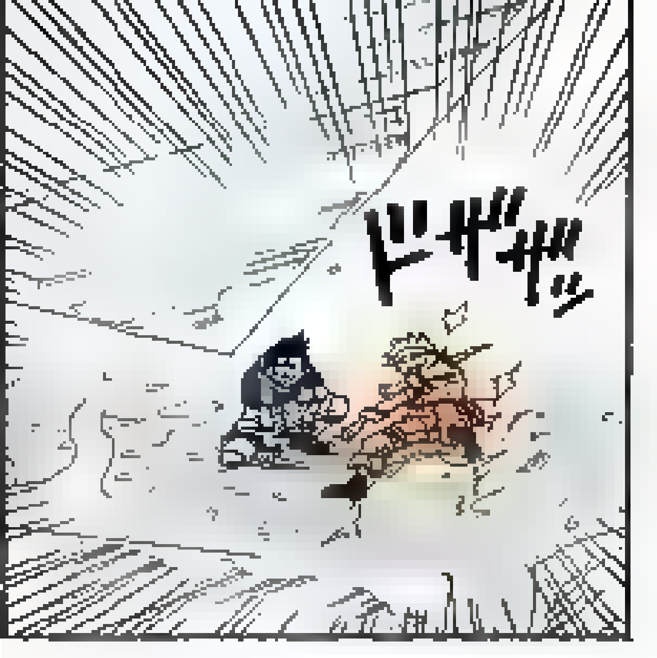
IF I CLOBBER EVERY ONE OF HIM, THEN SOONER OR LATER I'LL GET TO THE REAL ONE!!

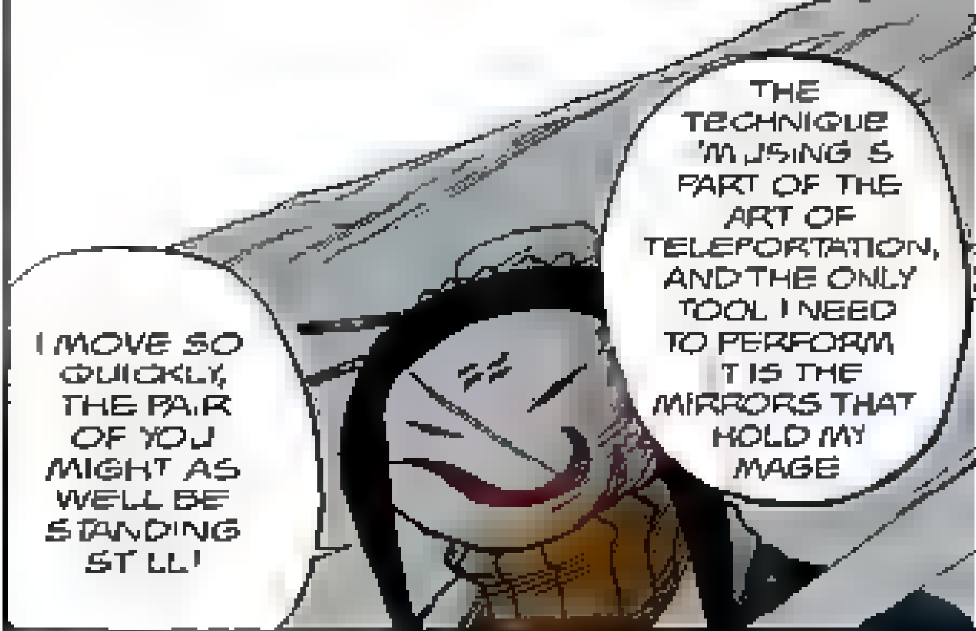






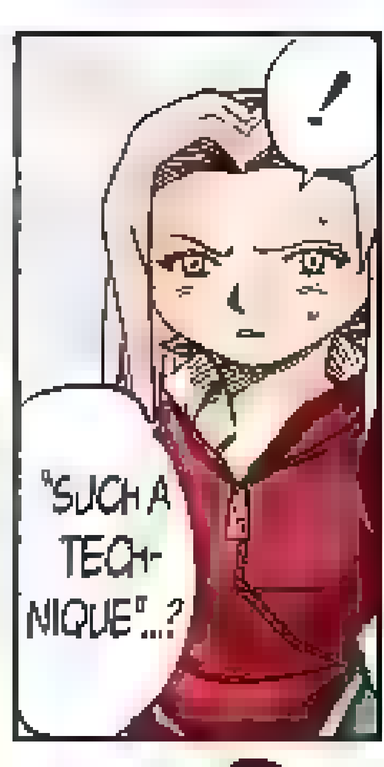

パシャ
ボン
ボン
ボン
ボン
ボン
ボン
AUGH!!!!
COLORED MANGA.COM


ドザザッ


THE TECHNIQUE I'M USING IS PART OF THE ART OF TELEPORTATION, AND THE ONLY TOOL I NEED TO PERFORM IT IS THE MIRRORS THAT HOLD MY IMAGE
I MOVE SO QUICKLY, THE PAIR OF YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE STANDING STILL!

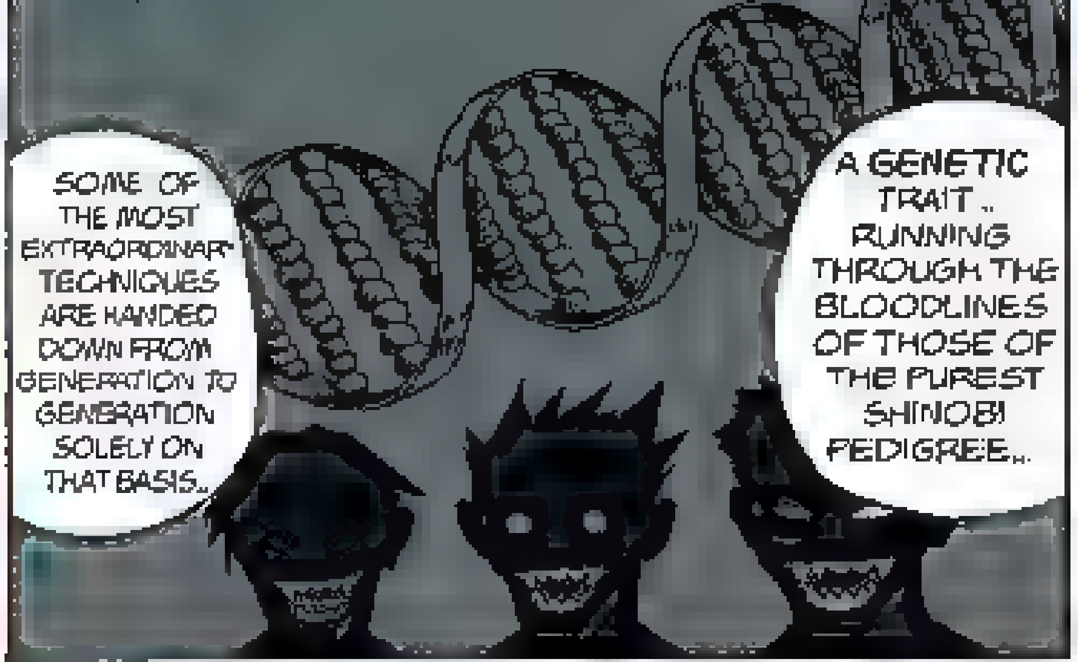

!
やはり
SO THAT'S IT!!!

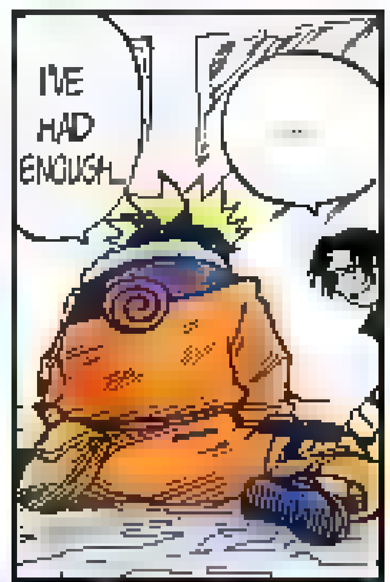

NEVER IMAGINED THAT ANYONE COULD MASTER SUCH A TECHNIQUE AT SO YOUNG AN AGE!
HEH HEH HEH HEH...


!
"SUCH A TECH-NIQUE"...?

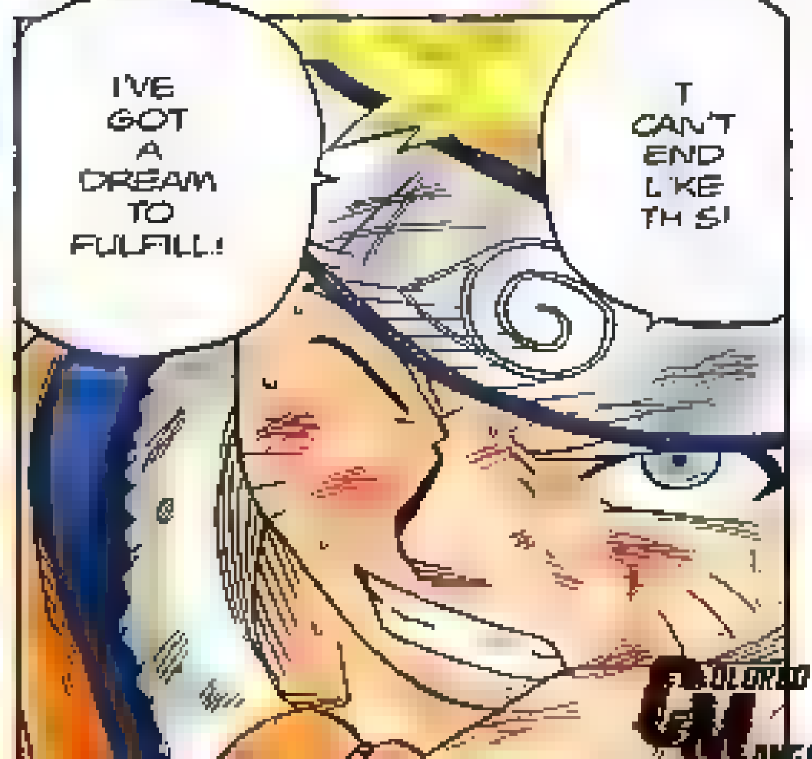

IT'S A KEKKEI GENKAI— A SKILL THAT CAN BE PASSED FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT!




YOU MEAN...

A GENETIC TRAIT.. RUNNING THROUGH THE BLOODLINES OF THOSE OF THE PUREST SHINOBI PEDIGREE..
SOME OF THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY TECHNIQUES ARE HANDED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION SOLELY ON THAT BASIS..

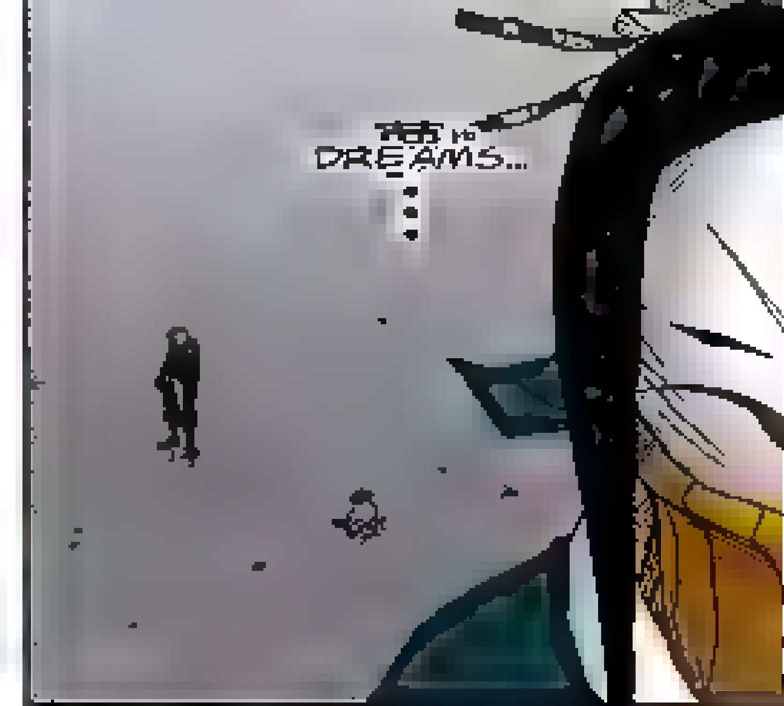
SO, IS THIS IT?
!

...
I'VE HAD ENOUGH.

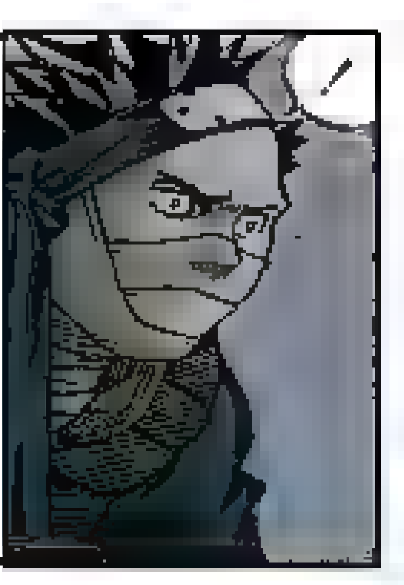
PRECISELY.. IT'S OF THE SAME ORDER OF SKILL AS MY SHARINGAN MIRROR EYE....
BUT EVEN MY SHARINGAN CAN'T COPY, MIMIC, OR BREAK THIS BOY'S KEKKEI GENKAI!

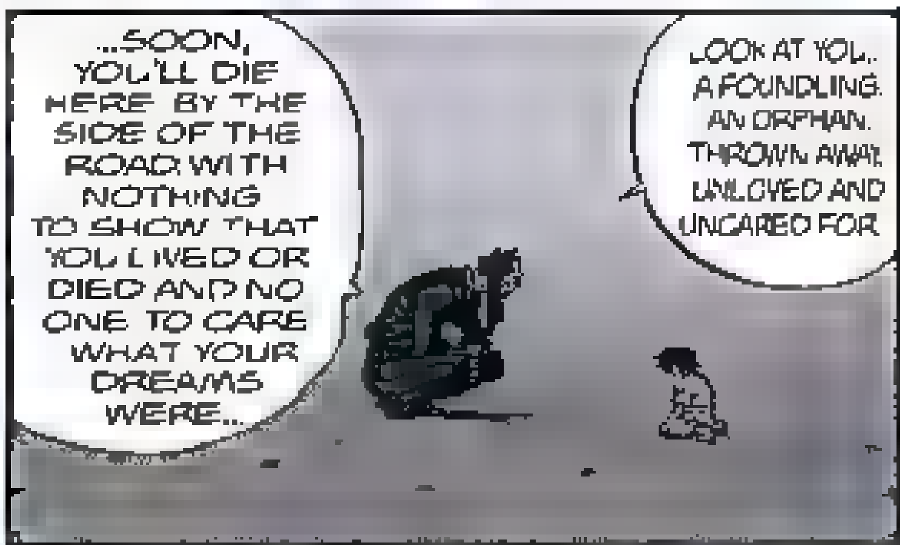
TO BECOME TOP DOG IN MY HOME TOWN!
ALL THE PEOPLE WHO USED TO TREAT ME LIKE DIRT WILL HAVE TO SAY HE'S THE NUMBER ONE NINJA!!

I CAN'T END LIKE THIS!
I'VE GOT A DREAM TO FULFILL!


PATHETIC!




DREAMS...


!

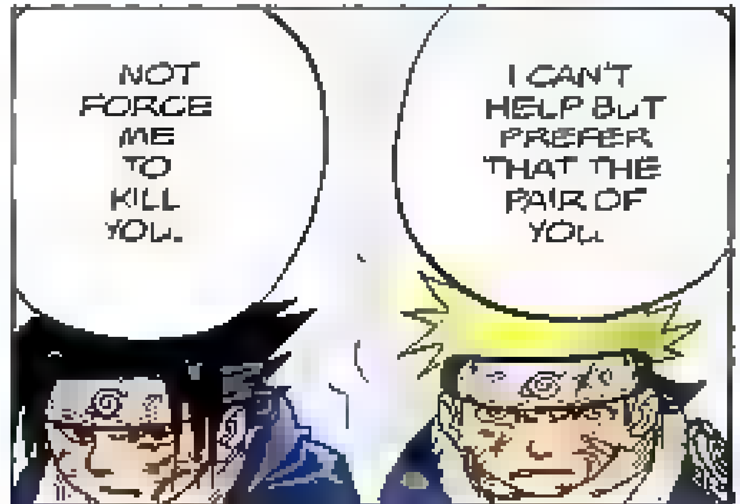

LOOK AT YOU.. A FOUNDLING. AN ORPHAN. THROWN AWAY. UNLOVED AND UNCARED FOR.
...SOON, YOU'LL DIE HERE BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD WITH NOTHING TO SHOW THAT YOU LIVED OR DIED AND NO ONE TO CARE WHAT YOUR DREAMS WERE...

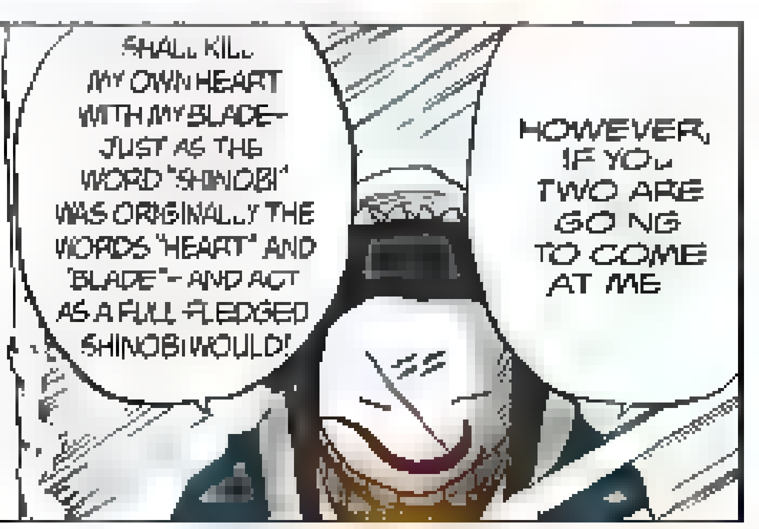


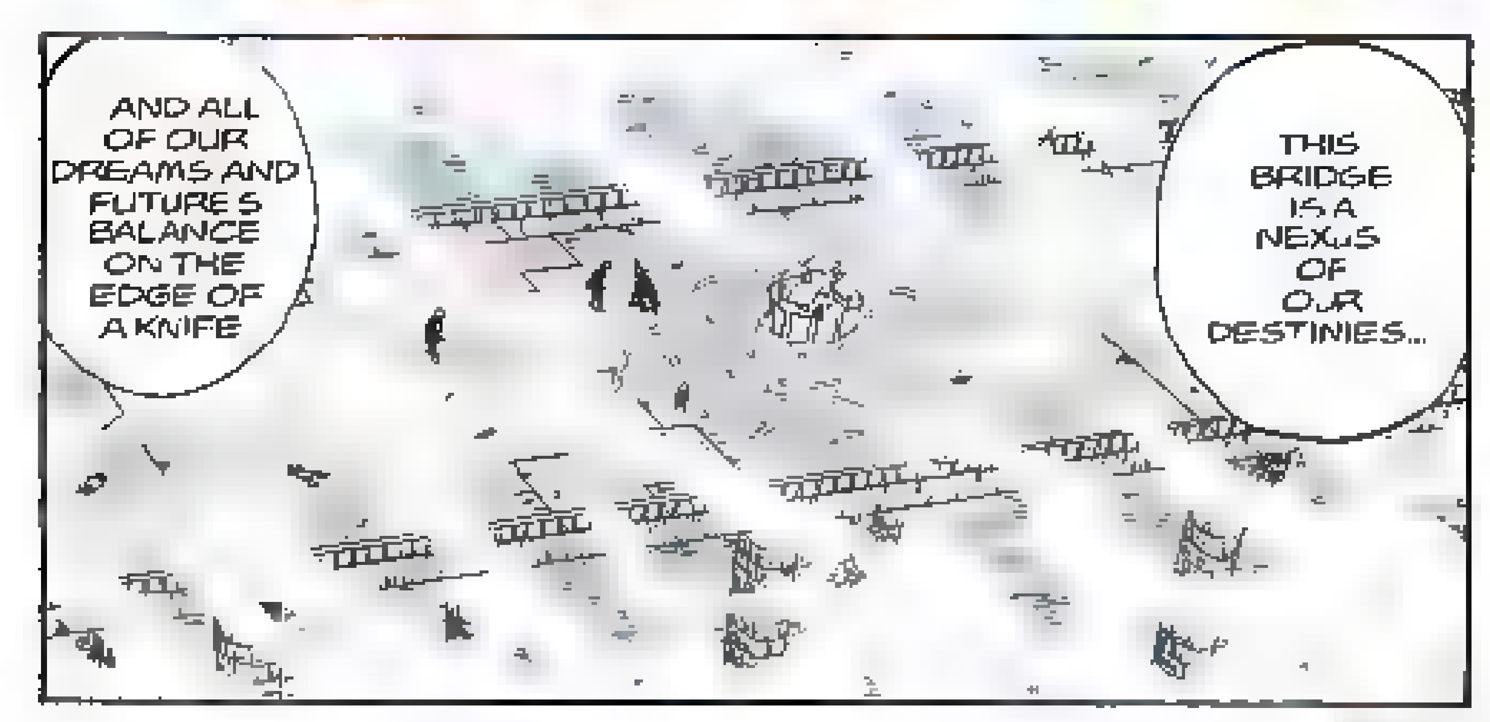
CAN SEE MYSELF IN YOUR EYES. WE HAVE THE SAME EXPRESSION!




I... FIND IT DIFFICULT TO EMBRACE THE FULL SHINOBI PHILOSOPHY.

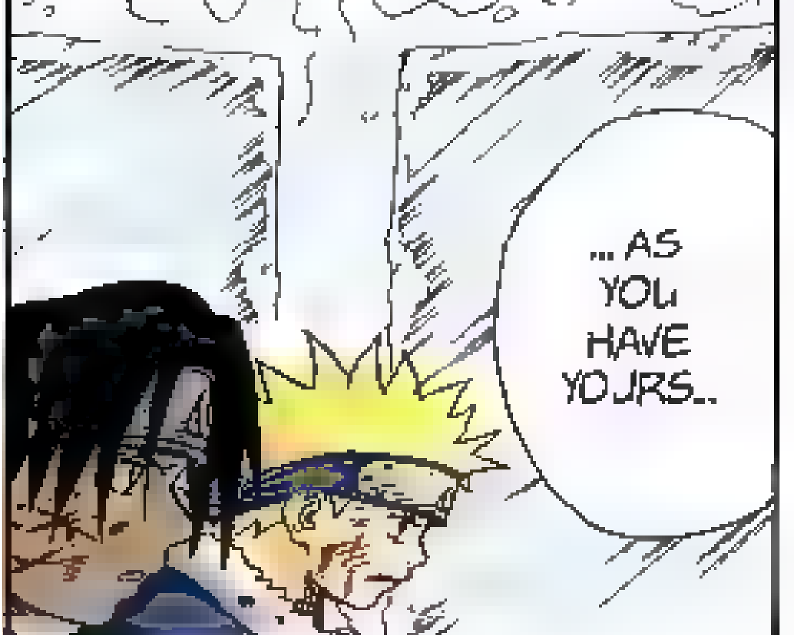

I CAN'T HELP BUT PREFER THAT THE PAIR OF YOU
NOT FORCE ME TO KILL YOU.

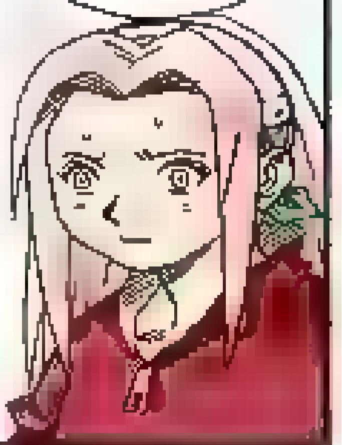

HOWEVER, IF YOU TWO ARE GOING TO COME AT ME
SHALL KILL MY OWN HEART WITH MY BLADE— JUST AS THE WORD "SHINOBI" WAS ORIGINALLY THE WORDS "HEART" AND "BLADE"— AND ACT AS A FULL-FLEDGED SHINOBI WOULD!

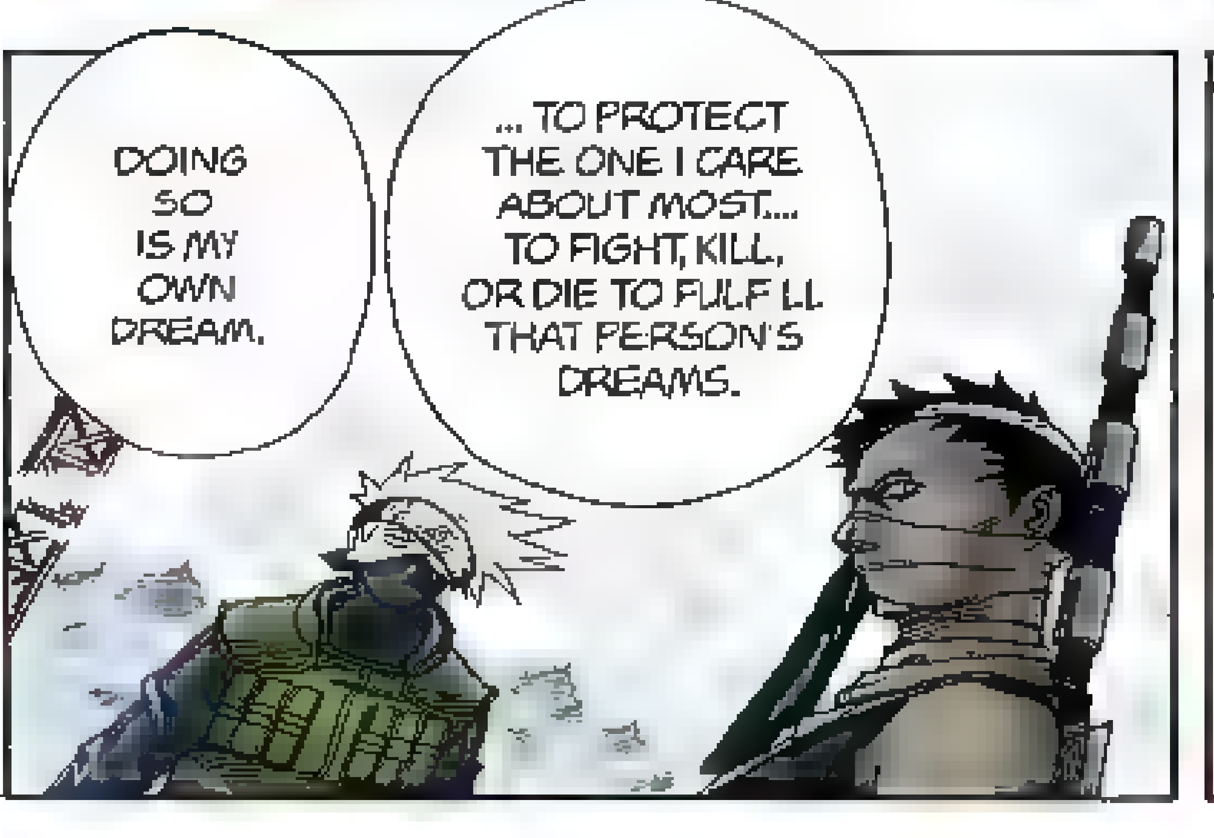

THIS BRIDGE IS A NEXUS OF OUR DESTINIES...
AND ALL OF OUR DREAMS AND FUTURES BALANCE ON THE EDGE OF A KNIFE

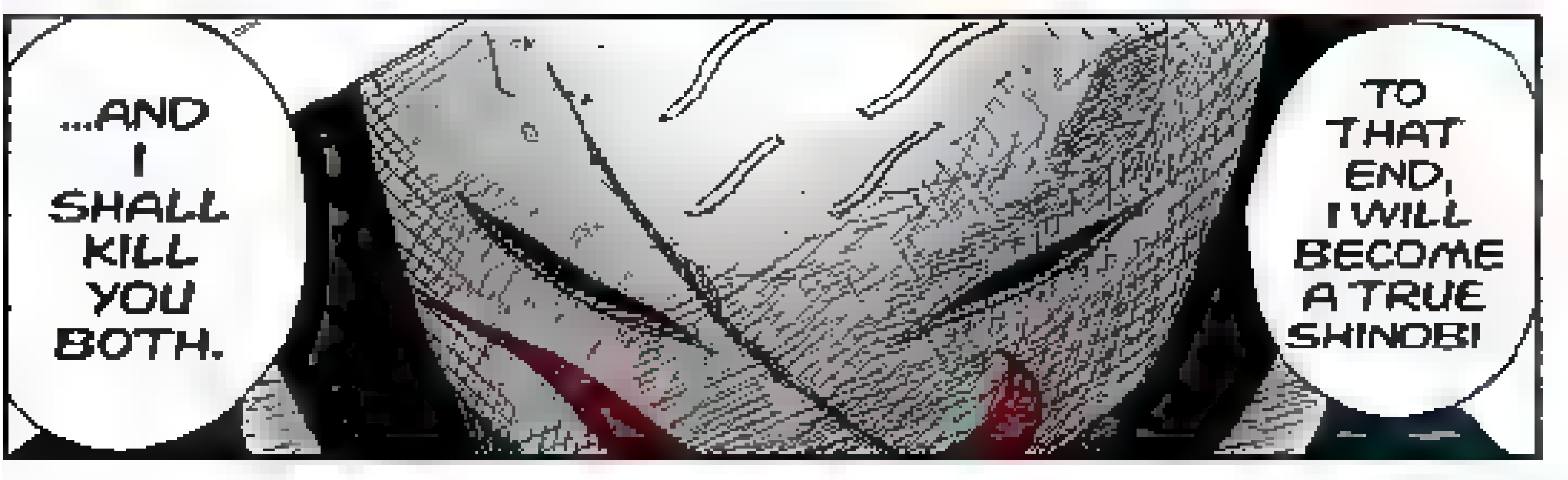



I HAVE MY OWN DREAMS...

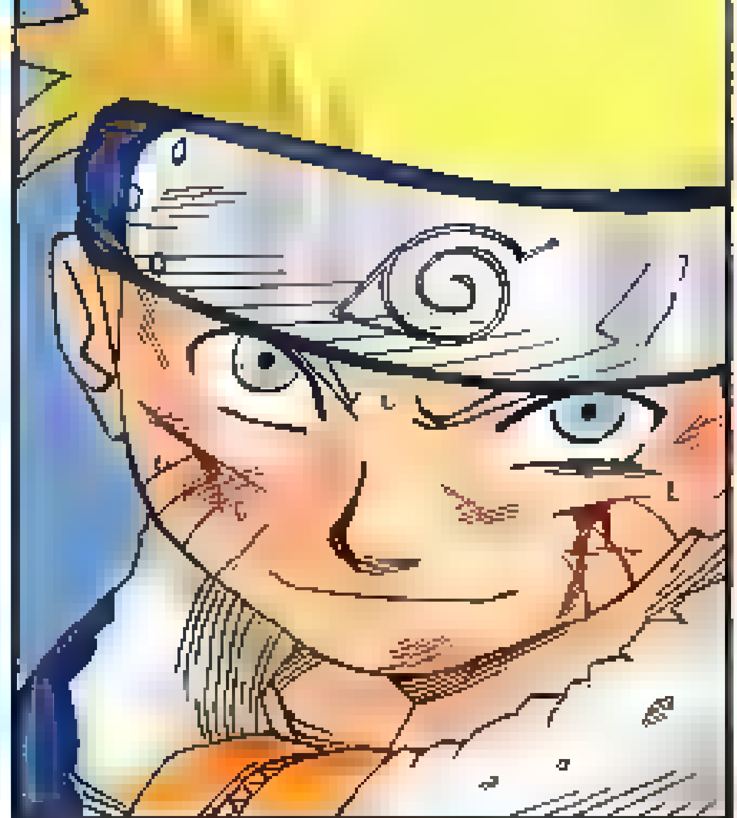
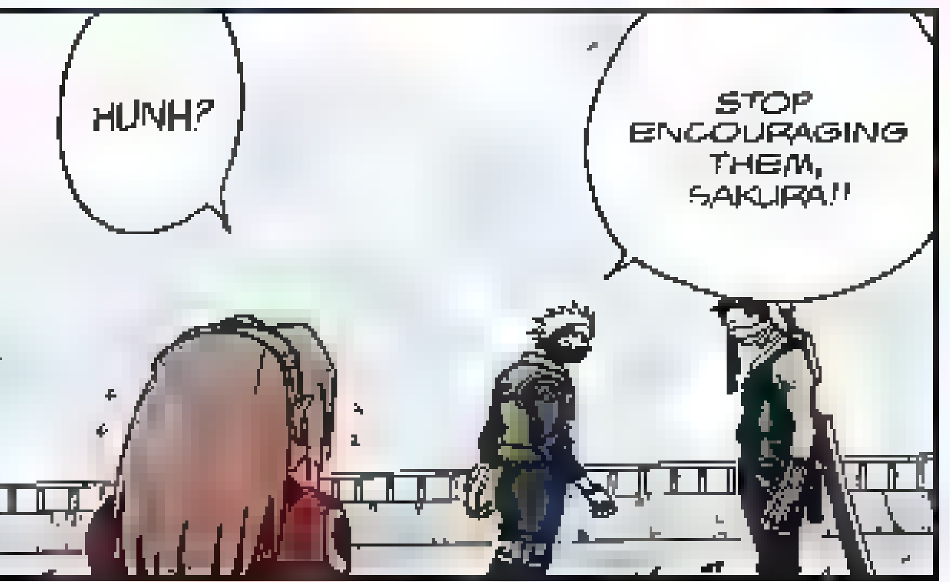
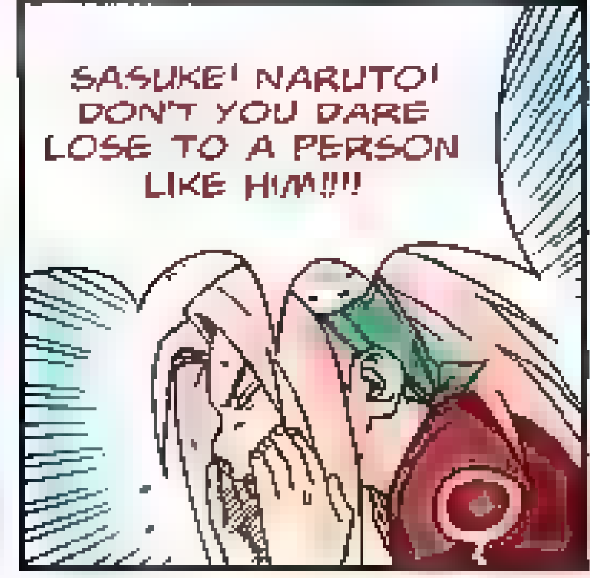

...AS YOU HAVE YOURS..

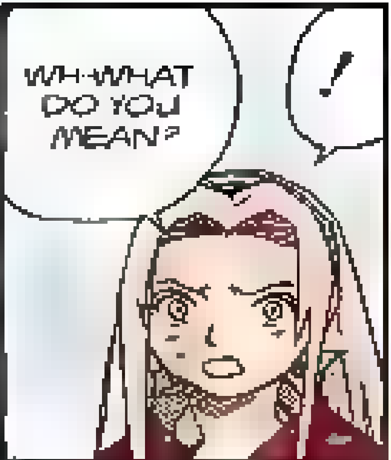
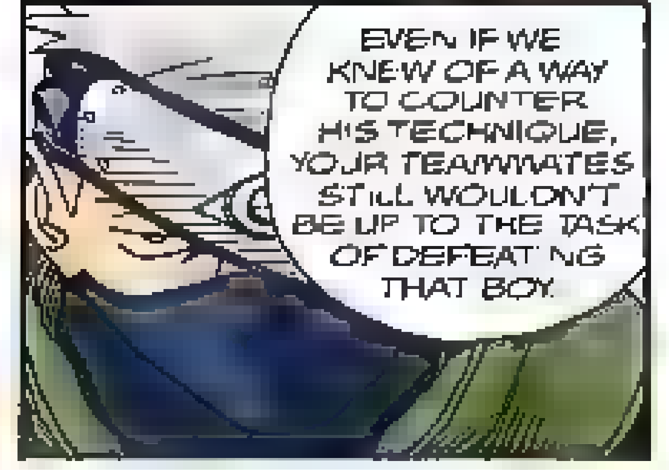

PLEASE TRY NOT TO RESENT ME, BUT I'M WILLING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES..


...TO PROTECT THE ONE I CARE ABOUT MOST.... TO FIGHT, KILL, OR DIE TO FULFILL THAT PERSON'S DREAMS.
DOING SO IS MY OWN DREAM.

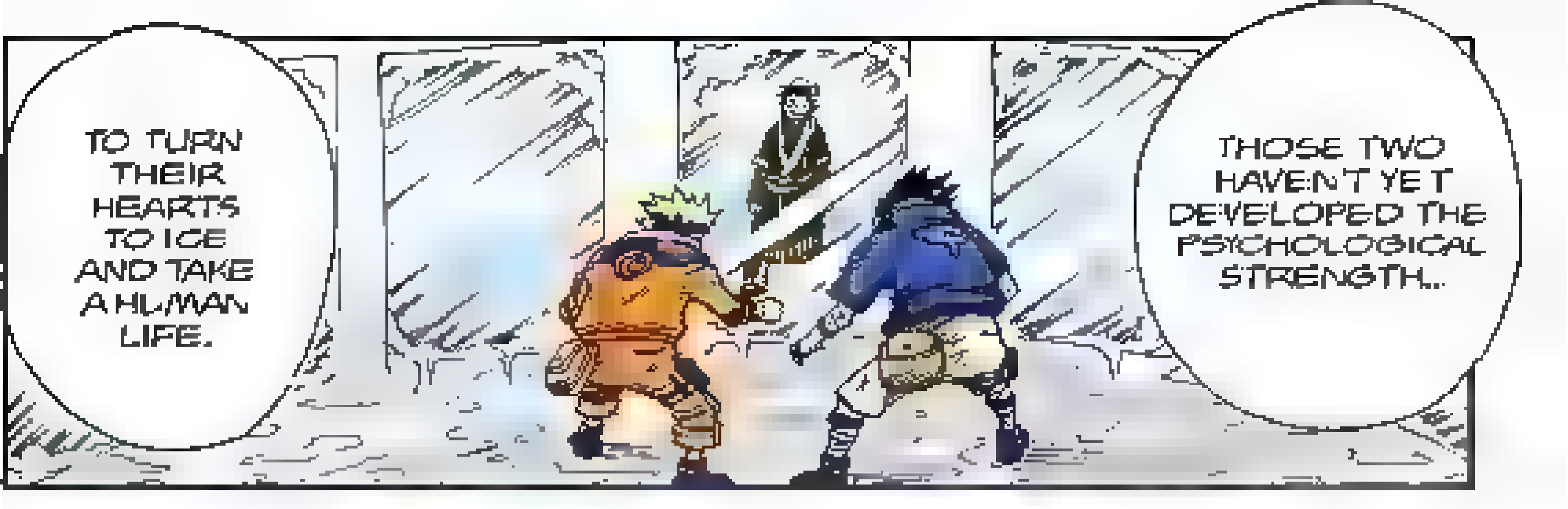

TO THAT END, I WILL BECOME A TRUE SHINOBI
...AND I SHALL KILL YOU BOTH.

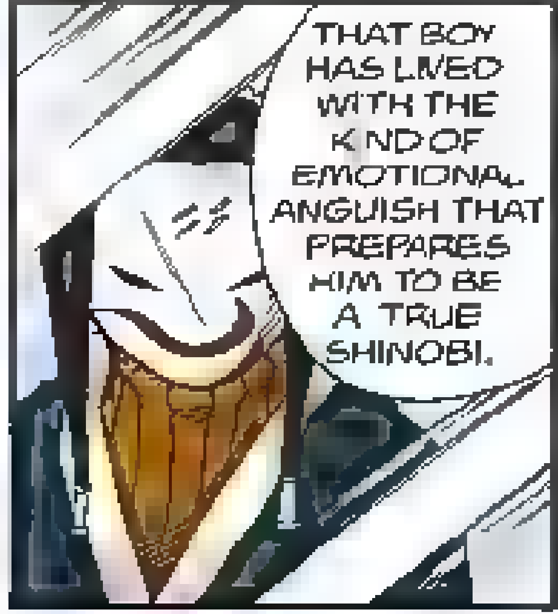

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STOP ENCOURAGING THEM, SAKURA!!
HUNH?

SASUKE! NARUTO! DON'T YOU DARE LOSE TO A PERSON LIKE HIM!!!!

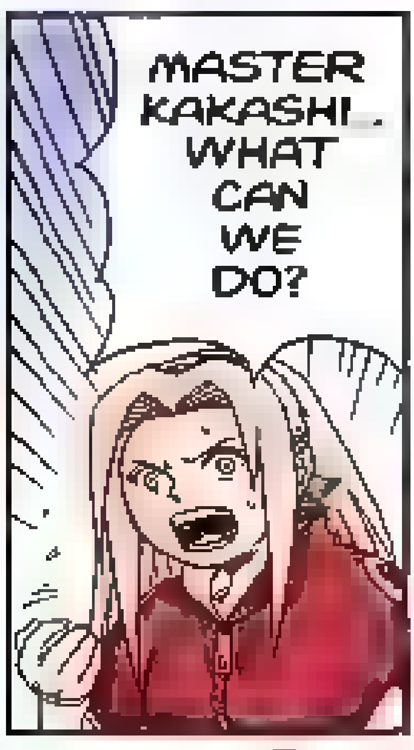
HEH HEH.
HEH HEH HEH..

!
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

EVEN IF WE KNEW OF A WAY TO COUNTER HIS TECHNIQUE, YOUR TEAMMATES STILL WOULDN'T BE UP TO THE TASK OF DEFEATING THAT BOY.

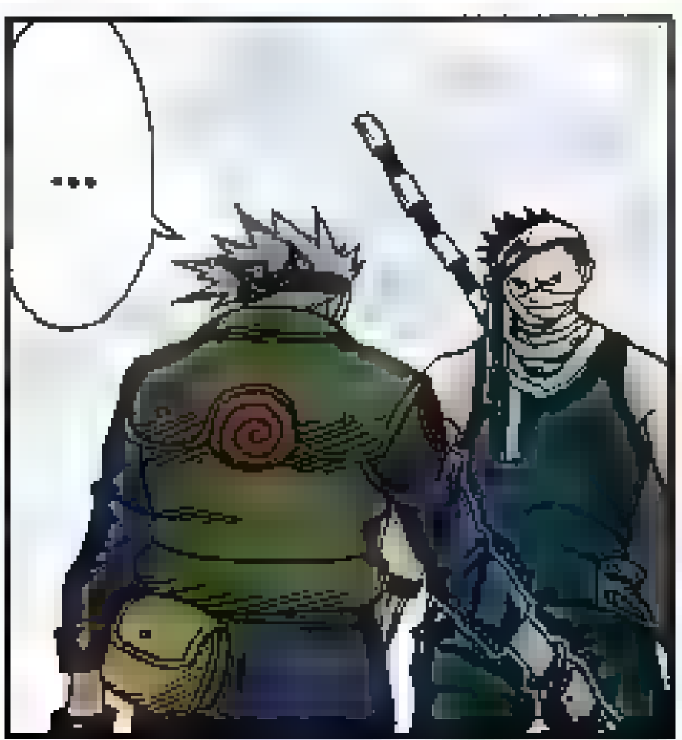
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THOSE TWO HAVEN'T YET DEVELOPED THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STRENGTH...
TO TURN THEIR HEARTS TO ICE AND TAKE A HUMAN LIFE.


THAT BOY HAS LIVED WITH THE KIND OF EMOTIONAL ANGUISH THAT PREPARES HIM TO BE A TRUE SHINOBI.


NO TRUE SHINOBI COULD EVER BE BORN OF A A PLACE LIKE YOUR VILLAGE, A PLACE OF WEAKNESS... OF PEACE.
YOU DON'T LIVE WITH DEATH, OR GROW UP NEEDING TO KILL TO ENSURE YOUR OWN SURVIVAL. IN YOU THOSE SKILLS—AND THE MINDSET THEY REQUIRE— DIE STILLBORN!


MASTER KAKASHI... WHAT CAN WE DO?


...




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YOU'LL FORGIVE ME..

...IF I PUT AN END TO THIS...!

HEH HEH... GOING TO USE THE SHARINGAN...?

WHAT A VULGAR MANEUVER. SO OBVIOUS, SO LACKING IN FINESSE!

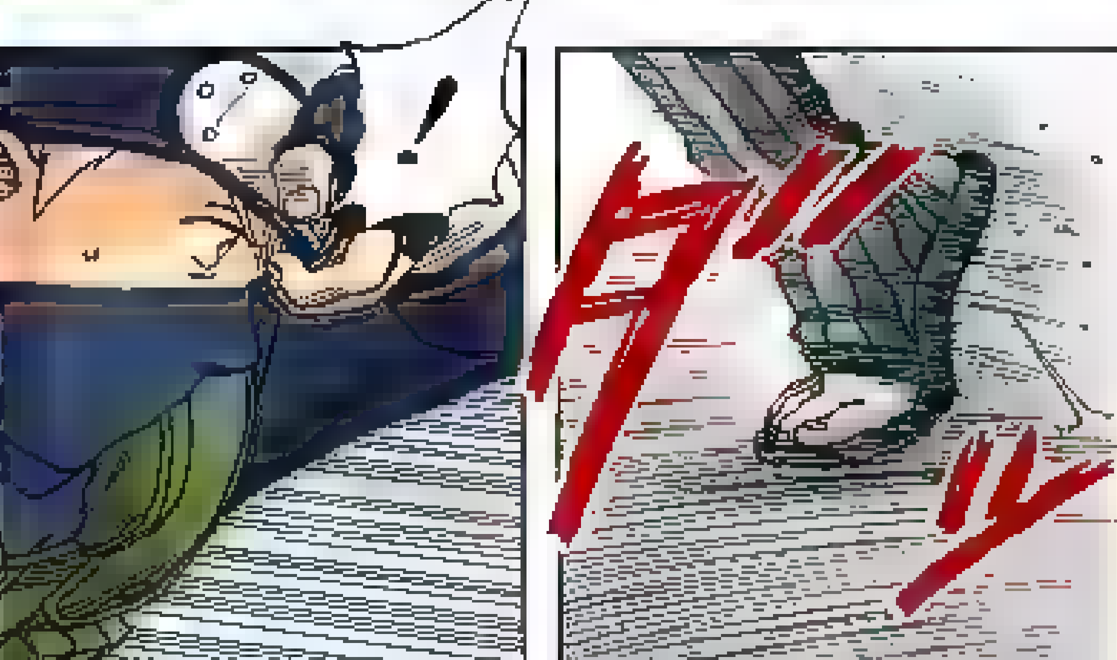


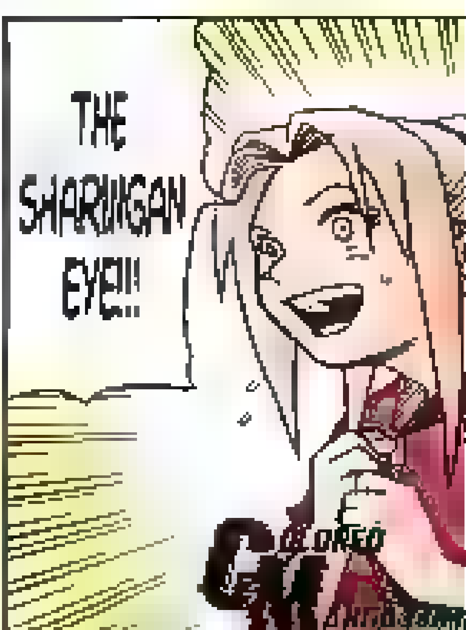


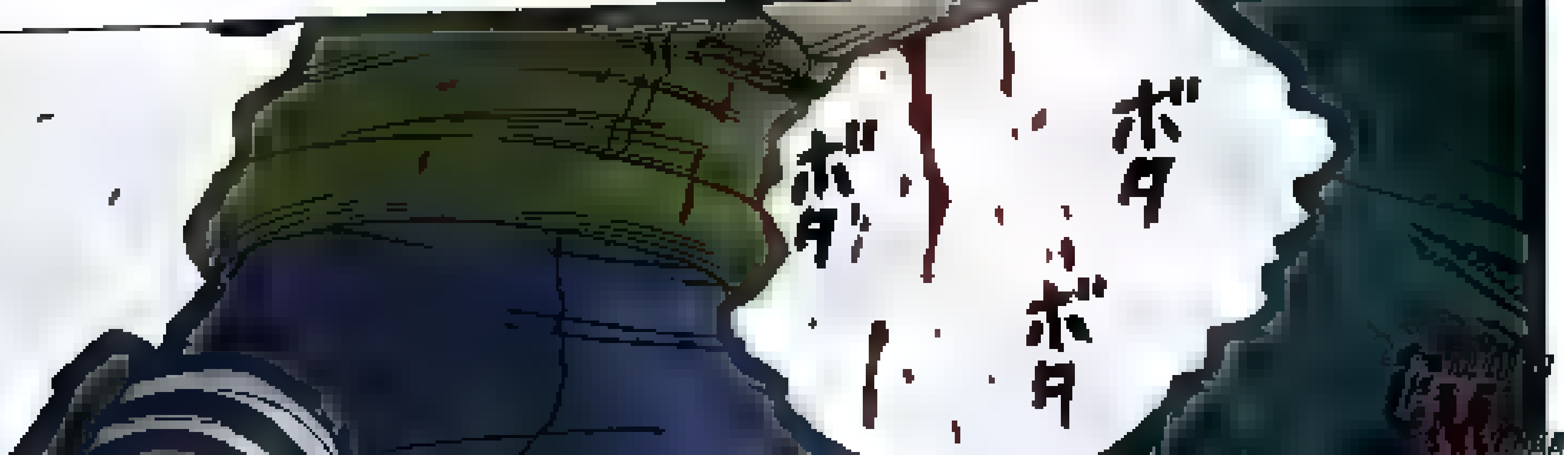

26 SHARINGAN DEVASTATION...!!
写輪眼崩し…!!
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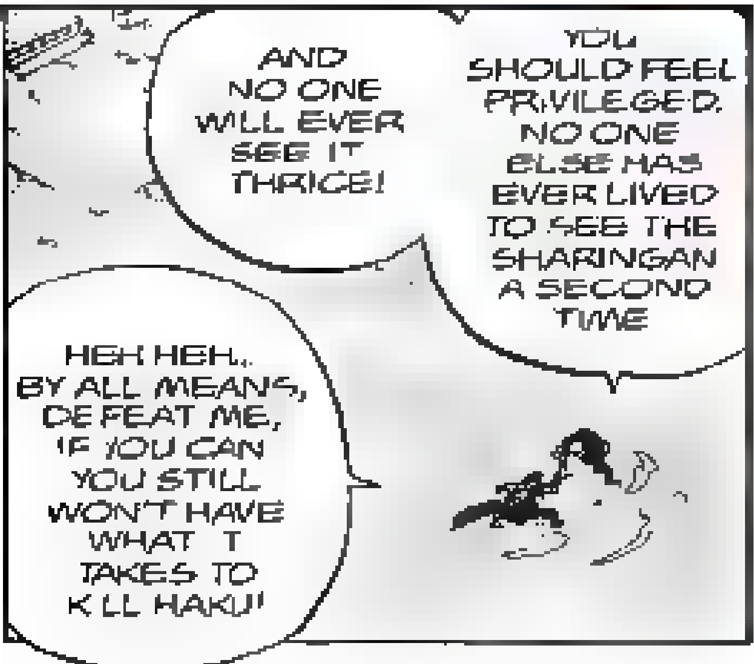


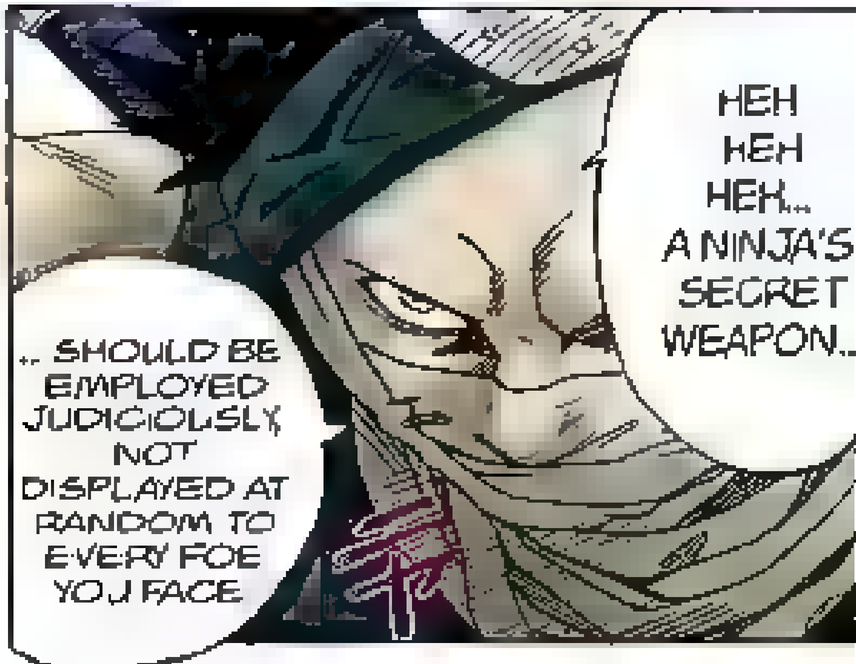





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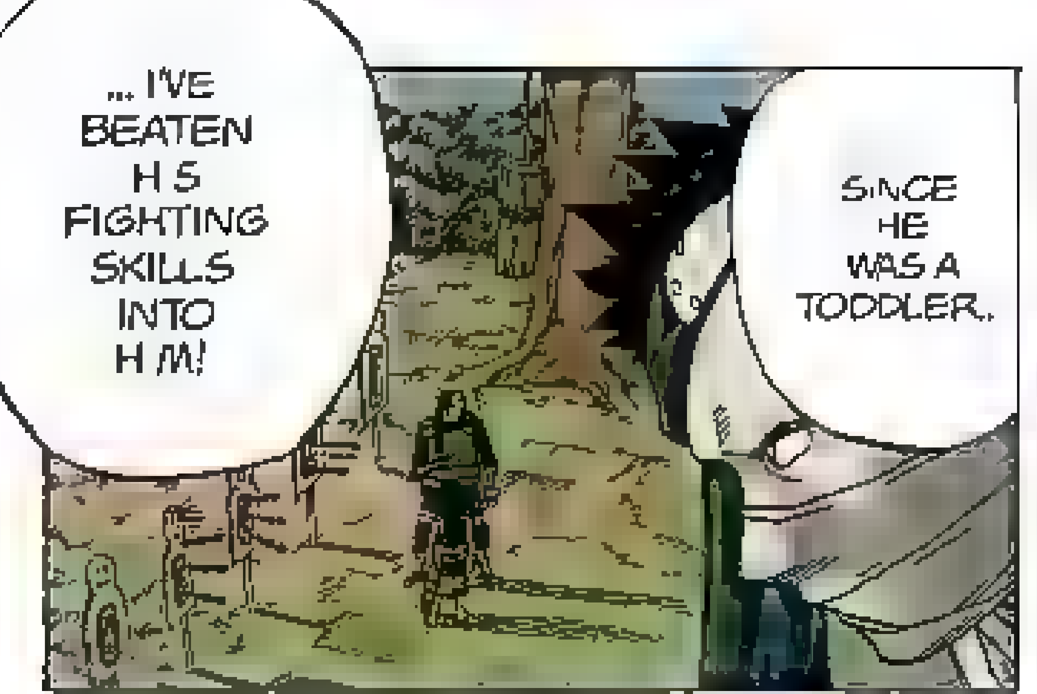
YOU CAN SNEER ALL YOU WANT ABOUT MY "LACK OF FINESSE," ZABUZA... IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU'RE AFRAID OF THE SHARINGAN. AND OF ME.

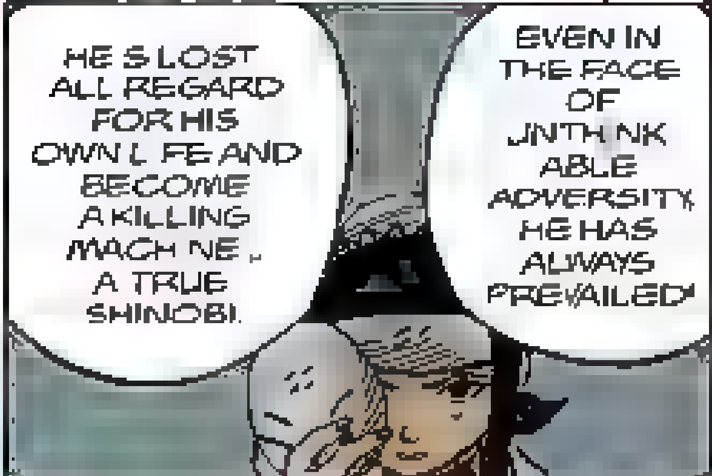


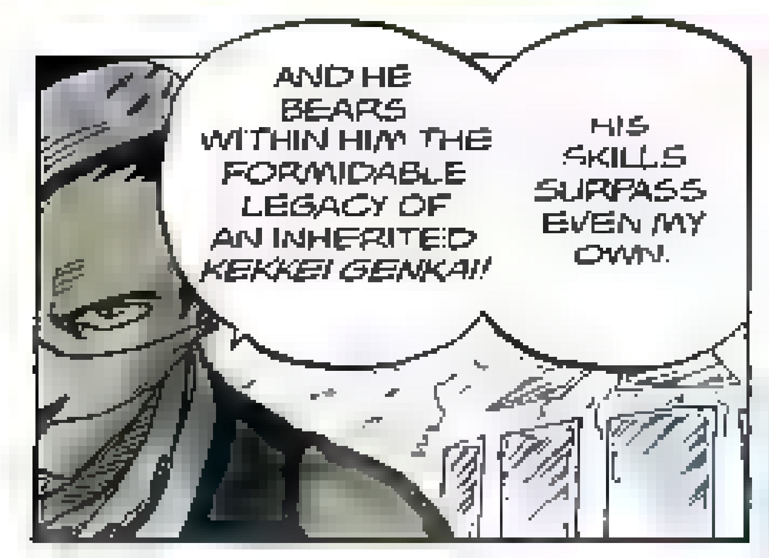





THAT MASKED BOY IS SO POWERFUL EVEN MASTER KAKASHI CAN'T WIN.
MASTER...

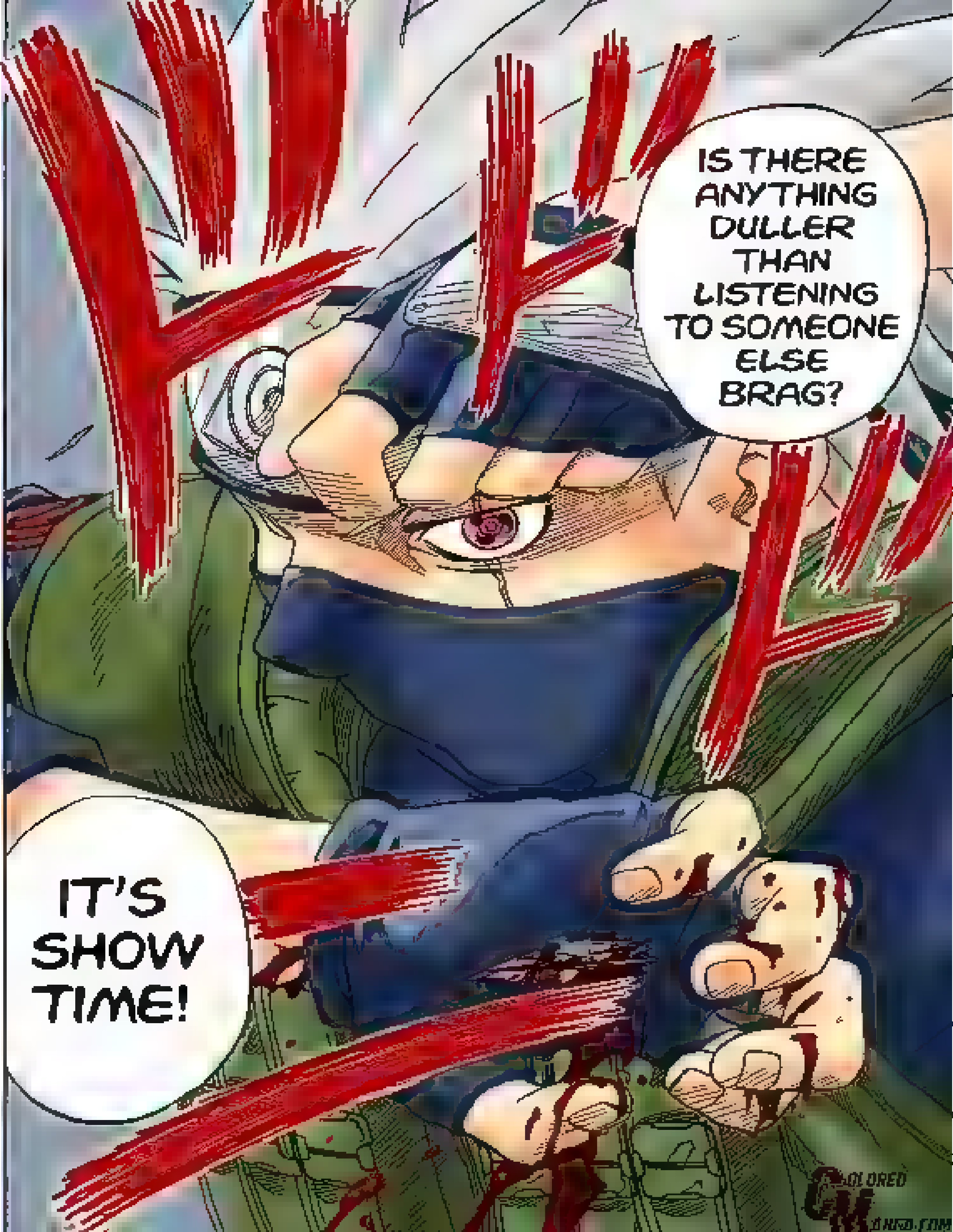

SINCE HE WAS A TODDLER.
... I'VE BEATEN HIS FIGHTING SKILLS INTO HIM!

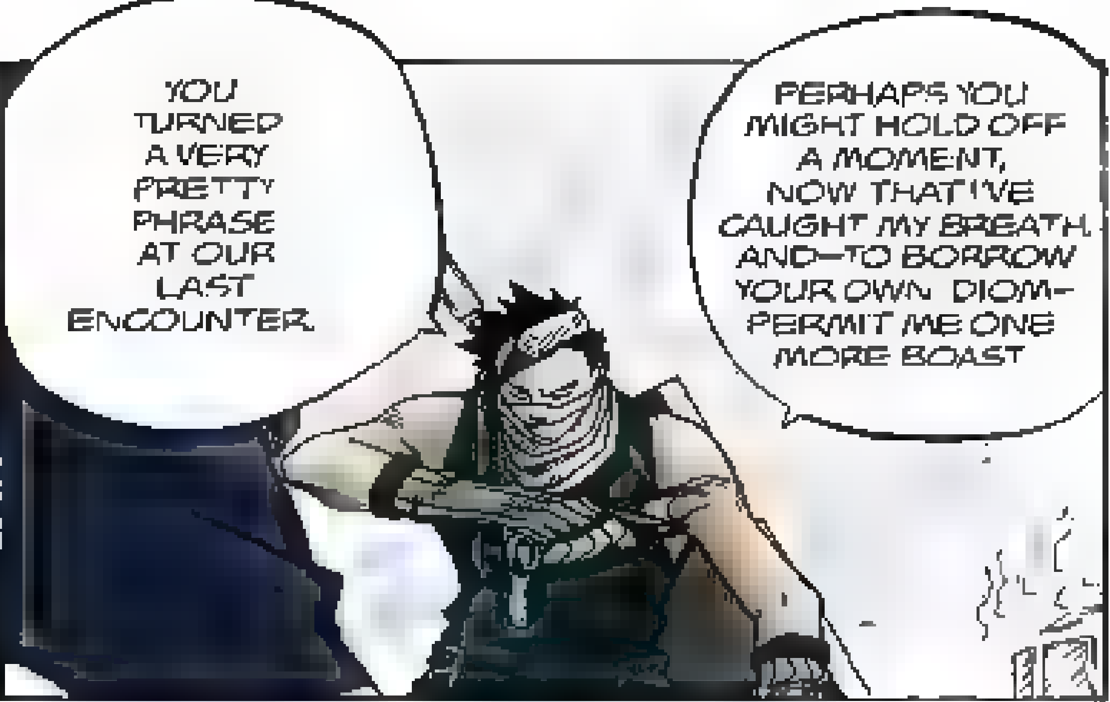

EVEN IN THE FACE OF UNTHINKABLE ADVERSITY, HE HAS ALWAYS PREVAILED!
HE'S LOST ALL REGARD FOR HIS OWN LIFE AND BECOME A KILLING MACHINE... A TRUE SHINOBI.

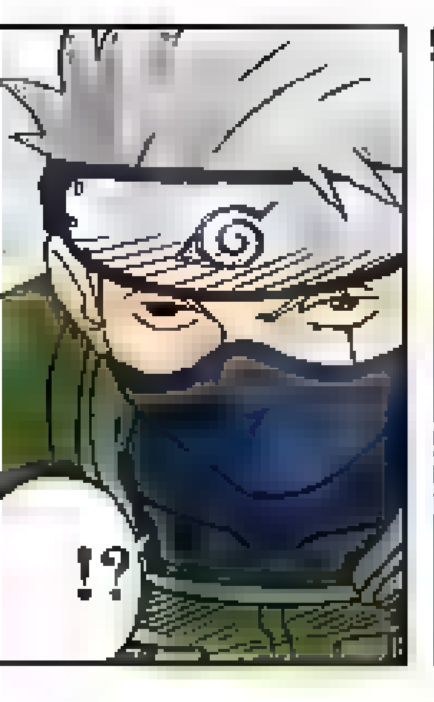

HIS SKILLS SURPASS EVEN MY OWN.
AND HE BEARS WITHIN HIM THE FORMIDABLE LEGACY OF AN INHERITED *KEKKEI GENKAI*!


THUS, I HAVE FORGED AND CARRY WITH ME A WEAPON OF MATCHLESS QUALITY AND SKILL...
ズボッ
... ENTIRELY UNLIKE THE SCRAPS OF TRASH THAT FOLLOW AT YOUR HEELS.


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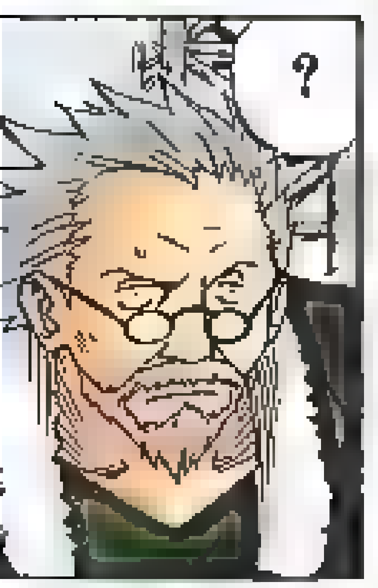

IS THERE ANYTHING DULLER THAN LISTENING TO SOMEONE ELSE BRAG?
IT'S SHOW TIME!

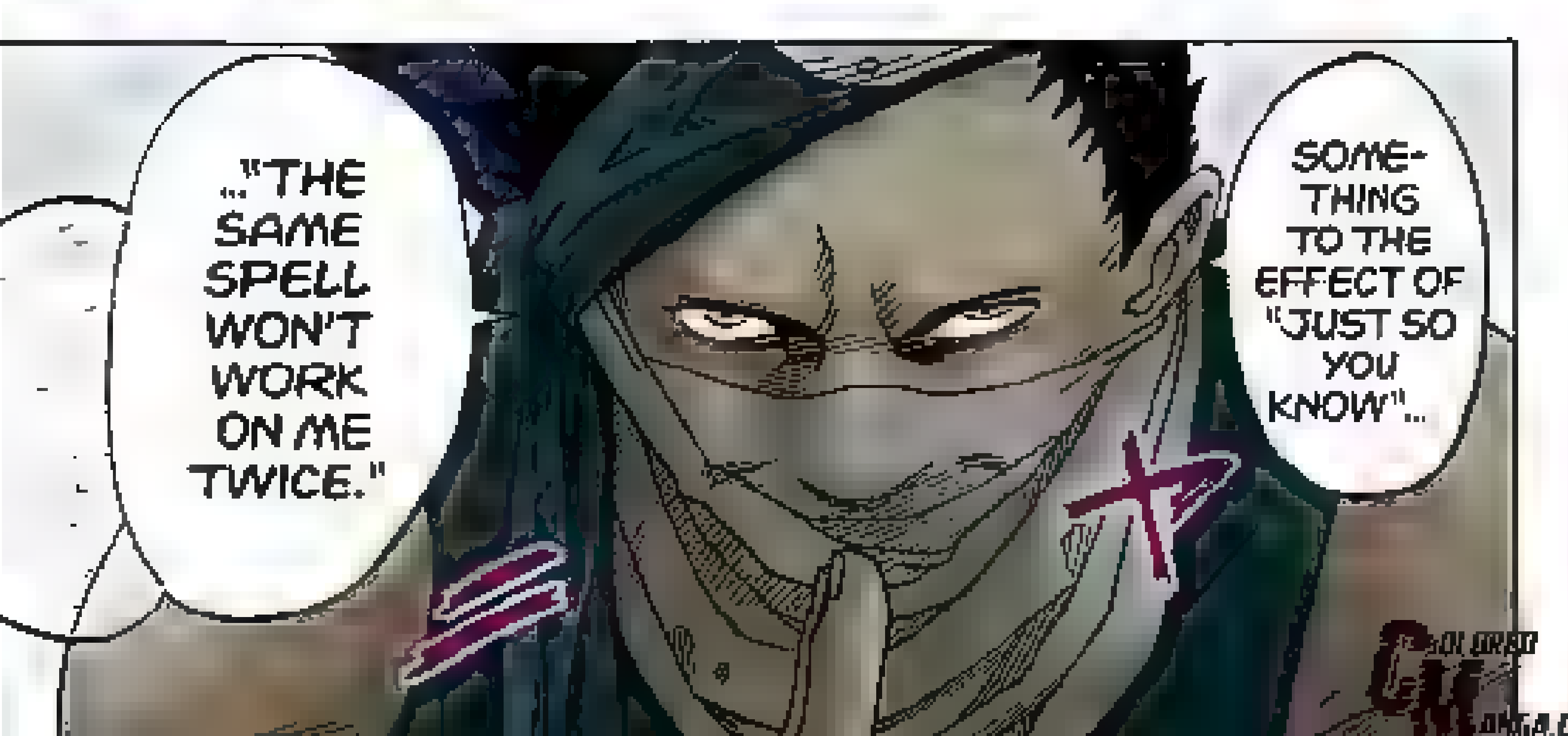

PERHAPS YOU MIGHT HOLD OFF A MOMENT, NOW THAT I'VE CAUGHT MY BREATH, AND—TO BORROW YOUR OWN DIOM—PERMIT ME ONE MORE BOAST
YOU TURNED A VERY PRETTY PHRASE AT OUR LAST ENCOUNTER.

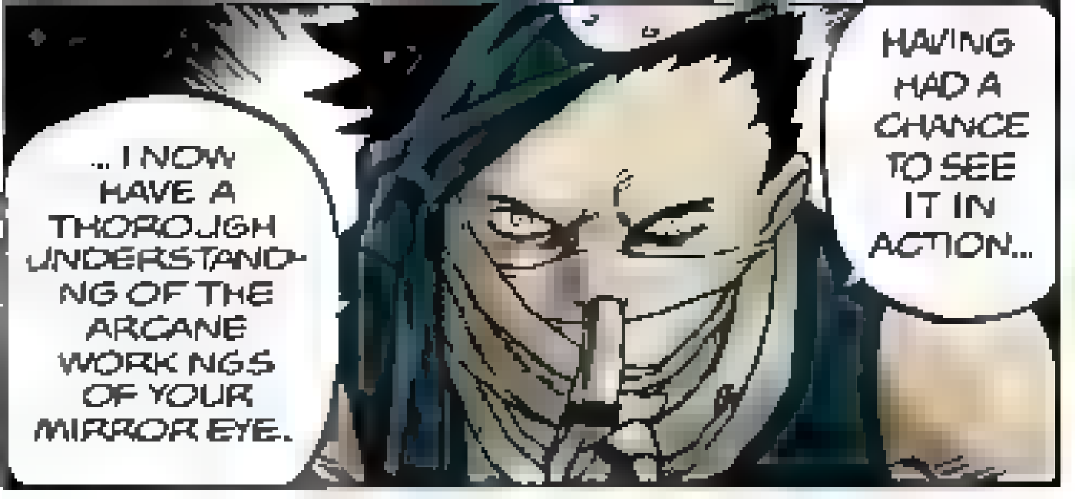

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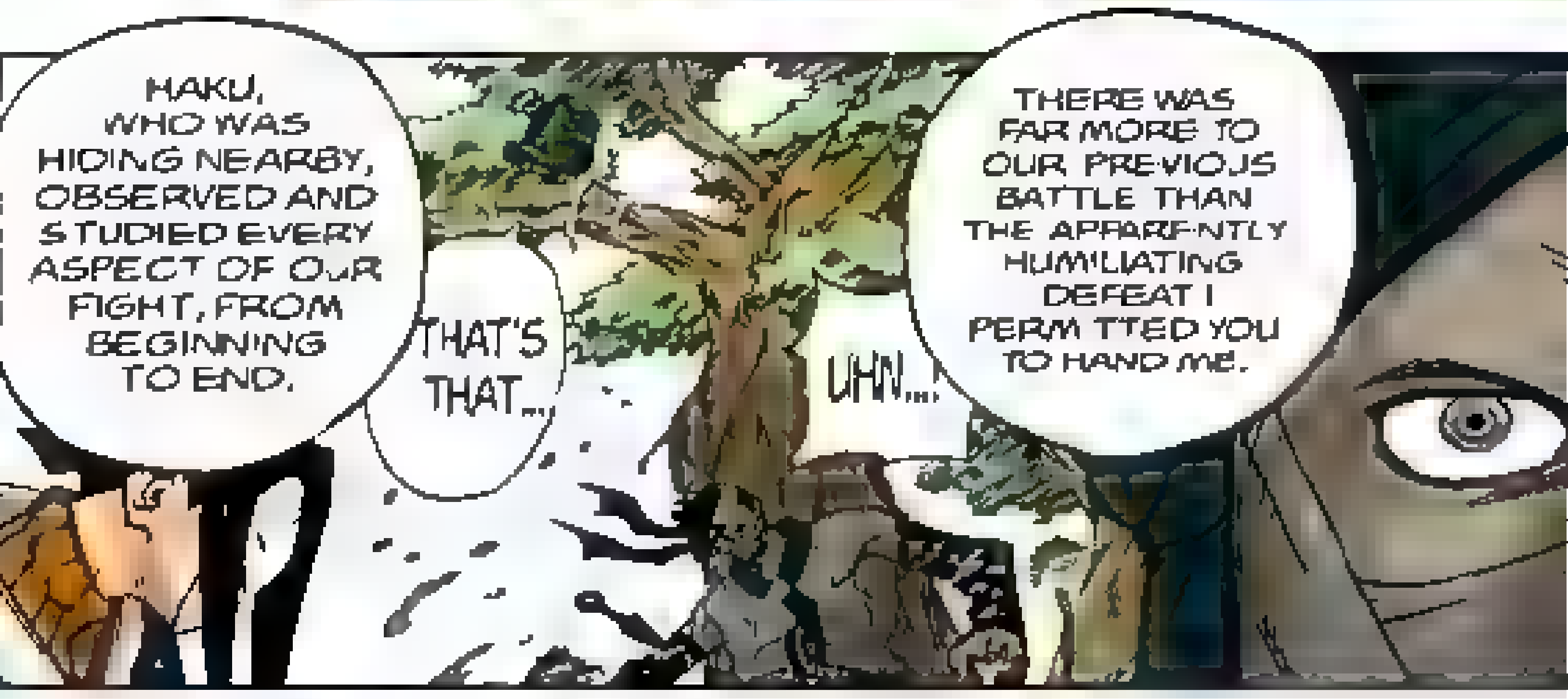

FRANKLY, I'VE BEEN DYING TO STEAL IT.
...


?


SOME-THING TO THE EFFECT OF "JUST SO YOU KNOW"...
..."THE SAME SPELL WON'T WORK ON ME TWICE."

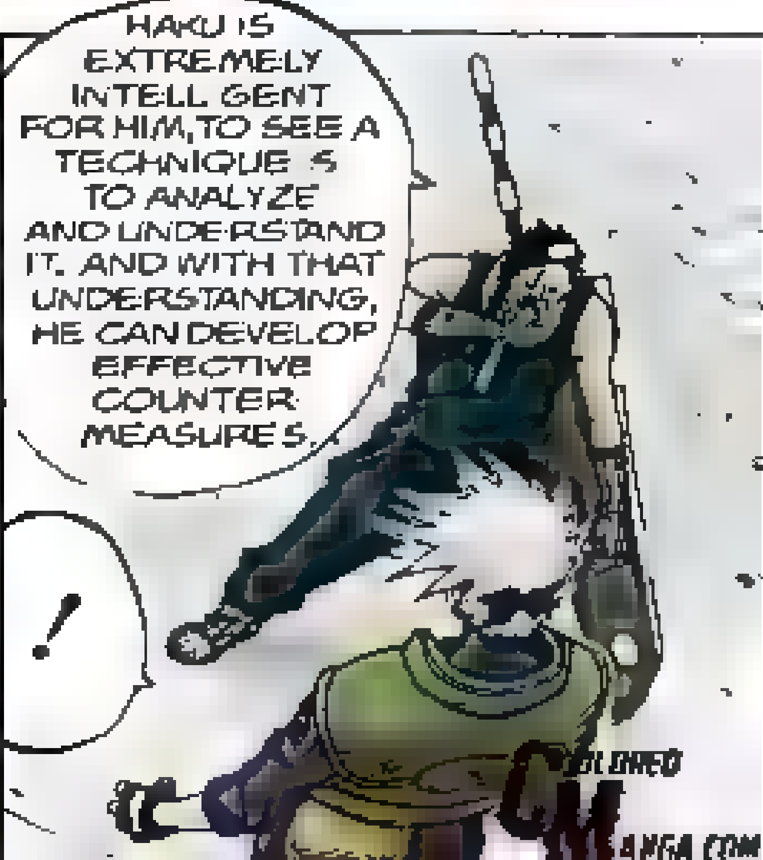




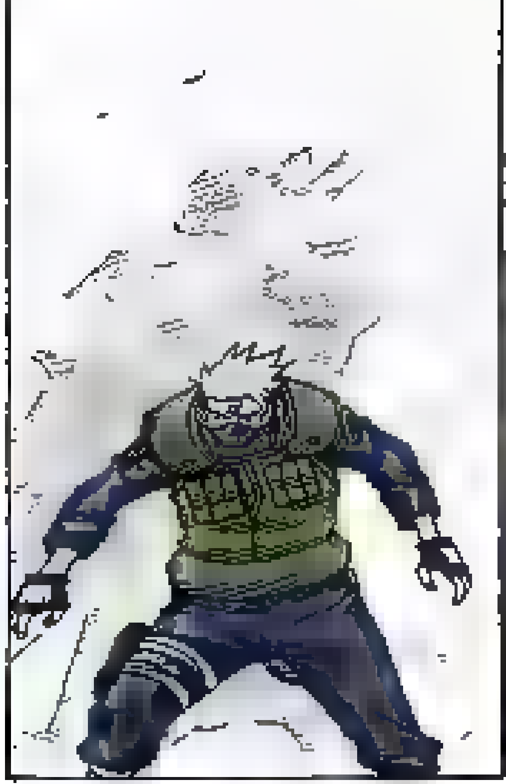


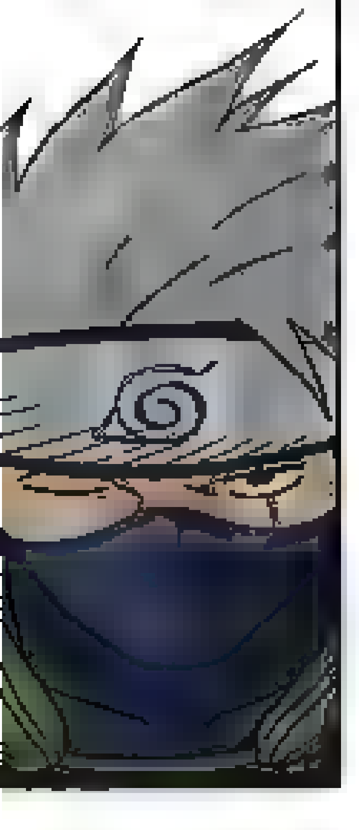
* "The Art of Hiding in the Mist"

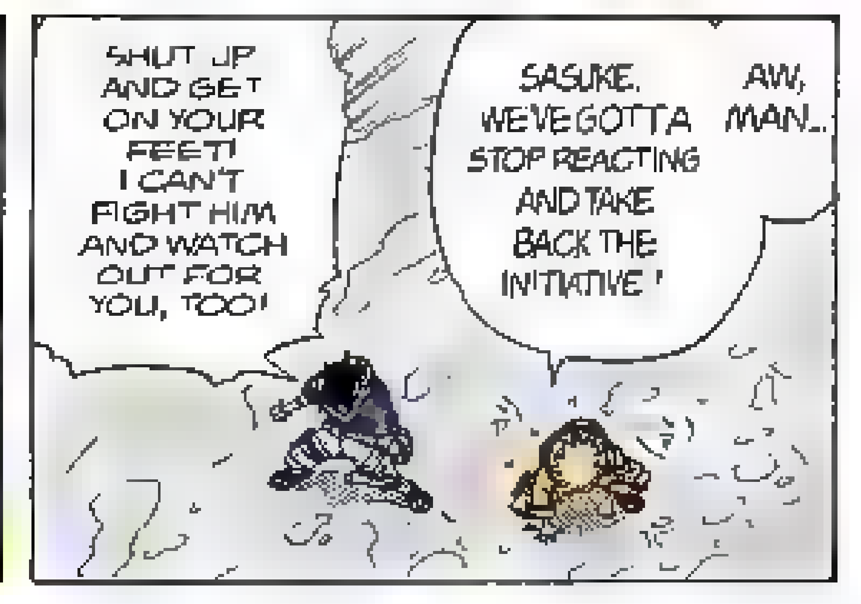




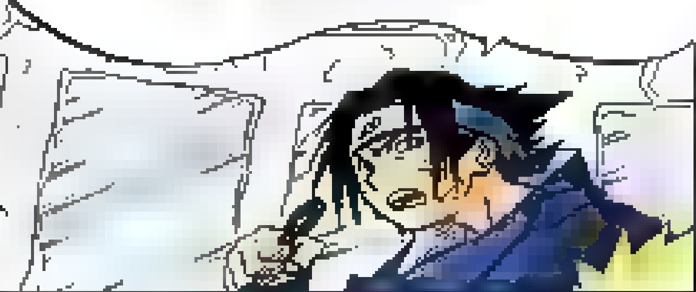








AW, MAN..
SASUKE. WE'VE GOTTA STOP REACTING AND TAKE BACK THE INITIATIVE!
SHUT UP AND GET ON YOUR FEET! I CAN'T FIGHT HIM AND WATCH OUT FOR YOU, TOO!



WE'RE BOTH WOUNDED, BUT WE HAVE TO SUCK IT UP AND GO ON WE'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T KILL ONE OF US! THERE MUST BE A LIMIT TO H S CHAKRA. H S ATTACKS HAVE BEEN GETT NG WEAKER!



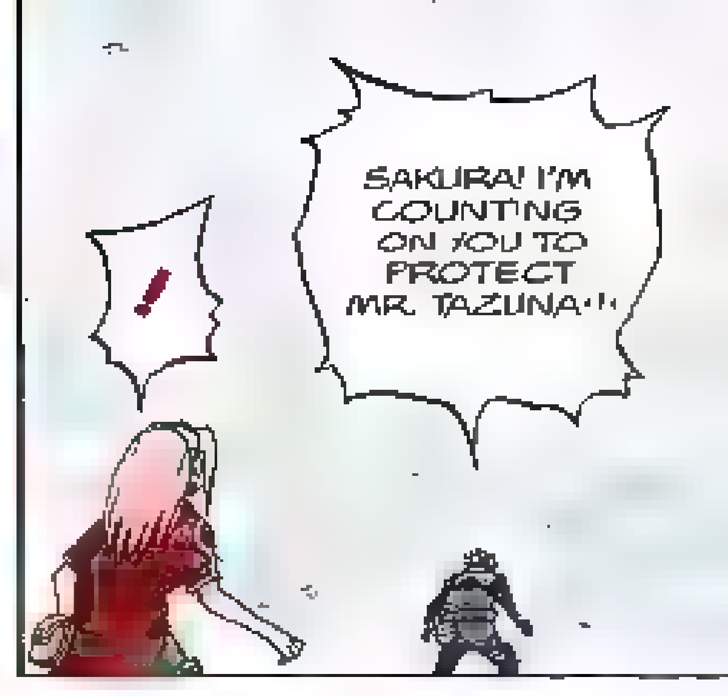
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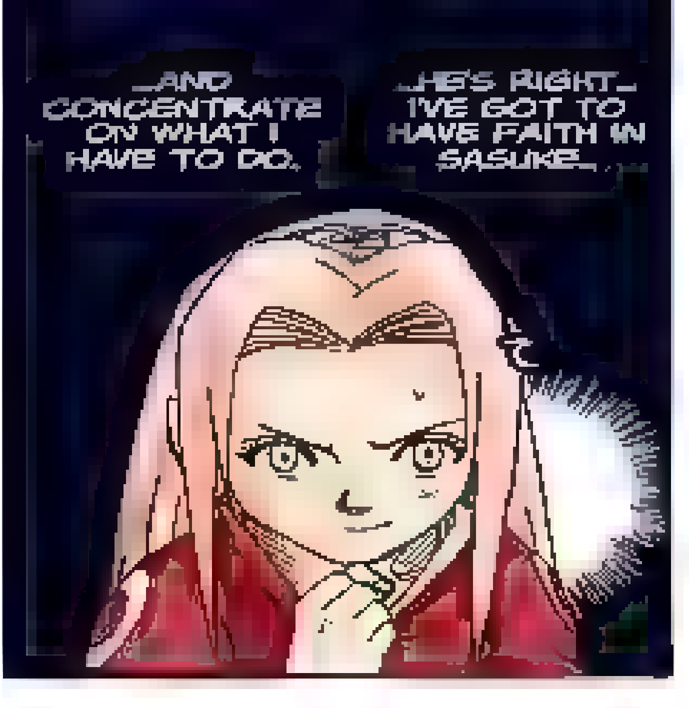
HE'S COMING!!!
CHING

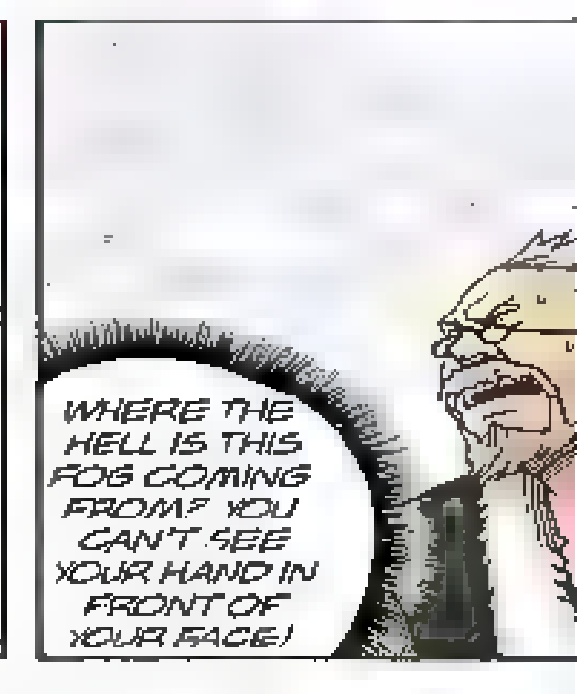


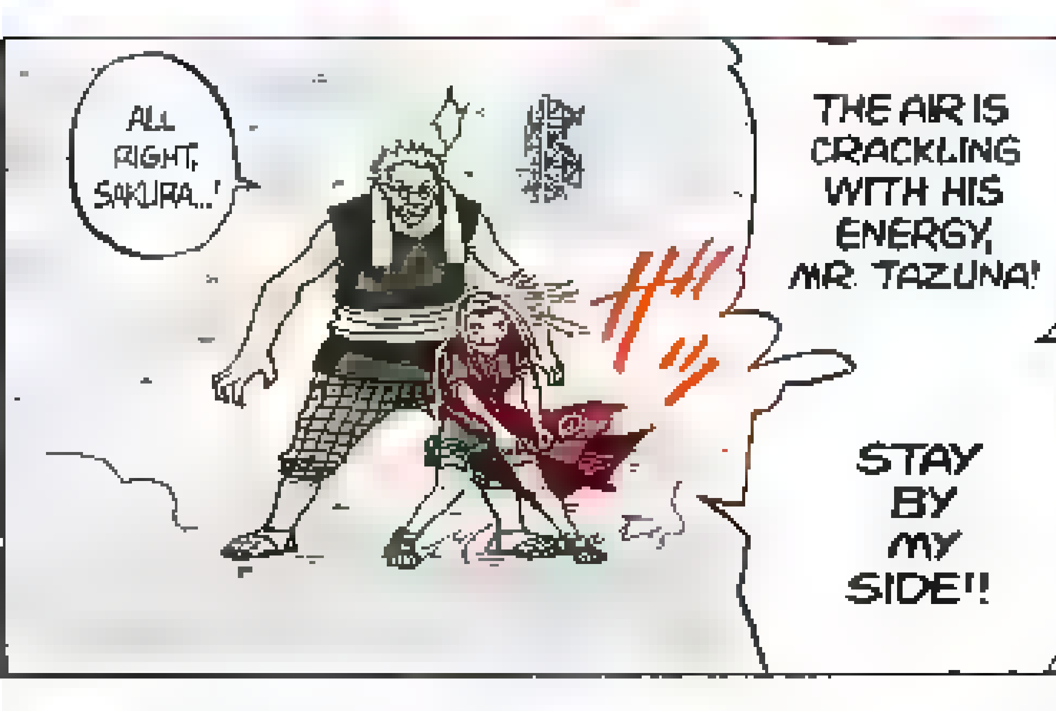


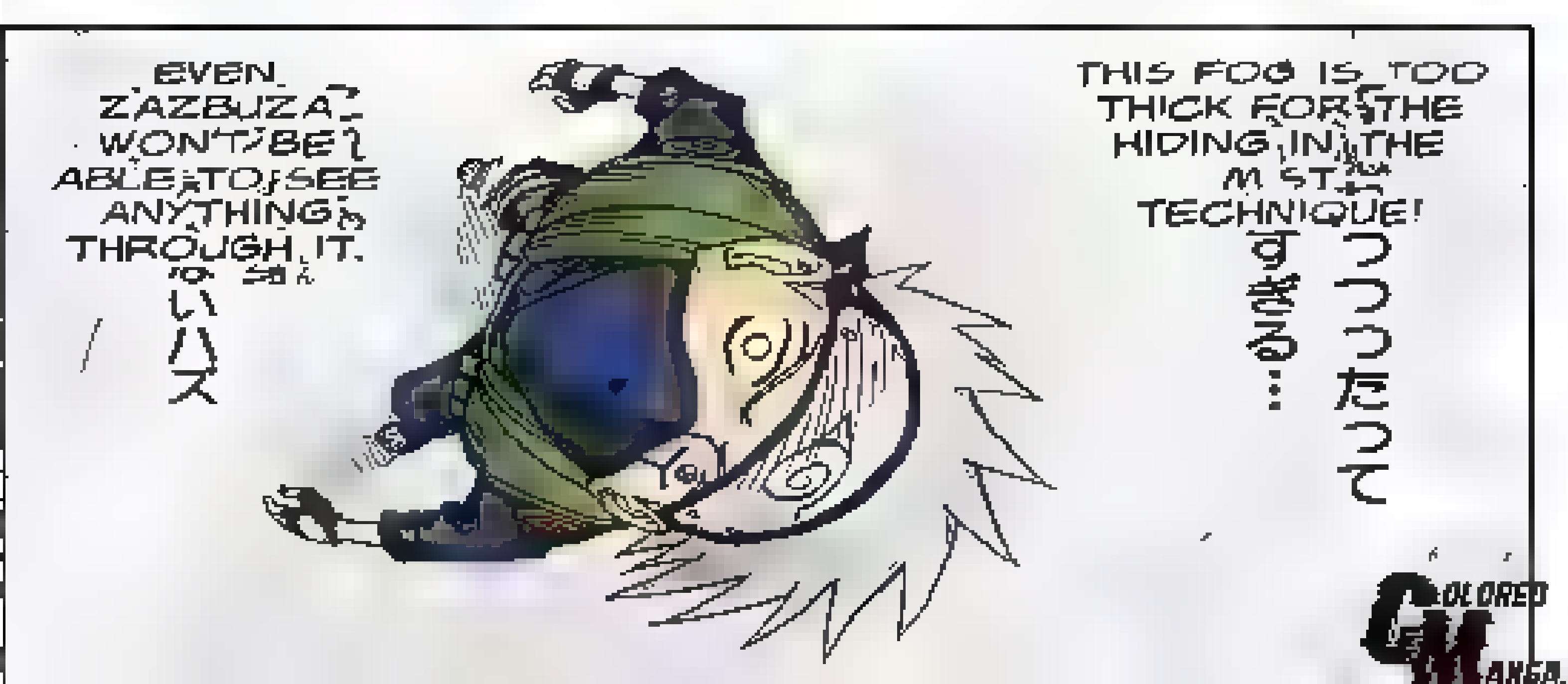

SAKURA! I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO PROTECT MR. TAZUNA!!
!




...HE'S RIGHT... I'VE GOT TO HAVE FAITH IN SASUKE...
...AND CONCENTRATE ON WHAT I HAVE TO DO.

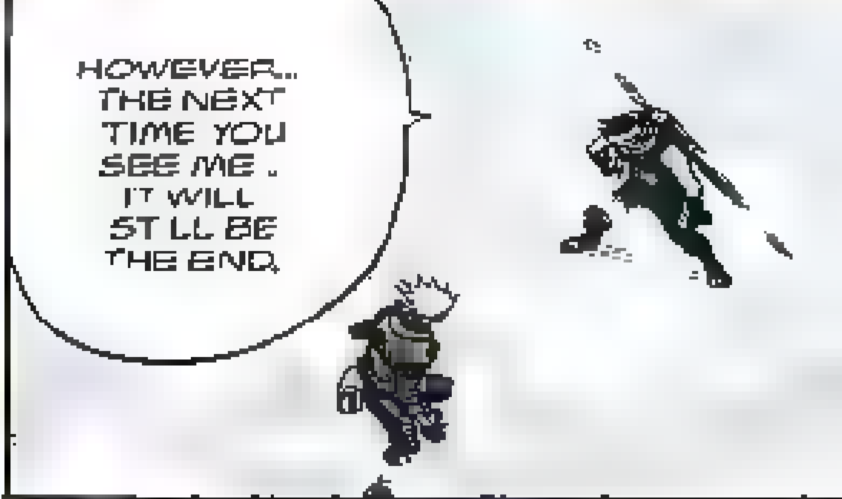

WHERE THE HELL IS THIS FOG COMING FROM? YOU CAN'T SEE YOUR HAND IN FRONT OF YOUR FACE!

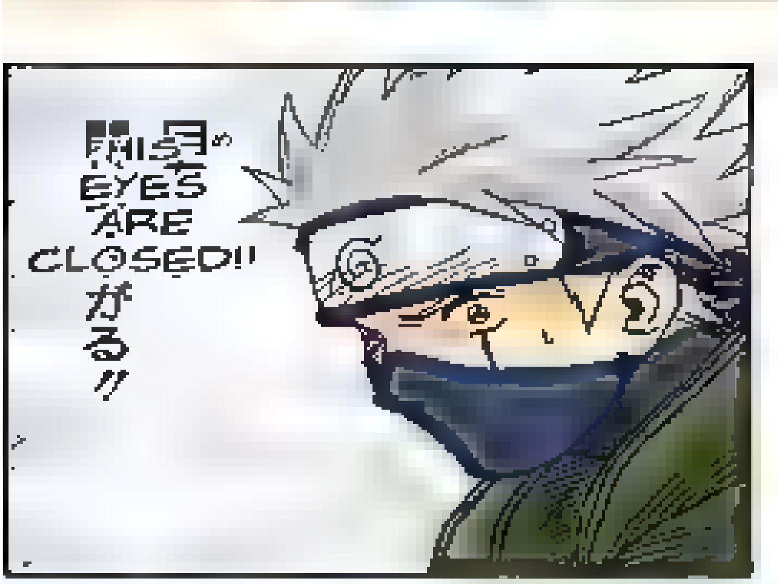

THE AIR IS CRACKLING WITH HIS ENERGY, MR. TAZUNA!
STAY BY MY SIDE!!
ALL RIGHT, SAKURA...!

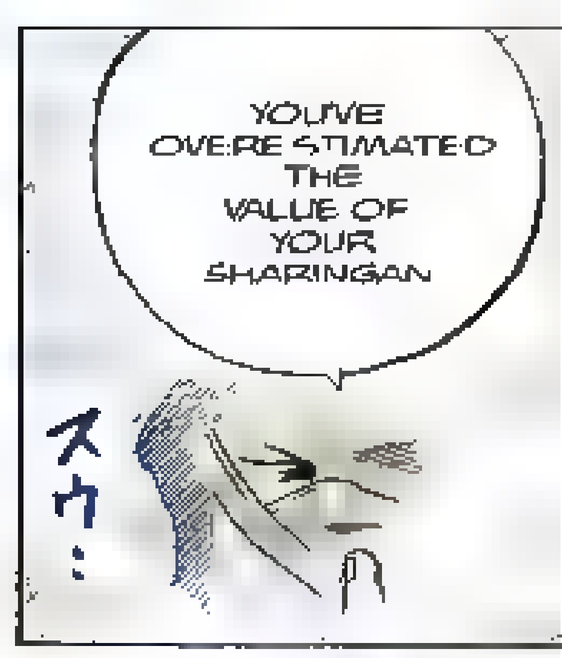

THIS FOG IS TOO THICK FOR THE HIDING IN THE MIST TECHNIQUE!
EVEN ZAZBUZA WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE ANYTHING THROUGH IT.




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YOU REPELLED THOSE NICELY NO LESS THAN I'D EXPECT OF KAKASHI OF THE SHARINGAN EYE


HOWEVER... THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE ME. IT WILL STILL BE THE END.

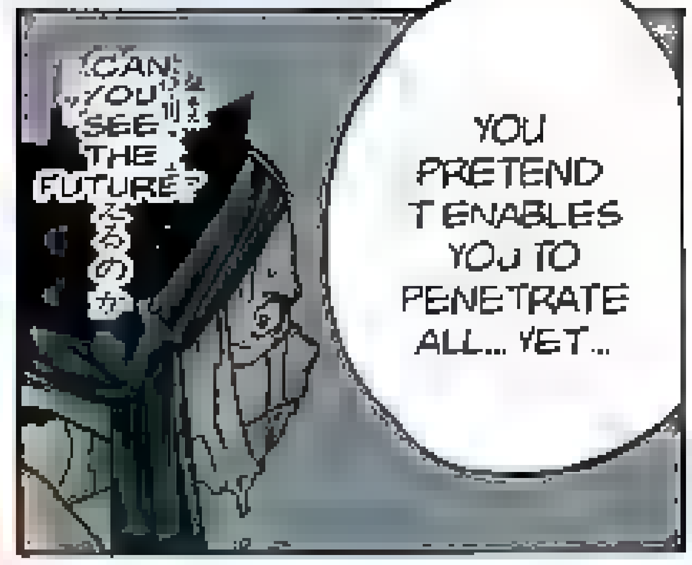

THIS EYES ARE CLOSED!!

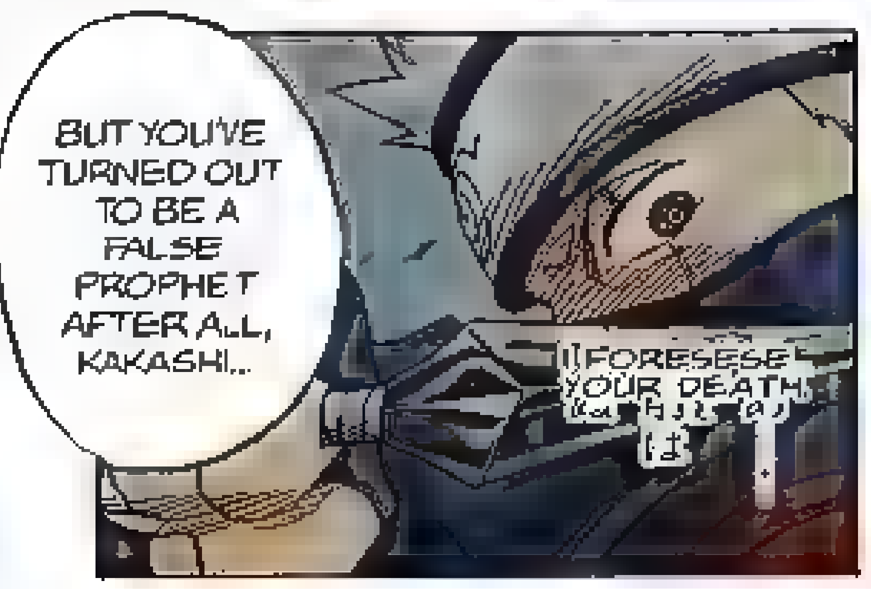

YOU'VE OVERESTIMATED THE VALUE OF YOUR SHARINGAN
スウ…


WHAT...?

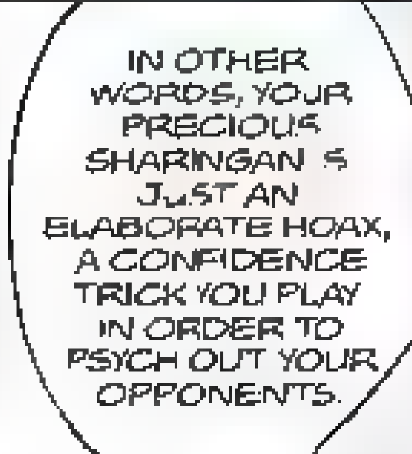

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HEH HEH HEH...

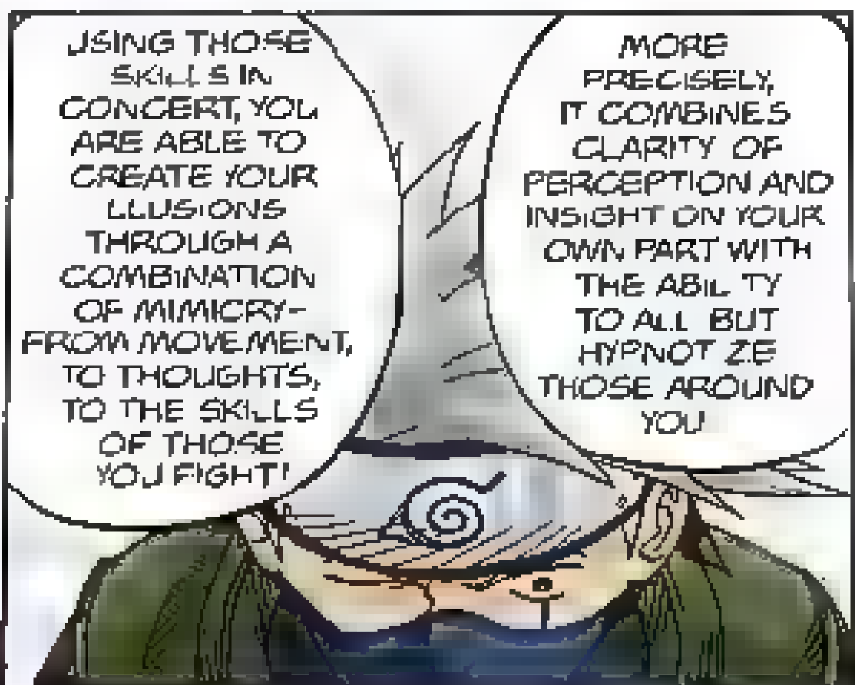

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YOU PRETEND T ENABLES YOU TO PENETRATE ALL... YET...
CAN YOU SEE THE FUTURE?


I FORESEE YOUR DEATH
BUT YOU'VE TURNED OUT TO BE A FALSE PROPHET AFTER ALL, KAKASHI...

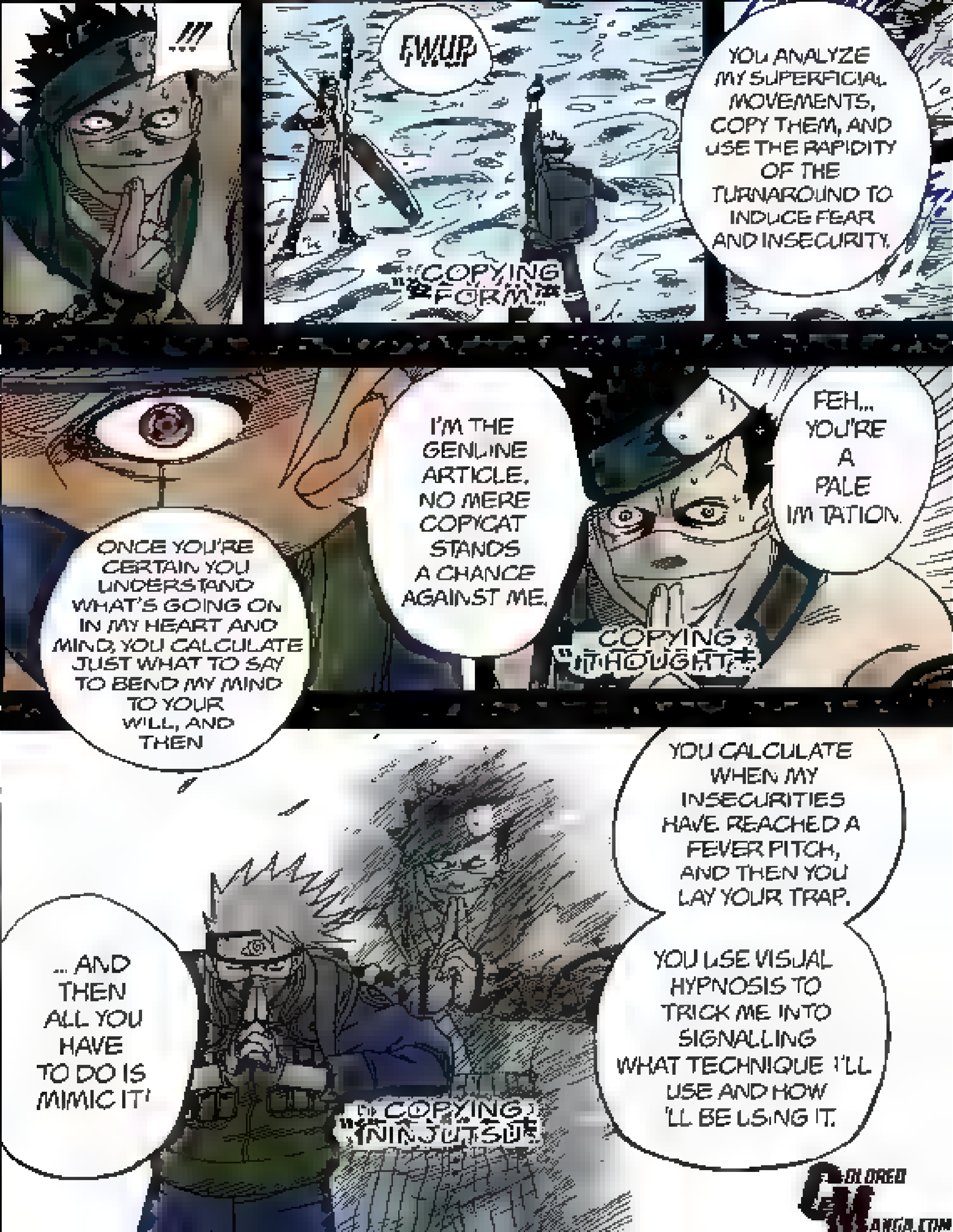

YOU CAN NEITHER READ MY MIND NOR THE FUTURE.


IN OTHER WORDS, YOUR PRECIOUS SHARINGAN S JUST AN ELABORATE HOAX, A CONFIDENCE TRICK YOU PLAY IN ORDER TO PSYCH OUT YOUR OPPONENTS.


MORE PRECISELY, IT COMBINES CLARITY OF PERCEPTION AND INSIGHT ON YOUR OWN PART WITH THE ABIL TY TO ALL BUT HYPNOT ZE THOSE AROUND YOU.
USING THOSE SKILLS IN CONCERT, YOU ARE ABLE TO CREATE YOUR LLUSIONS THROUGH A COMBINATION OF MIMICRY-FROM MOVEMENT, TO THOUGHTS, TO THE SKILLS OF THOSE YOU FIGHT!


PRANCING AROUND ACTING L KE YOU CAN SEE THE FUTURE!


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!!!
FWUP
YOU ANALYZE MY SUPERFICIAL MOVEMENTS, COPY THEM, AND USE THE RAPIDITY OF THE TURNAROUND TO INDUCE FEAR AND INSECURITY.
"COPYING FORM"
FEH... YOU'RE A PALE IMITATION.
I'M THE GENUINE ARTICLE. NO MERE COPYCAT STANDS A CHANCE AGAINST ME.
"COPYING THOUGHT"
ONCE YOU'RE CERTAIN YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY HEART AND MIND, YOU CALCULATE JUST WHAT TO SAY TO BEND MY MIND TO YOUR WILL, AND THEN
YOU CALCULATE WHEN MY INSECURITIES HAVE REACHED A FEVER PITCH, AND THEN YOU LAY YOUR TRAP.
YOU USE VISUAL HYPNOSIS TO TRICK ME INTO SIGNALLING WHAT TECHNIQUE I'LL USE AND HOW I'LL BE USING IT.
... AND THEN ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MIMIC IT!
"COPYING NINJUTSU"

UHN!

"AAGH.. IT'S HARD TO BLOCK WHAT I CAN'T SEE!!!"

FIRST, I CONCEAL MYSELF WITHIN THIS THICK MIST AND NEUTRALIZE YOUR VISUAL ACUITY.

KNOWING THAT IT WAS SIMPLE TO CHOOSE A COUNTER-MEASURE.

AH--!

HEH HEH.. WITH MY OWN EYES CLOSED I ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY OF YOUR HYPNOTIZING ME WHILE WE'RE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY



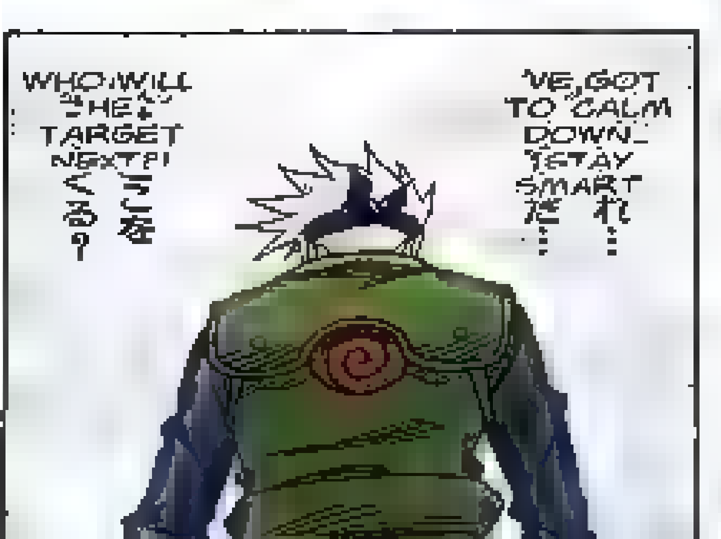


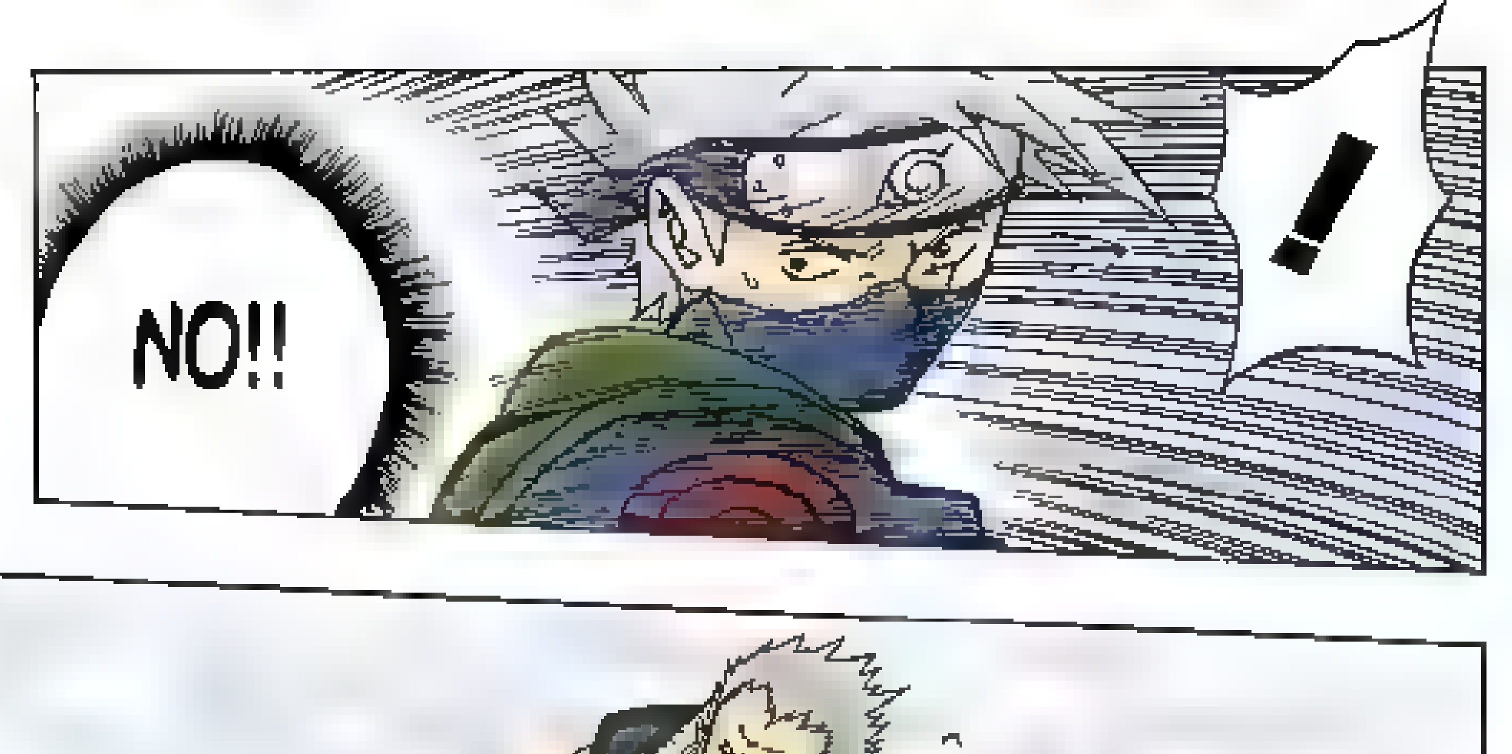
I AM TRAINED IN SILENT KILLING. MY GENIUS LIES IN THE ABILITY TO HUNT BY SOUND ALONE!



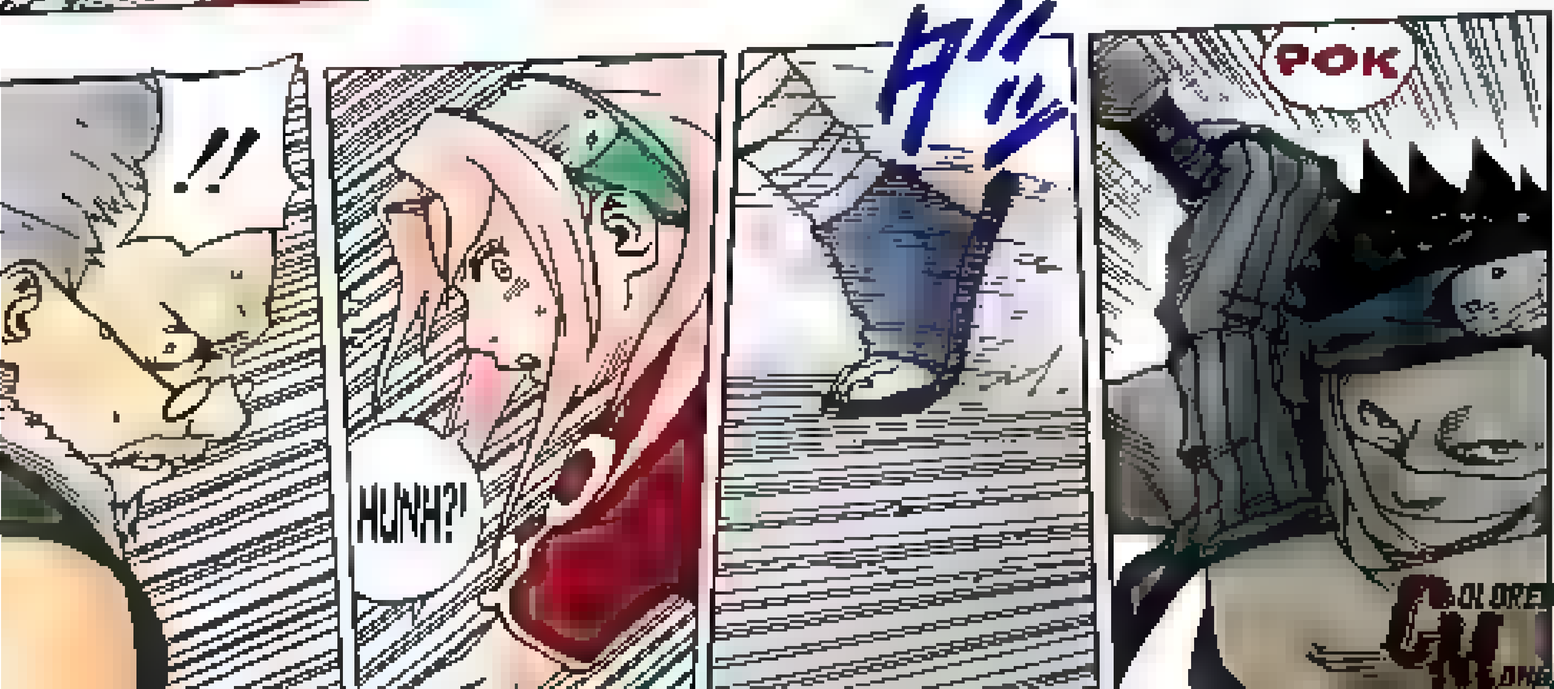




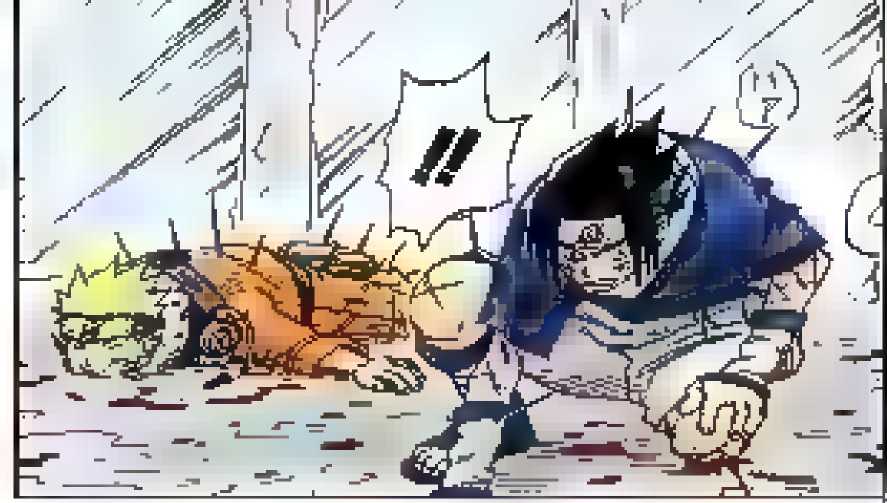




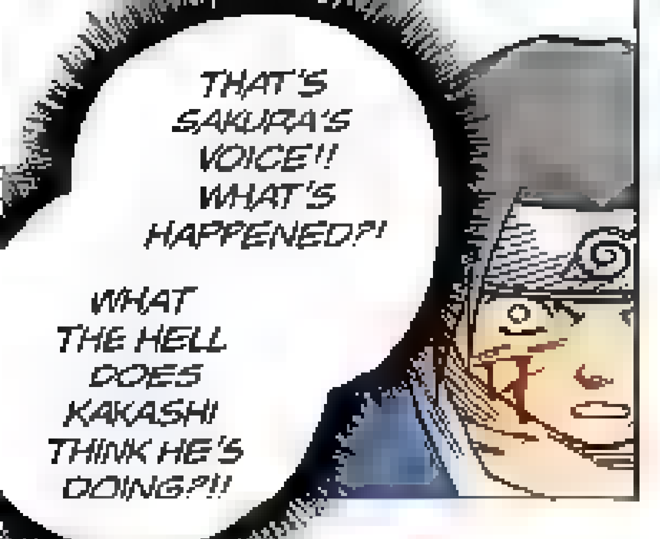
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!!
!
TOO LATE!!
AIEEEEE!!

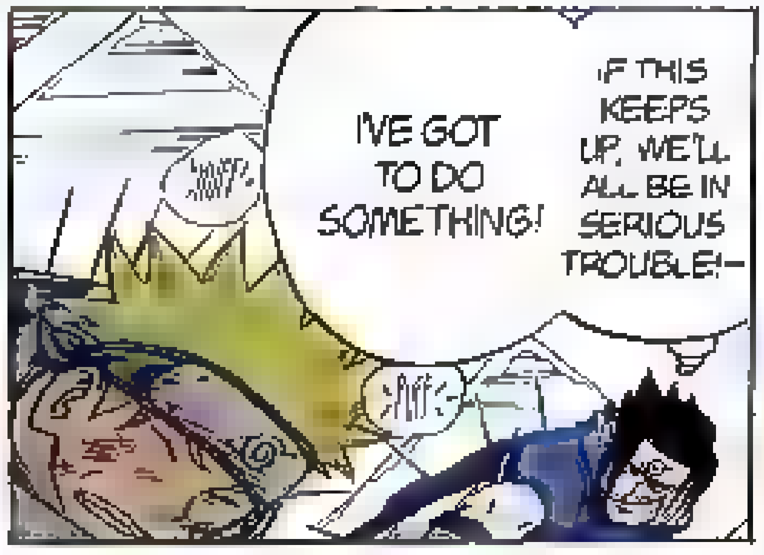


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THAT'S SAKURA'S VOICE!! WHAT'S HAPPENED?!
WHAT THE HELL DOES KAKASHI THINK HE'S DOING?!!





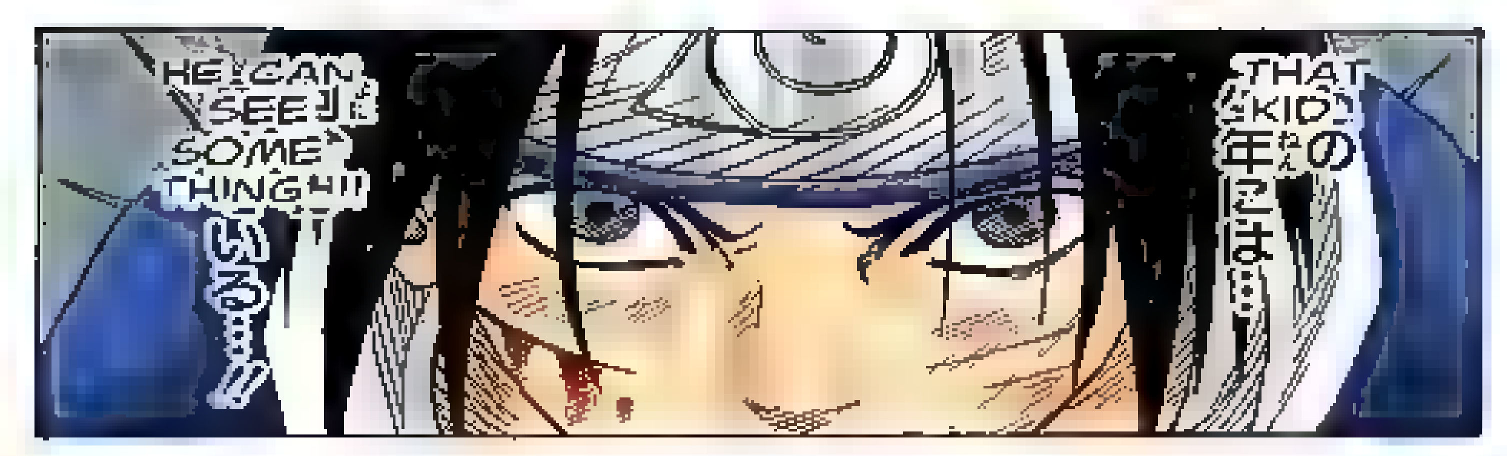
IF THIS KEEPS UP, WE'LL ALL BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!–
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!



MY EYES ARE BEGINNING TO ADJUST TO THE ENVIRONMENT...



I'VE BEEN TARGETING THE POINTS THAT WOULD RESULT IN MORTAL INJURIES BUT... HE'S EVADED EVERY ATTEMPT!
AND WHILE HE'S DIVIDING HIS OWN FOCUS BETWEEN FIGHTING ME AND WATCHING OUT FOR HIS FRIEND... HE'S GRADUALLY GAINING SPEED, BEGINNING TO CATCH UP TO MY OWN MOVES..



THAT KID
HE CAN SEE SOMETHING!!



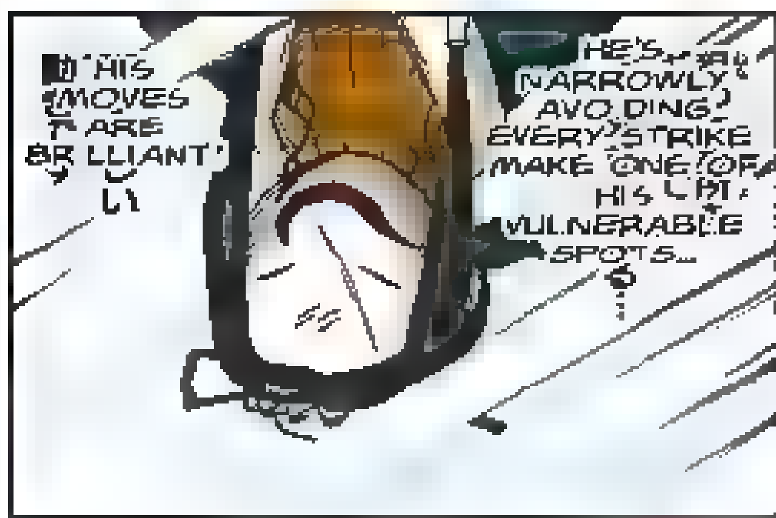
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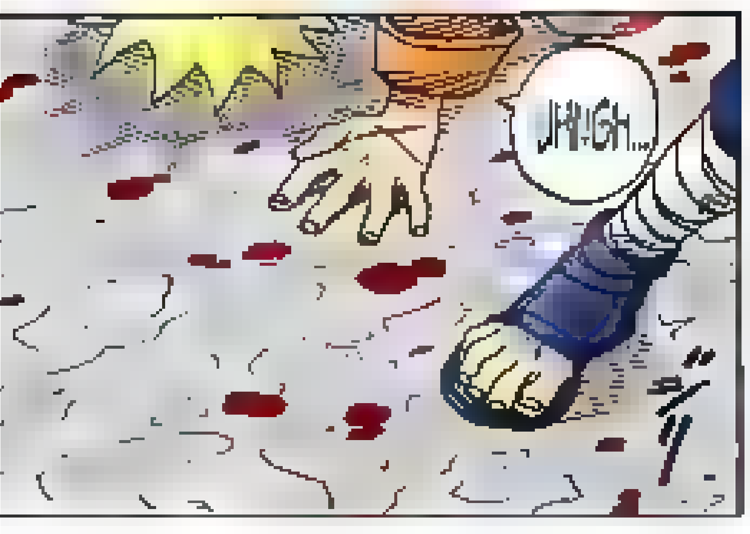
REAL NARUTO



27：覚醒…!!

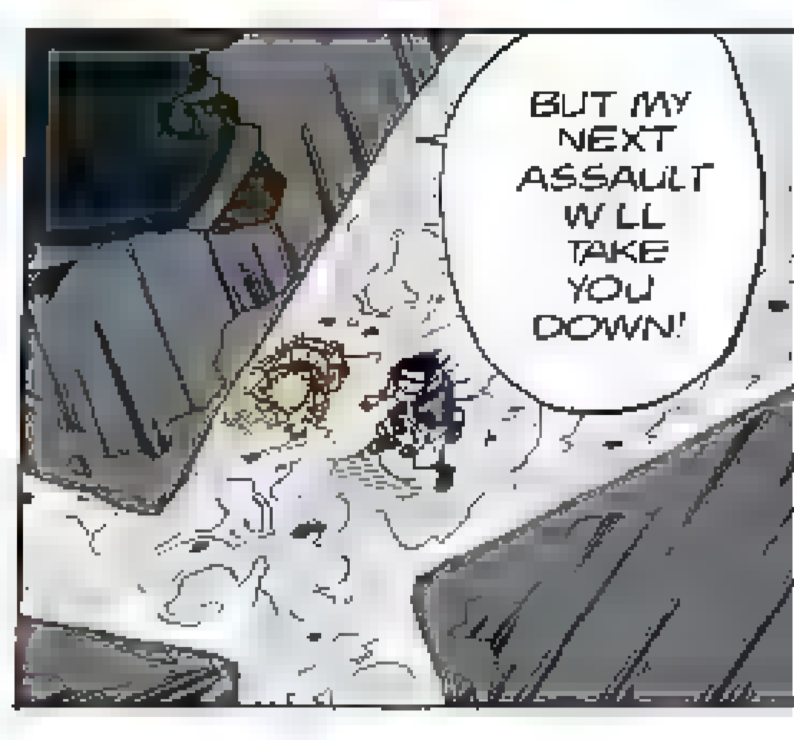
AWAKENING...!!








YOU...
...MOVE WELL...

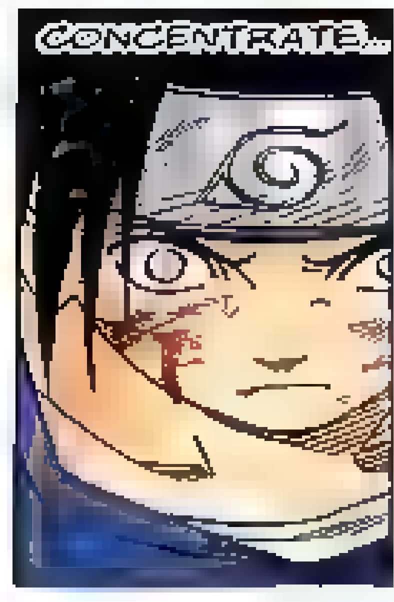

BUT MY NEXT ASSAULT WILL TAKE YOU DOWN!


HE SHOWS AMAZING STAMINA, REFLEXES, TRAINING, SKILL, AND JUDGEMENT


THROUGH HIS! EVERY FACULTY MUST BE EXTENDED PAST ITS LIMIT BY NOW...


HERE HE COMES!!


STAY FROSTY. FOCUS...


CONCENTRATE...


AND LOOK THROUGH THE ILLUSION!!

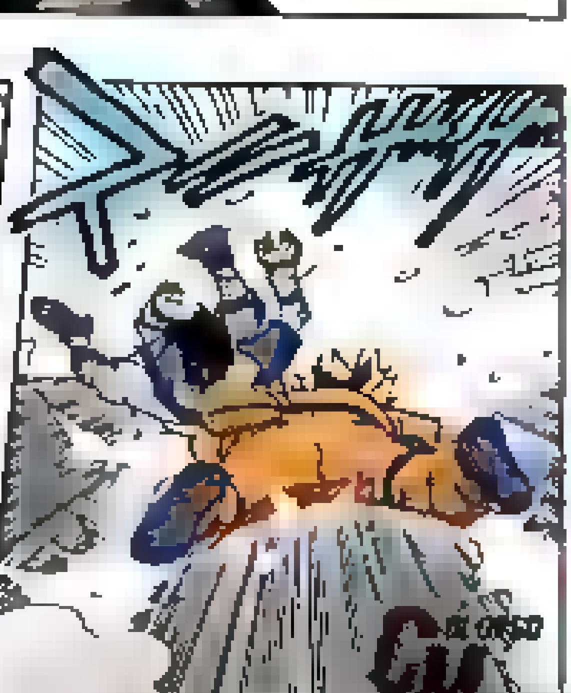

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HE WASN'T FOOLED... OR EVEN CONFUSED!
IMPOSSIBLE...!!


!!

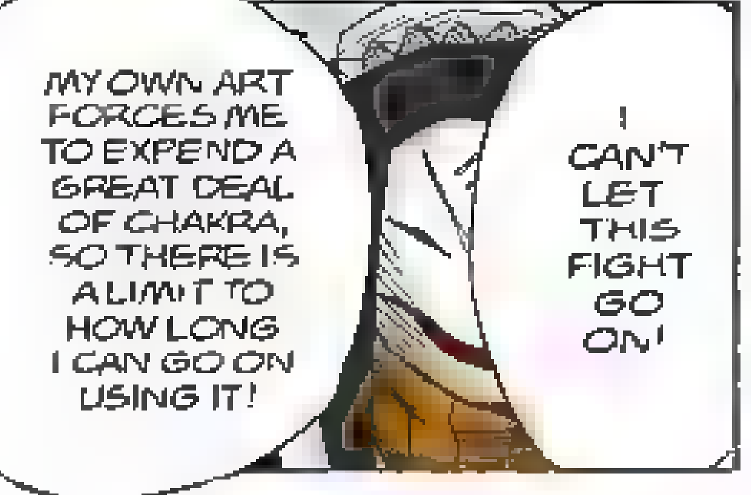


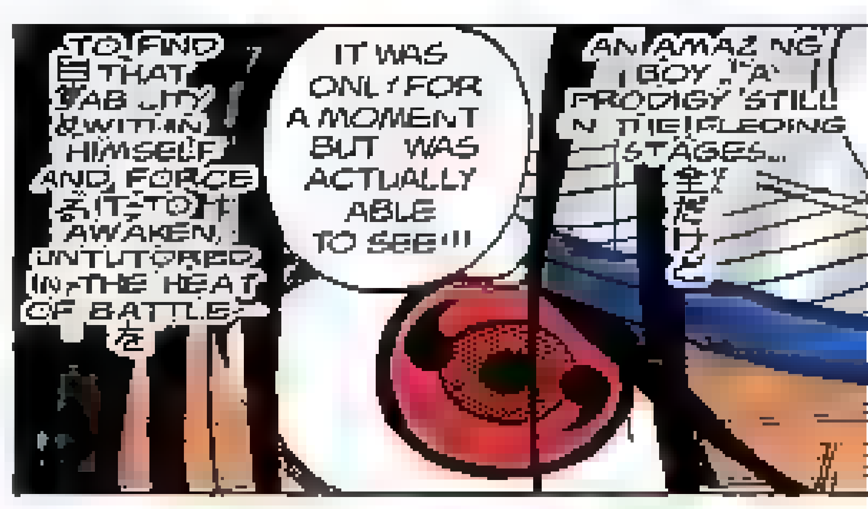

!




SEE. YOU TOO, SHARE THE LEGACY OF A KEKKEI GENKAI BLOODLINE!
...YOU'RE...!

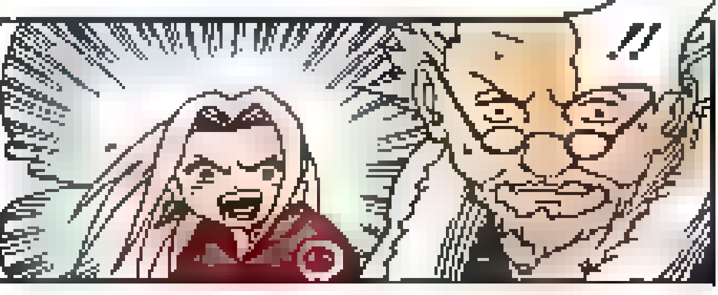

THEY'RE... SHARINGAN...?!
HIS EYES ARE.. IT CAN'T BE--!


MY OWN ART FORCES ME TO EXPEND A GREAT DEAL OF CHAKRA, SO THERE IS A LIMIT TO HOW LONG I CAN GO ON USING IT!
I CAN'T LET THIS FIGHT GO ON!

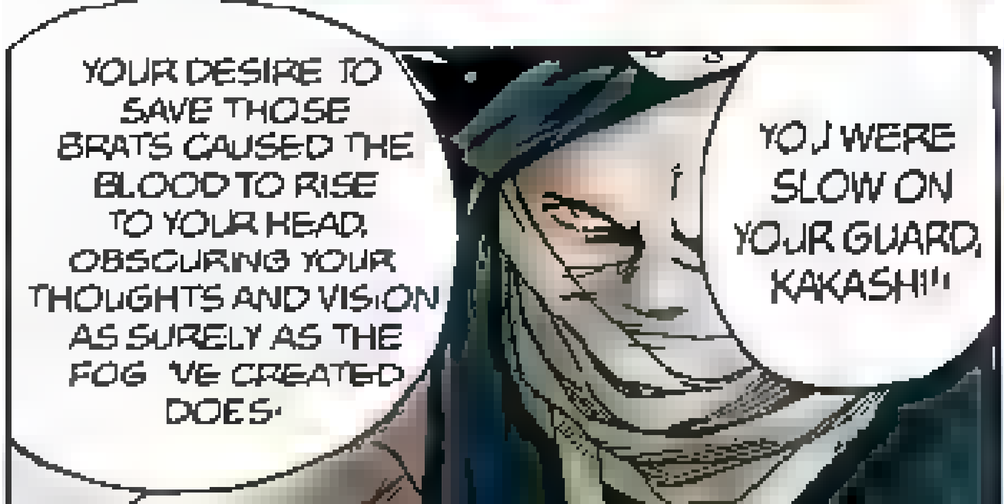

TO FIND THAT WITHIN HIMSELF AND FORCE IT TO AWAKEN, UNTUTORED IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE
IT WAS ONLY FOR A MOMENT BUT WAS ACTUALLY ABLE TO SEE!!!
BOY PRODIGY STILL STAGES...


ESPECIALLY SINCE, TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, YOU CAN
TIME TO BRING THIS TO AN END!!

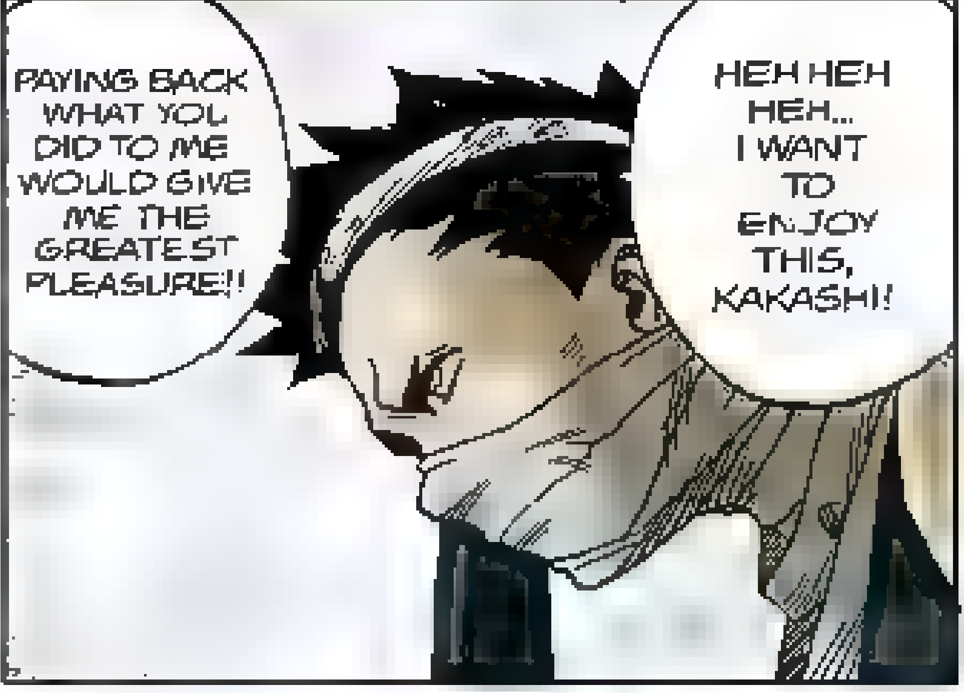

MASTER KAKASHI!


!!


UHNN...

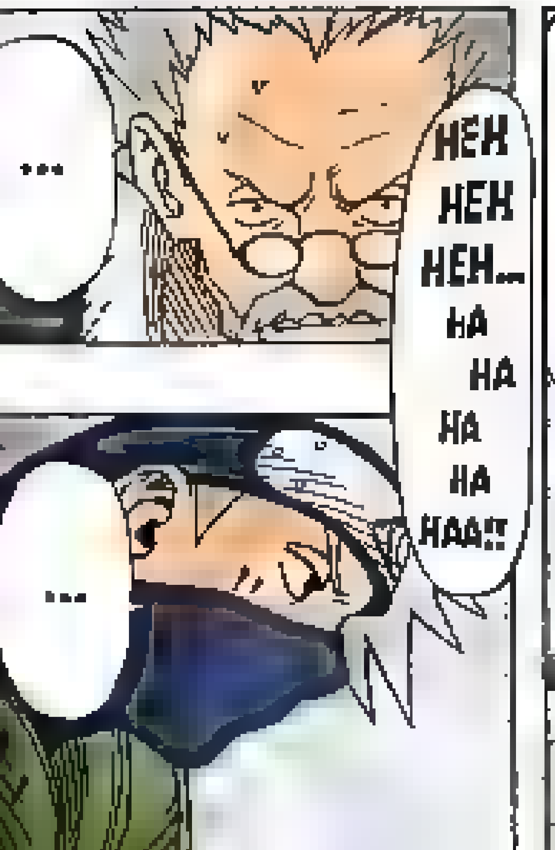

YOU WERE SLOW ON YOUR GUARD, KAKASHI!!
YOUR DESIRE TO SAVE THOSE BRATS CAUSED THE BLOOD TO RISE TO YOUR HEAD, OBSCURING YOUR THOUGHTS AND VISION AS SURELY AS THE FOG I'VE CREATED DOES.


...EVEN WITH YOUR IMPRESSIVE EYE AND THE FORMIDABLE POWERS YOU WIELD WITH IT...
YOUR ABILITY TO READ MY MOVEMENTS HAS BEEN BLUNTED!


HEH HEH HEH... I WANT TO ENJOY THIS, KAKASHI!
PAYING BACK WHAT YOU DID TO ME WOULD GIVE ME THE GREATEST PLEASURE!!


DON'T WORRY, HAKU SHOULD BE FINISHING OFF THOSE BRATS OF YOURS RIGHT ABOUT NOW...
カチャ


I'LL BE REUNITING YOU WITH THEM SHORTLY.
WHEN YOU MEET THEM IN THE AFTER-LIFE, BEG THEM TO FORGIVE YOU FOR YOUR WEAKNESS AND FOLLY!
HEH HEH HEH... HA HA HA HA HAA!!


...
...

SASUKE WON'T BE EASY FOR SOMEONE LIKE THAT MASKED KID TO DEFEAT!

NEITHER WILL NARUTO!!

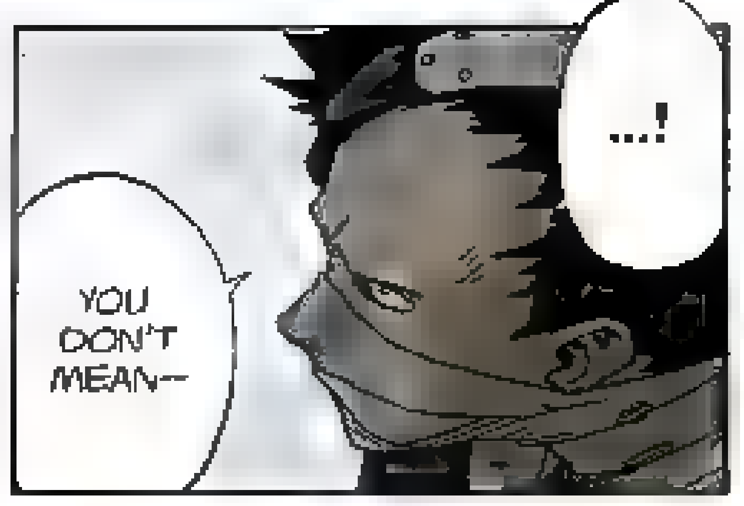




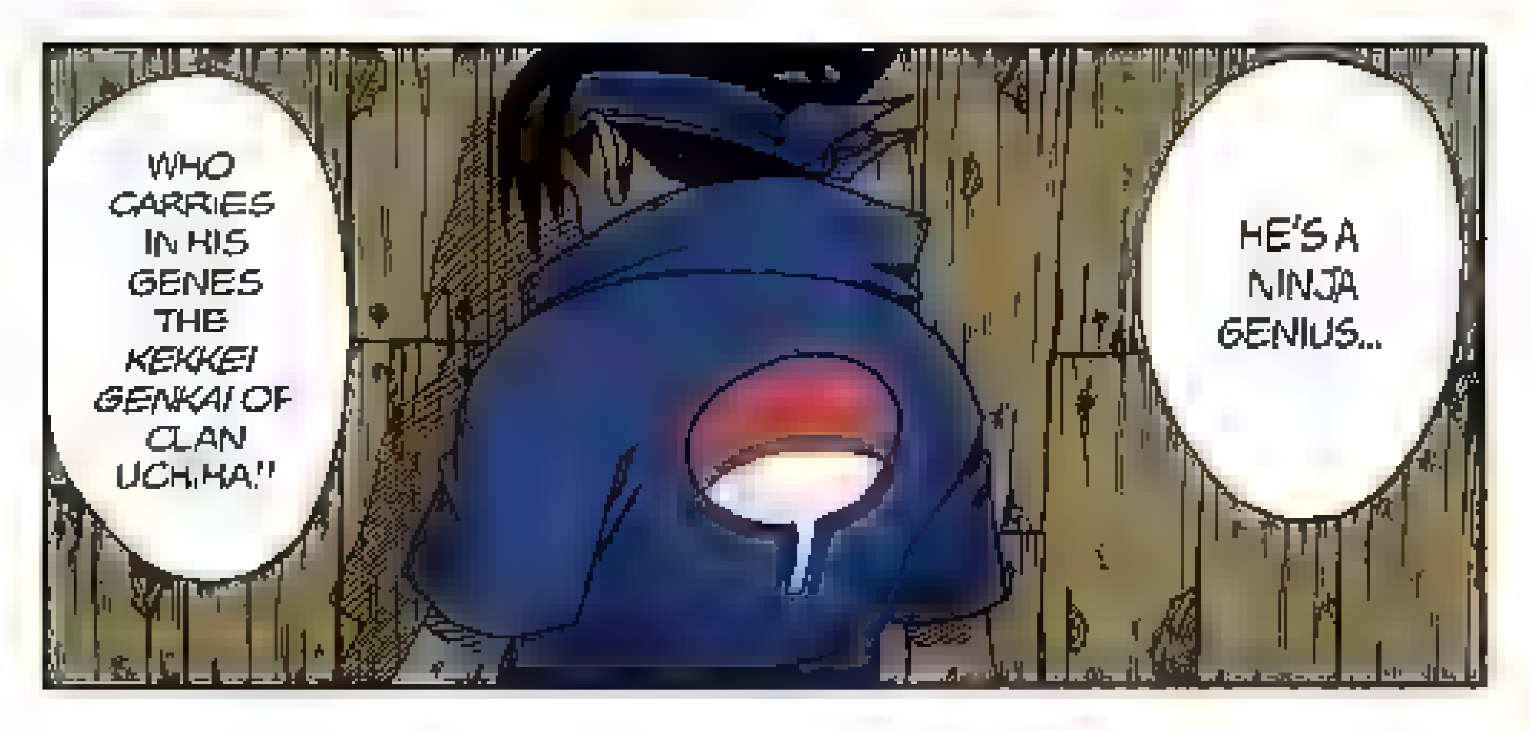


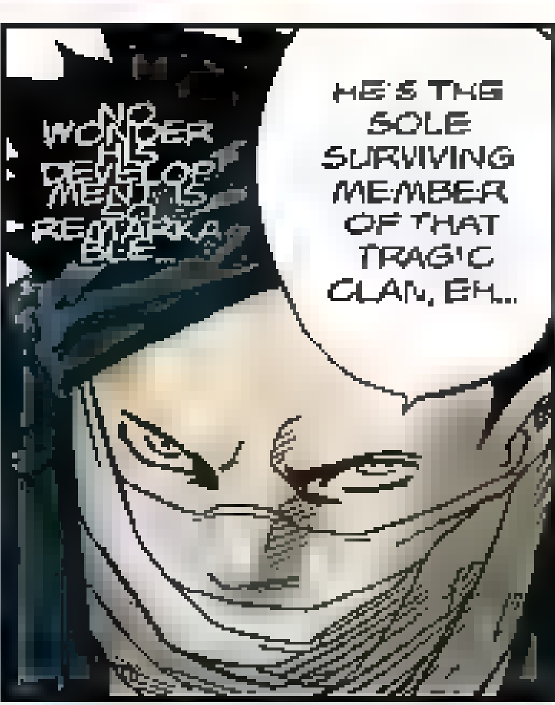




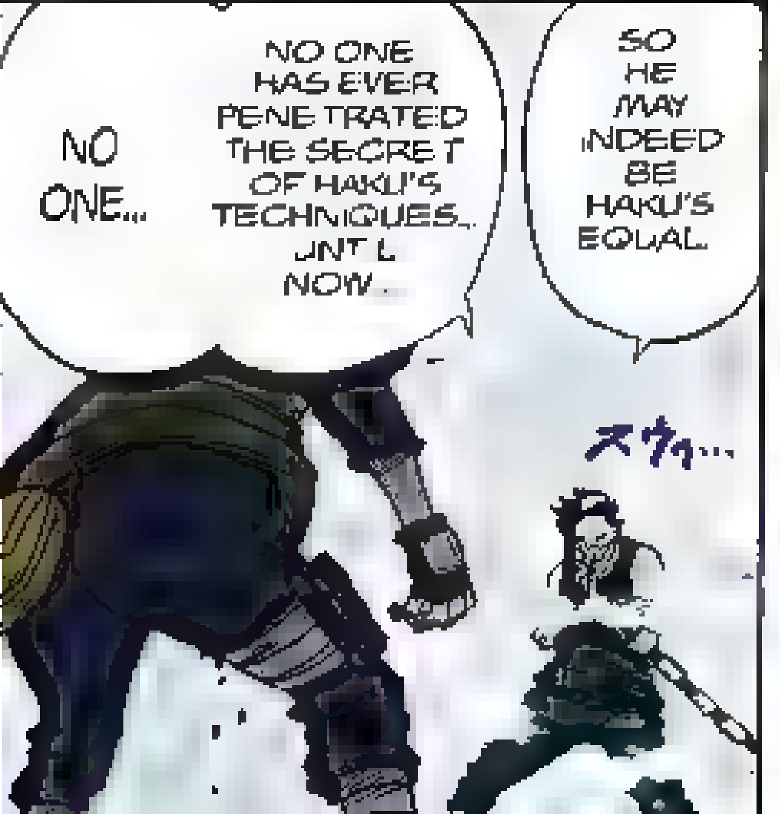

...!
YOU DON'T MEAN—


THAT'S RIGHT...
HIS FULL NAME IS UCHIHA SASUKE.

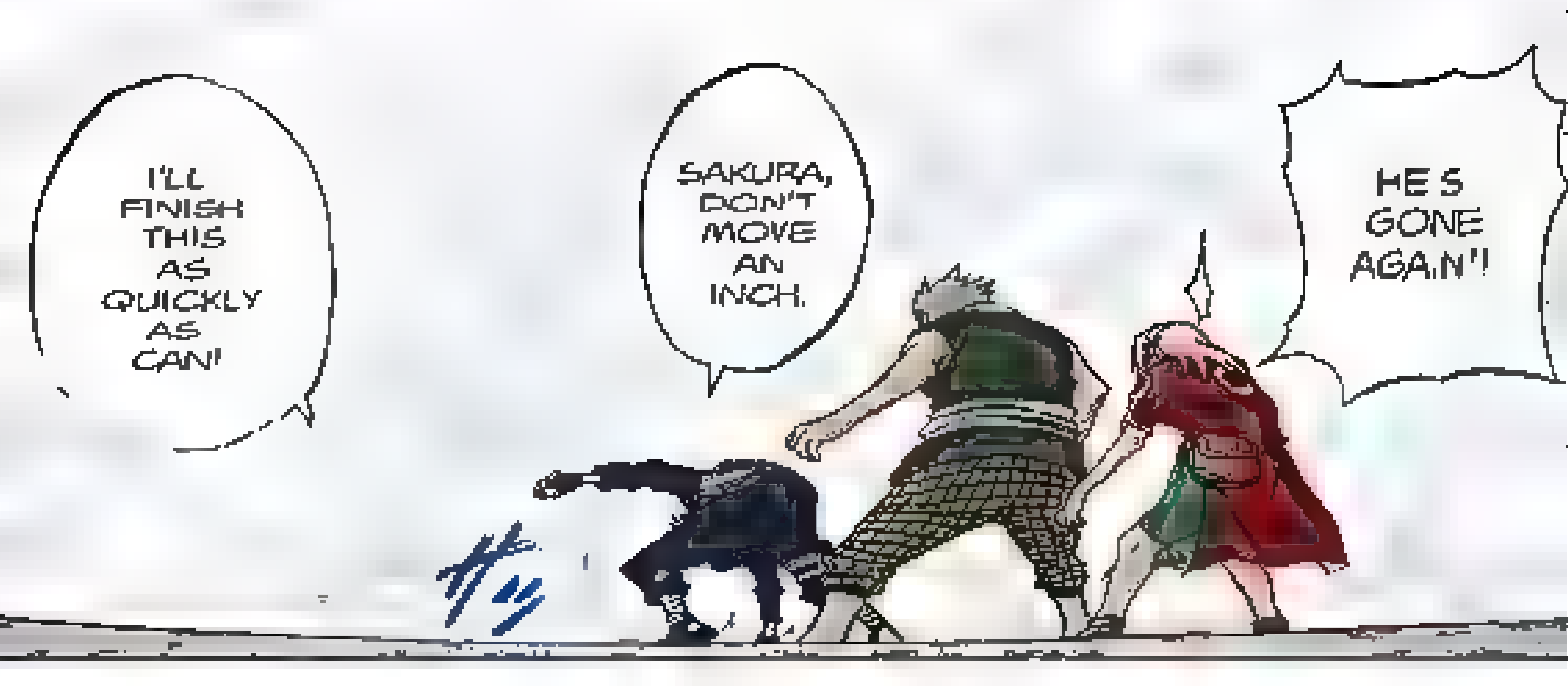

HE'S A NINJA GENIUS...
WHO CARRIES IN HIS GENES THE *KEKKEI GENKAI* OF CLAN UCHIHA!!

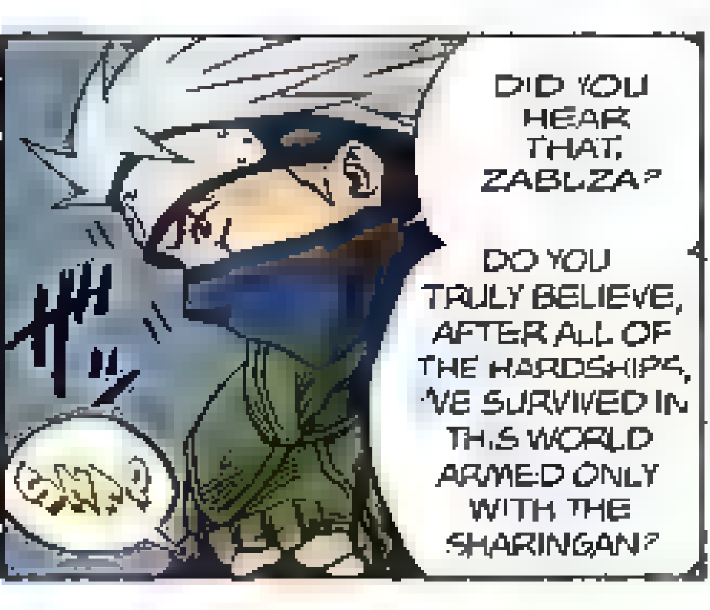

HE'S THE SOLE SURVIVING MEMBER OF THAT TRAGIC CLAN, EH...
NO WONDER HIS DEVELOPMENT IS SO REMARKABLE...


スッ


SO HE MAY INDEED BE HAKU'S EQUAL.
NO ONE HAS EVER PENETRATED THE SECRET OF HAKU'S TECHNIQUES... UNTIL NOW...
NO ONE...
スゥ...











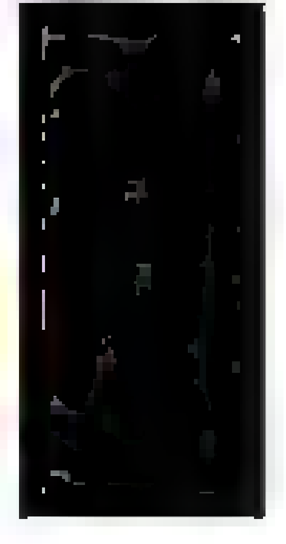
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT KIND OF SHINOBI ONCE WAS..

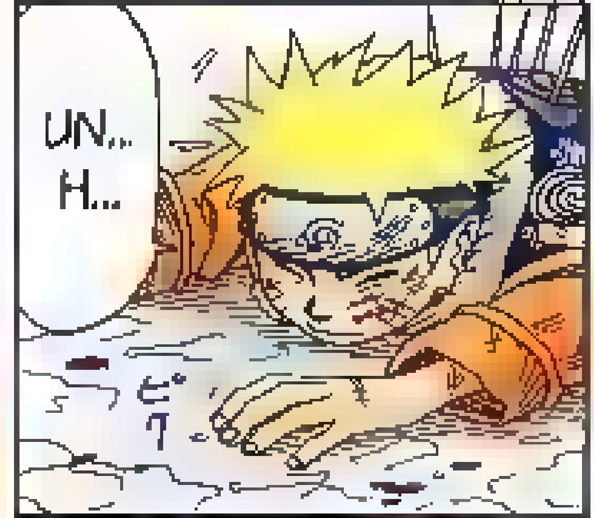
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING I LEARNED WITH THE SHARINGAN. LET ME SHOW YOU MY OWN TRUE ART!

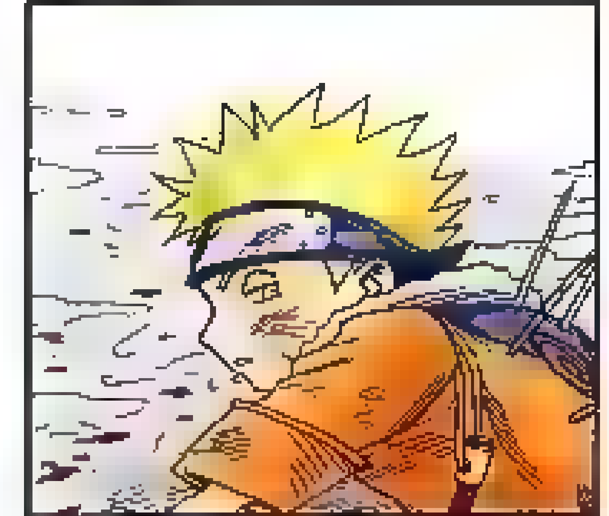
SNAP

TUMP

I TOO WAS ONCE A MEMBER OF A NINJA ASSASSIN CORPS.

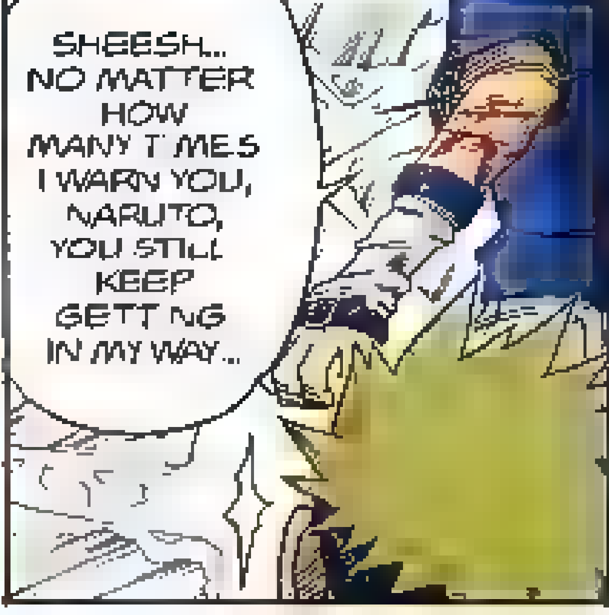



UN... H...
ピク



!!

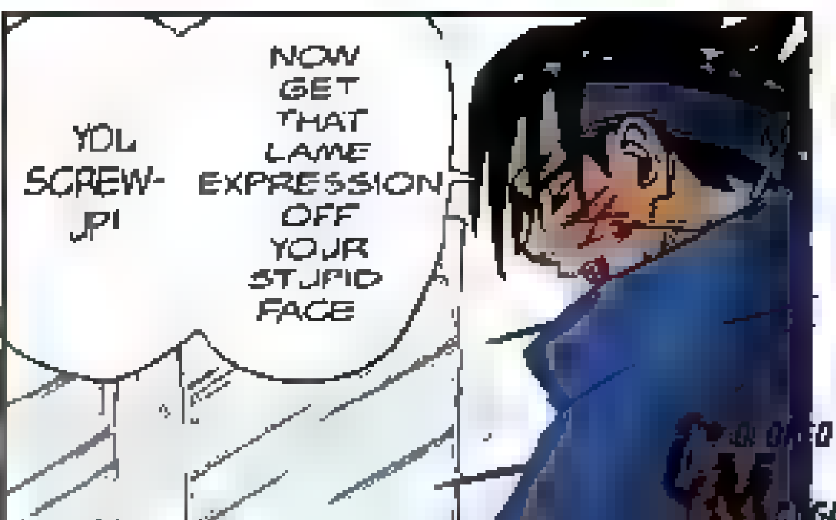



SHEESH... NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I WARN YOU, NARUTO, YOU STILL KEEP GETTING IN MY WAY...


SASUKE! YOU...
!


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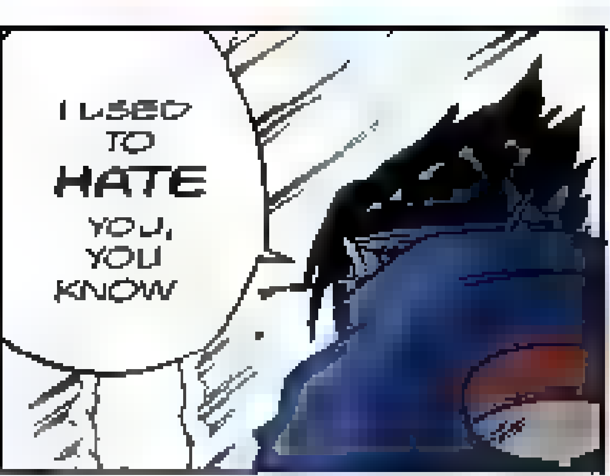

WH- WHY...
HE WAS TRYING TO COVER ME?!
...

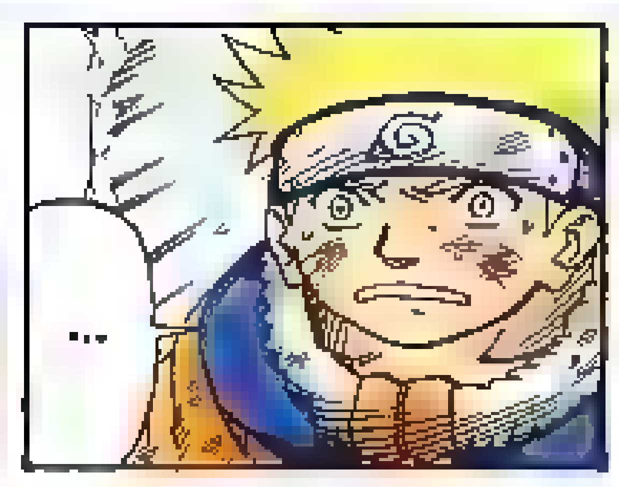

YOU SCREW-UP!
NOW GET THAT LAME EXPRESSION OFF YOUR STUPID FACE



"WHY"...

YOU ASK ME WHY?





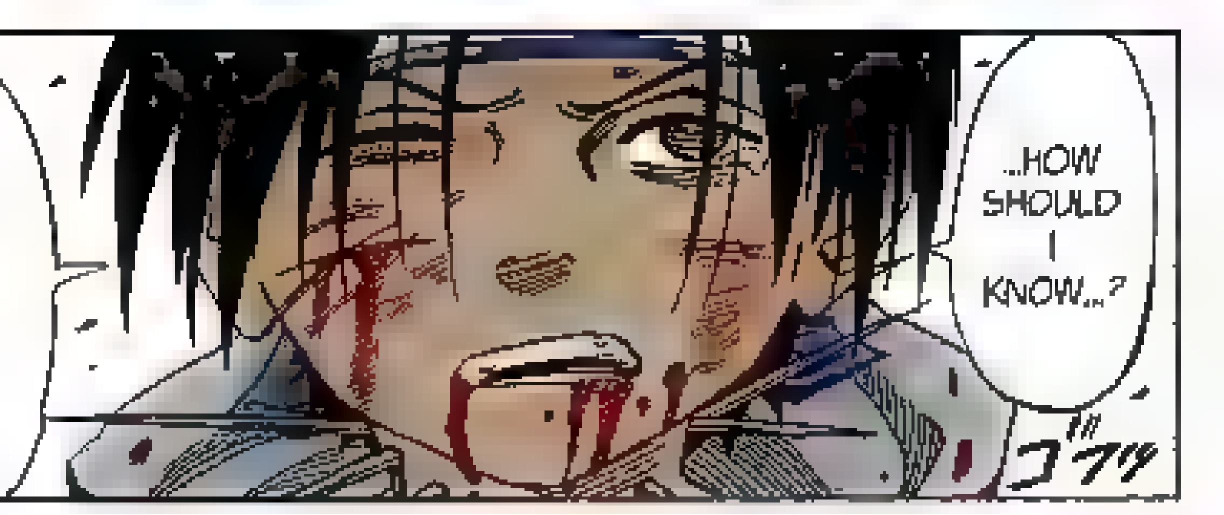




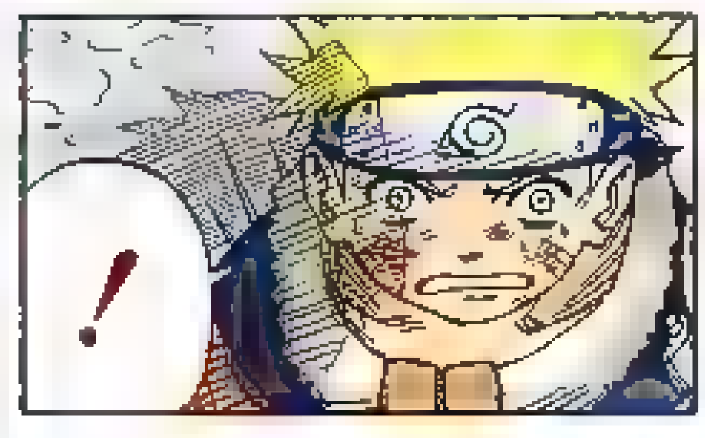

YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST MINDED YOUR OWN BUSINESS!!

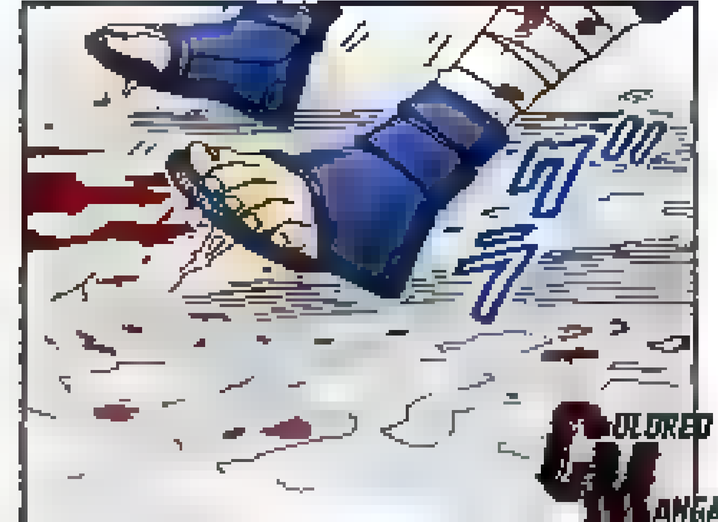



WHY... WHY DID YOU...?!
WHY...
ME...?

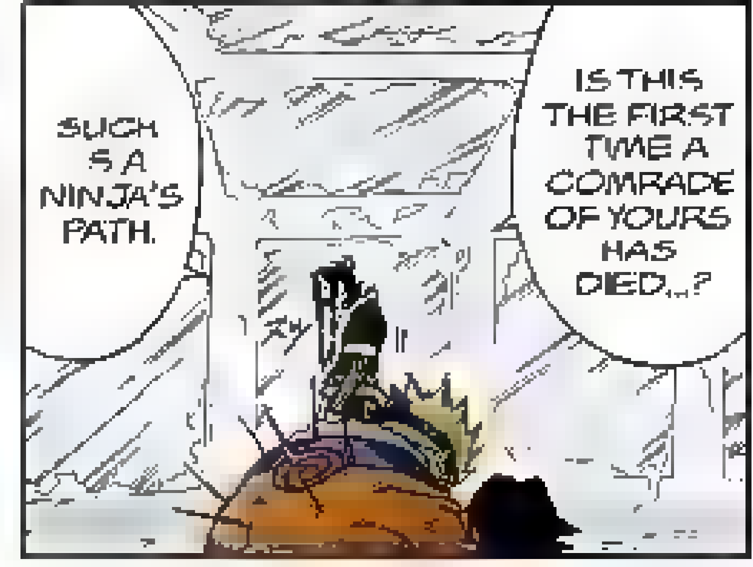

...HOW SHOULD I KNOW...?
MY BODY JUST... MOVED... ON ITS OWN... FOOL...!


!

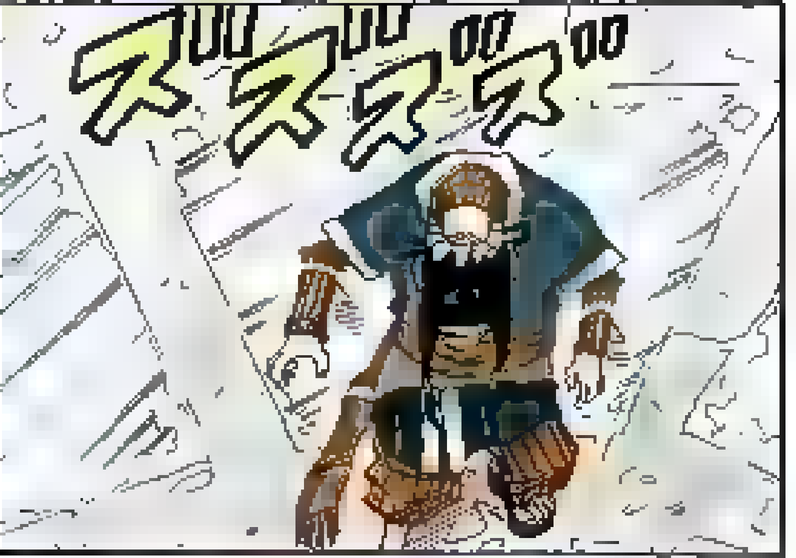

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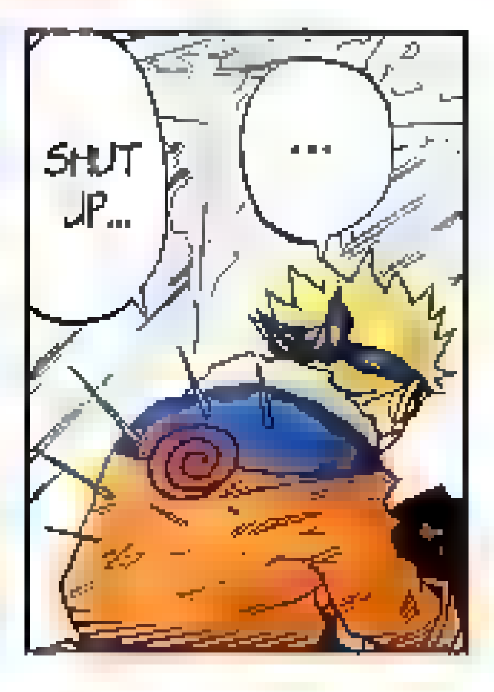

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!
...BUT DON'T YOU DARE DIE...
SWORE I WOULDN'T DIE...
...UNTIL I KILLED HIM... MY OLDER BROTHER THOUGHT THE OATH WOULD SAVE ME. BUT...
HE STRUCK ONE BLOW AT ME AND WITHOUT ANY SIGN OF SHIRKING
SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR YOU!!
HE WAS A SHINOBI WORTHY OF THE UTMOST RESPECT
WHO IN ORDER TO PROTECT SOMEONE HE CARED ABOUT THREW HIMSELF HEADLONG INTO WHAT HE KNEW FULL WELL WAS A TRAP.
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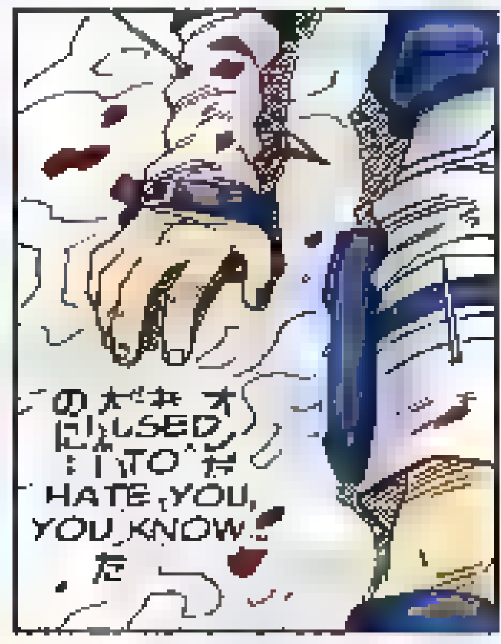


IS THIS THE FIRST TIME A COMRADE OF YOURS HAS DIED...?
SUCH IS A NINJA'S PATH.



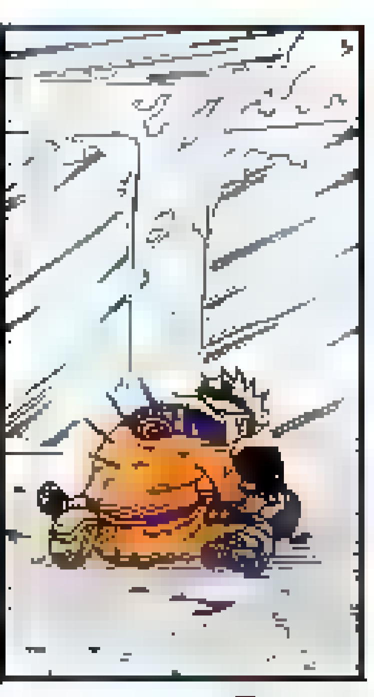


...
SHUT UP...



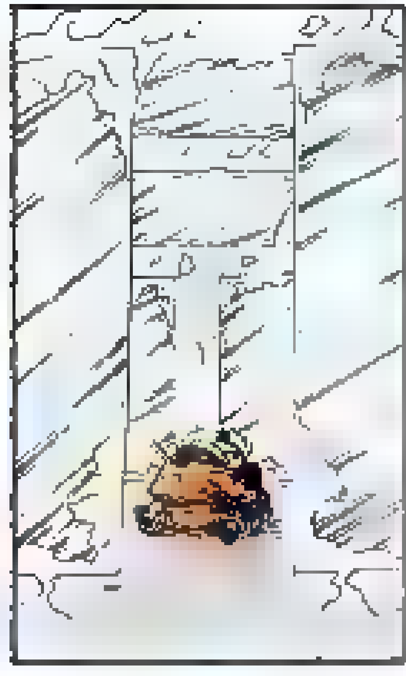
I USED TO HATE YOU, YOU KNOW...







I'M NEVER GONNA FORGIVE YOU FOR THIS...



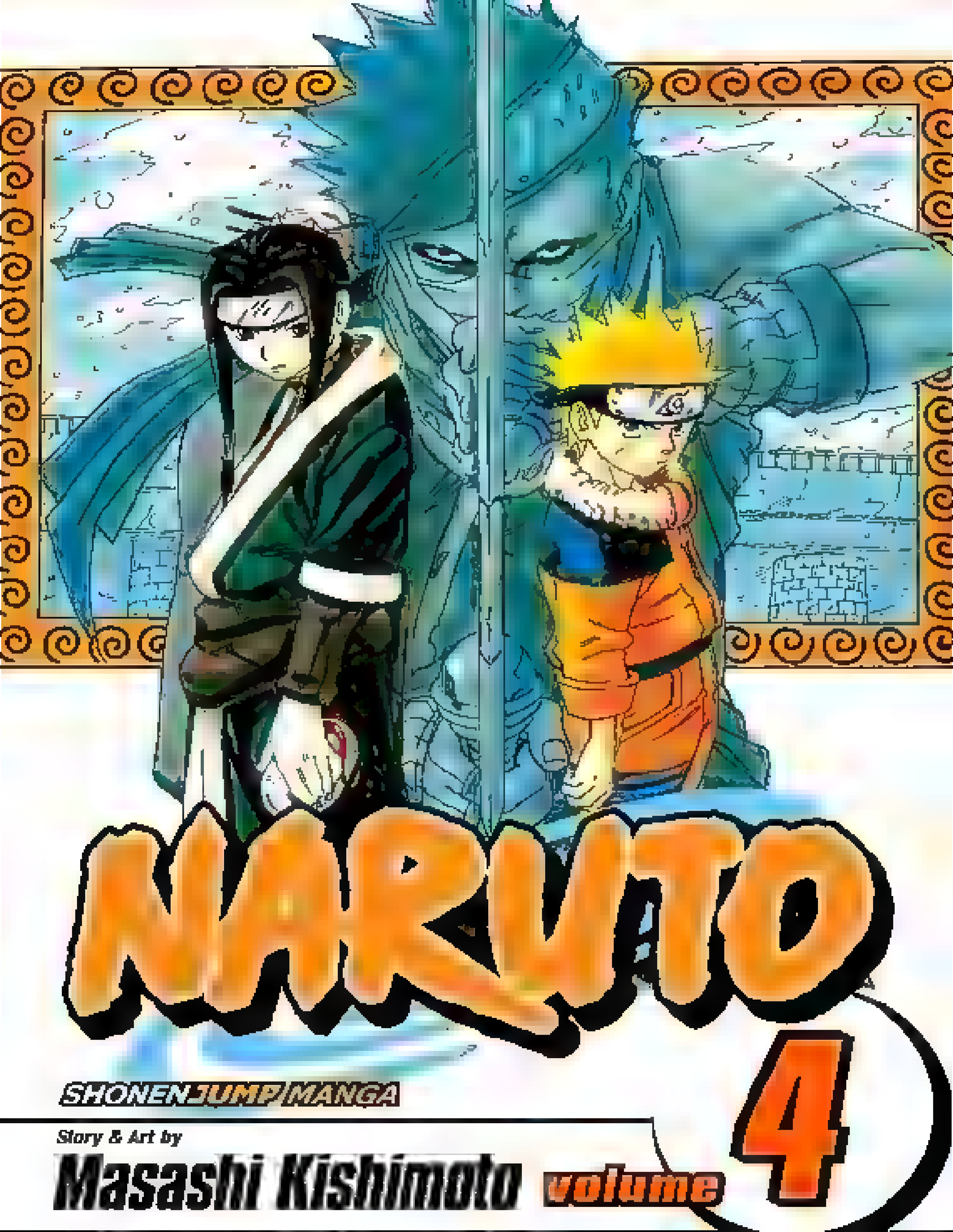


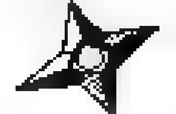
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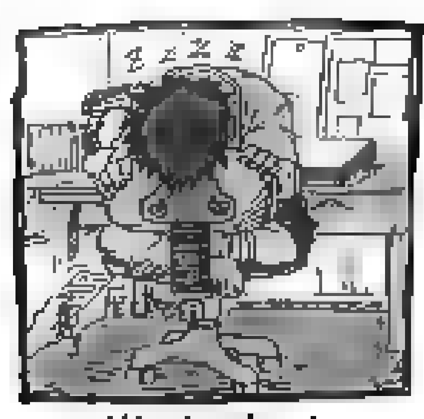



I'M GONNA KILL YOU!!!
!!




NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 4





岸本斉史

Thank you for your constant fan letters.
When I'm tired...
When I'm bored...
When I'm groaning in pain...
When I'm sleepy...
They always help to flip my heart's switch.
I read them all.
Thanks truly!!

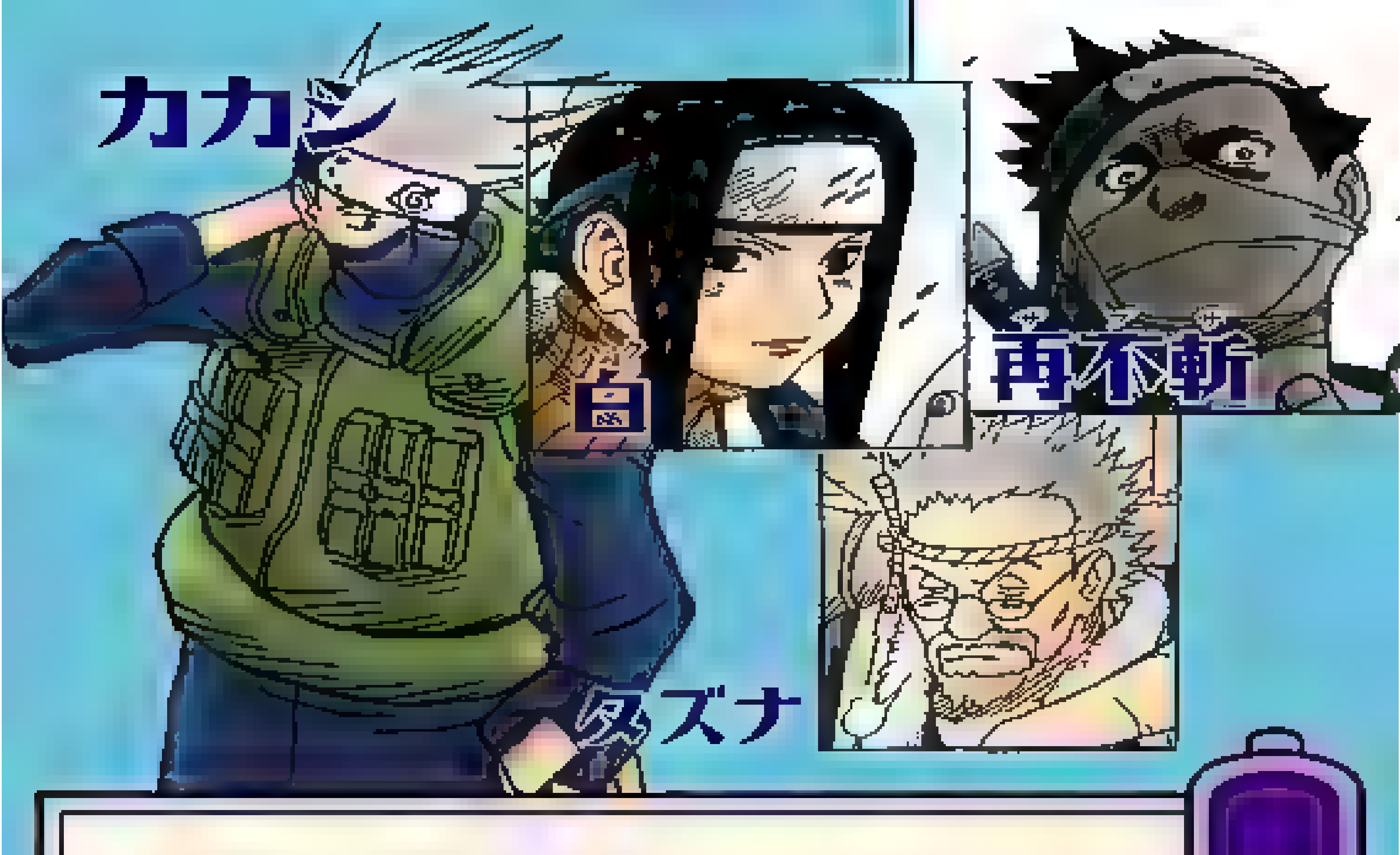
Masashi Kishimoto, 2000

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** ("Mechanism"). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.




JUMP COMICS
NARUTO
-ナルト-
巻ノ四
英雄の橋!!
岸本斉史


主な登場人物
うずまきナルト
目立ちたがり屋、意外性No１のドタバタ忍者☺
うちはサスケ
うちは一族の末裔。クールな奴。一族の復興が夢。
春野サクラ
おしゃまな女忍者。頭の中はサスケの事で一杯♡



THE STORY SO FAR

Twelve years ago, a destructive nine-tailed fox spirit attacked the ninja village of Konohagakure The Hokage, or village champion, defeated the fox by sealing its soul into the body of a baby boy. Now that boy, Uzumaki Naruto, has grown up to become a ninja-in-training learning the art of ninjutsu with his classmates Sakura and Sasuke. Tired of easy exercises, Naruto and his classmates make the mistake of asking their teacher, Kakashi, for a really hard assignment... and find themselves in the Land of Waves, protecting a bridge builder named Tazuna. But the job turns truly dangerous when the notorious assassin Zabuza shows up. While Kakashi holds off Zabuza and Sakura protects Tazuna, Naruto and Sasuke face Zabuza's assistant Haku. In the battle, Sasuke sacrifices himself to save Naruto from Haku's deadly throwing needles. Now, watching his classmate fall, Naruto feels something terrible stir within him...

前巻までのあらすじ

NARUTO

ーナルトー

巻ノ四

英雄の橋!!



CONTENTS





NiNE TAiLS...!!

28：九尾…!!

WH.. WHAT CHAKRA IS THIS?!

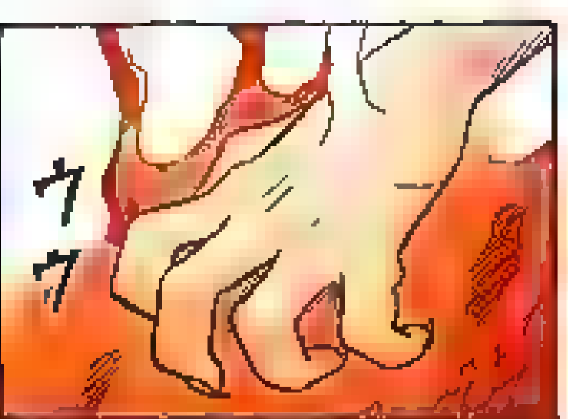
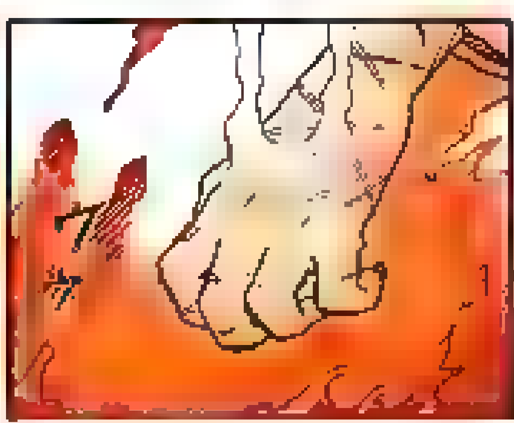
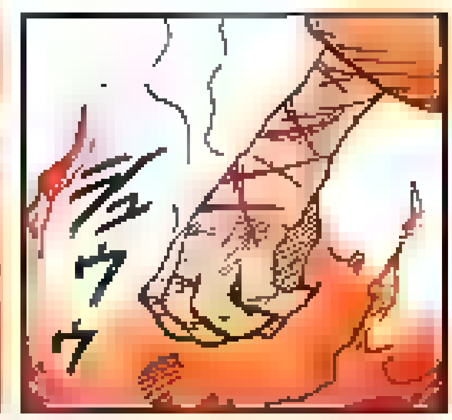
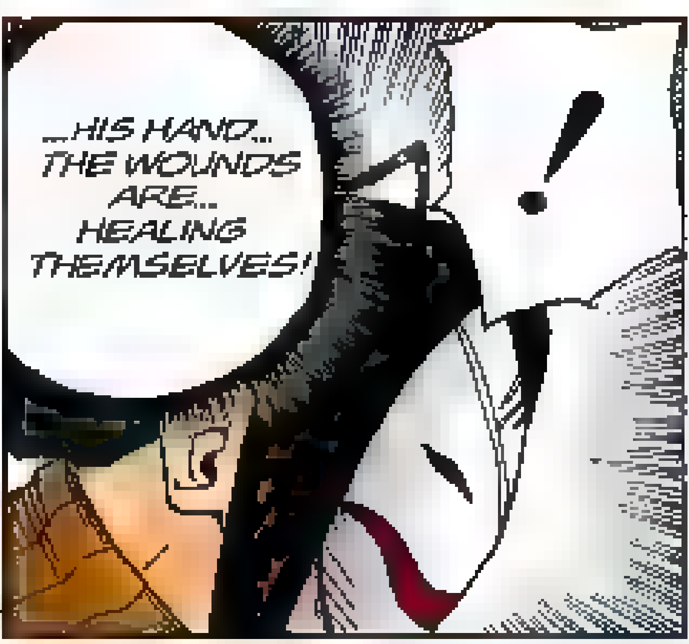
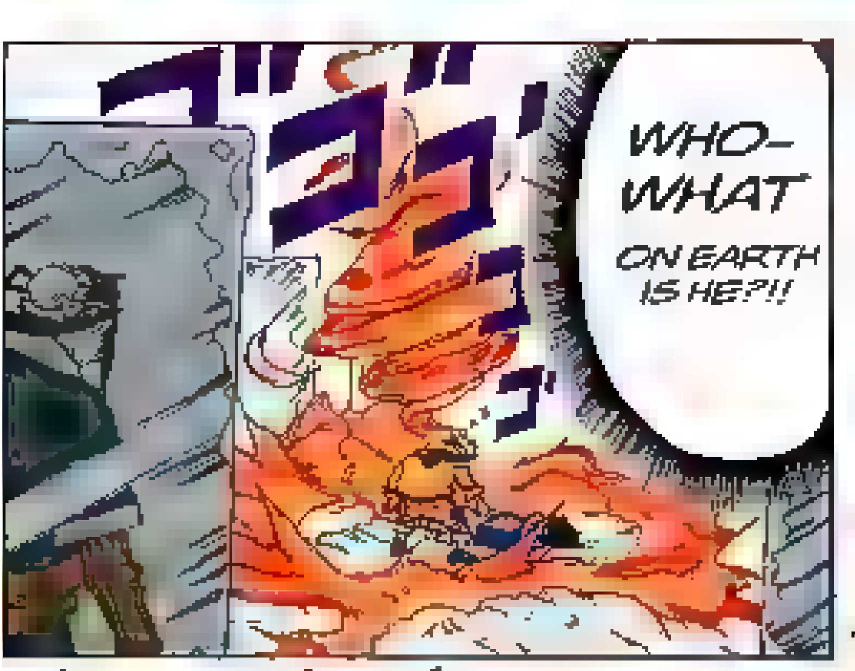
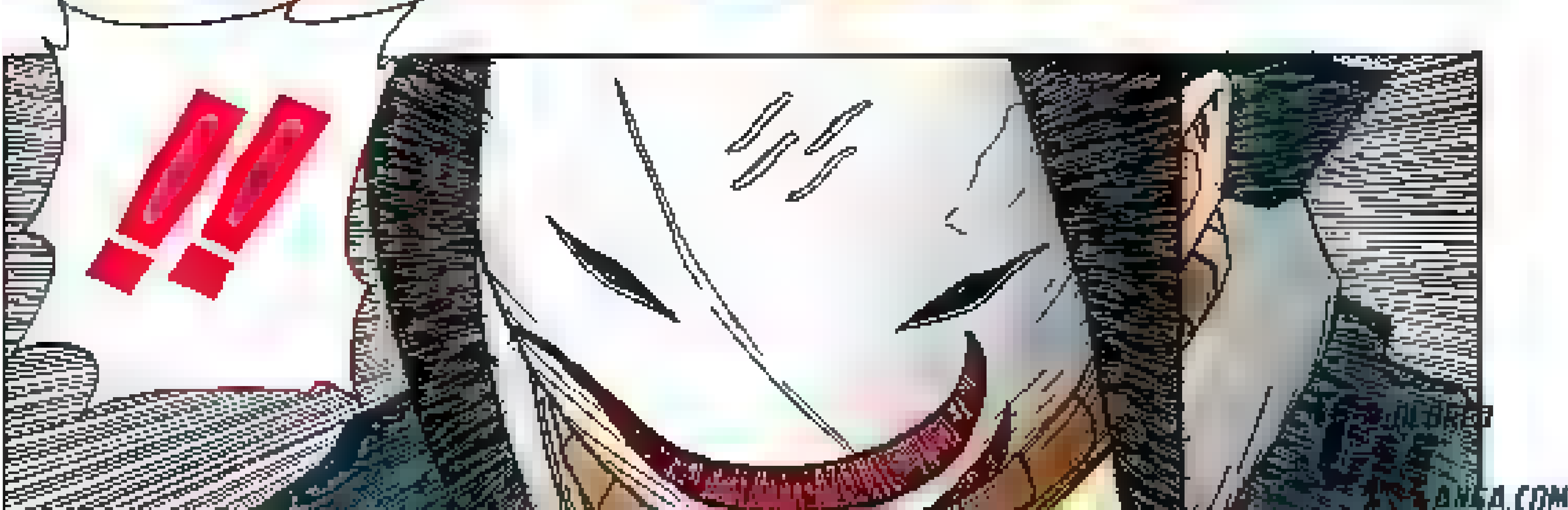
!

!!



28：九尾…!!

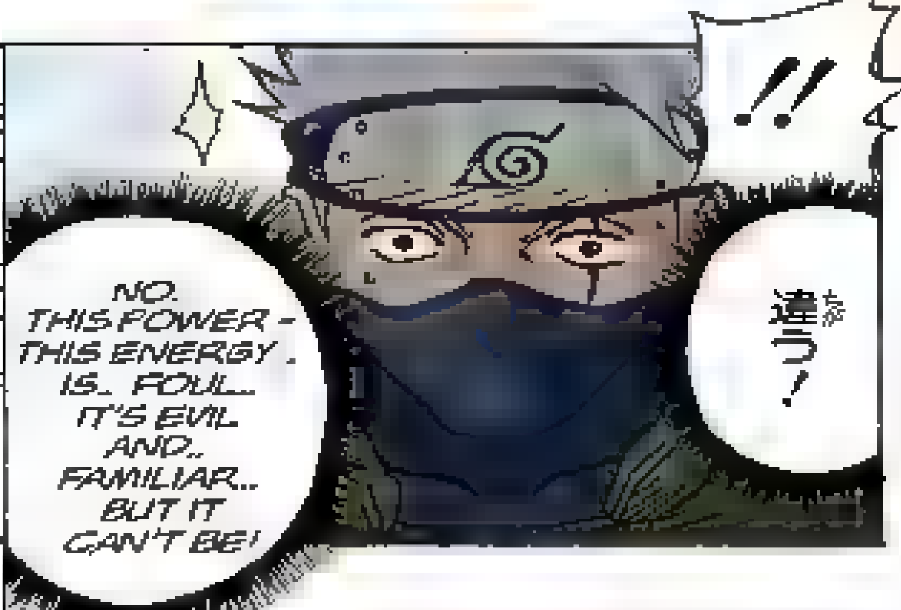



...IMPOSSIBLE...!!
HIS CHAKRA IS PHYSICALLY MANIFESTING ITSELF!
...A AND AN APPALLING CHAKRA IT IS!

ウウ


ウウ

...HIS HAND... THE WOUNDS ARE... HEALING THEMSELVES!
!

ゴゴゴ
WHO- WHAT ON EARTH IS HE?!!

!!

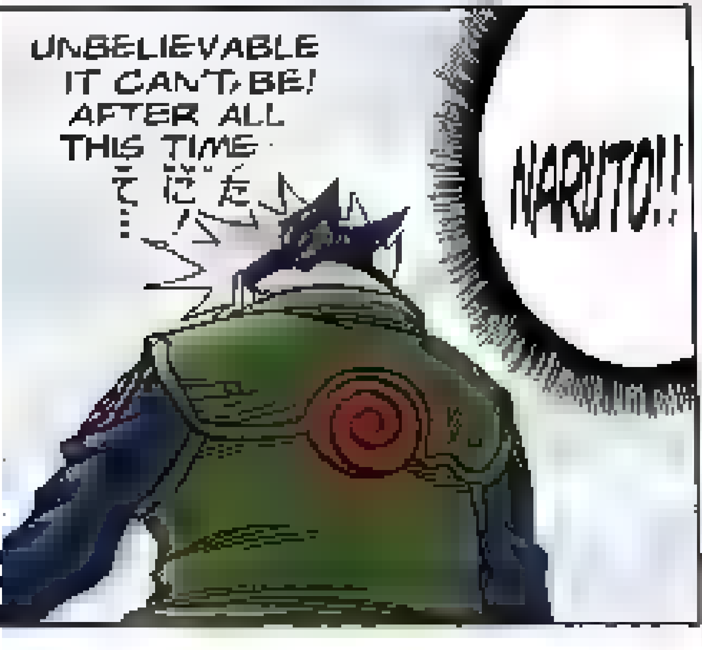

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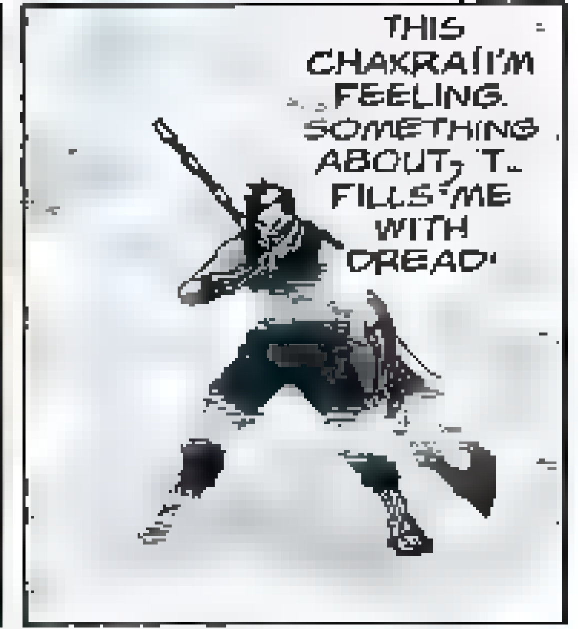

...!!
IS THIS.. ZABUZA'S DOING?!

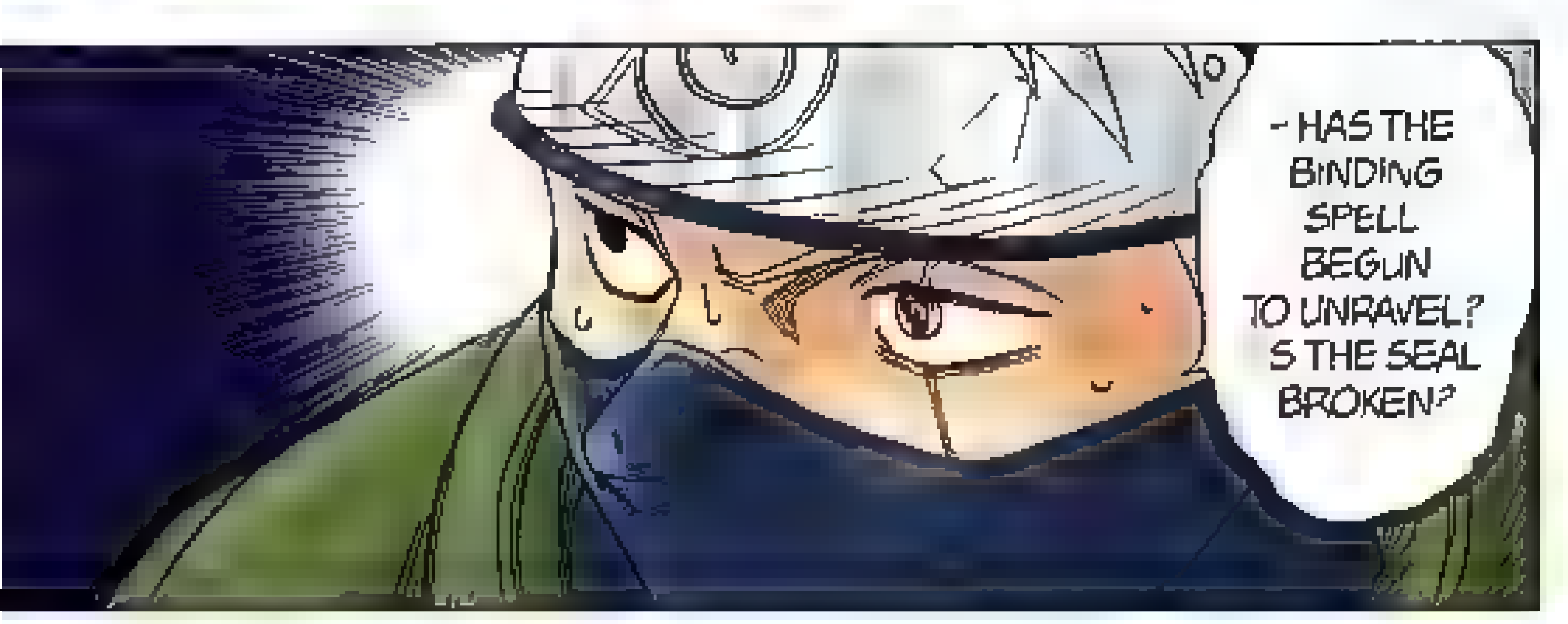

!!
違う!
NO. THIS POWER - THIS ENERGY . IS.. FOUL.. IT'S EVIL AND.. FAMILIAR... BUT IT CAN'T BE!

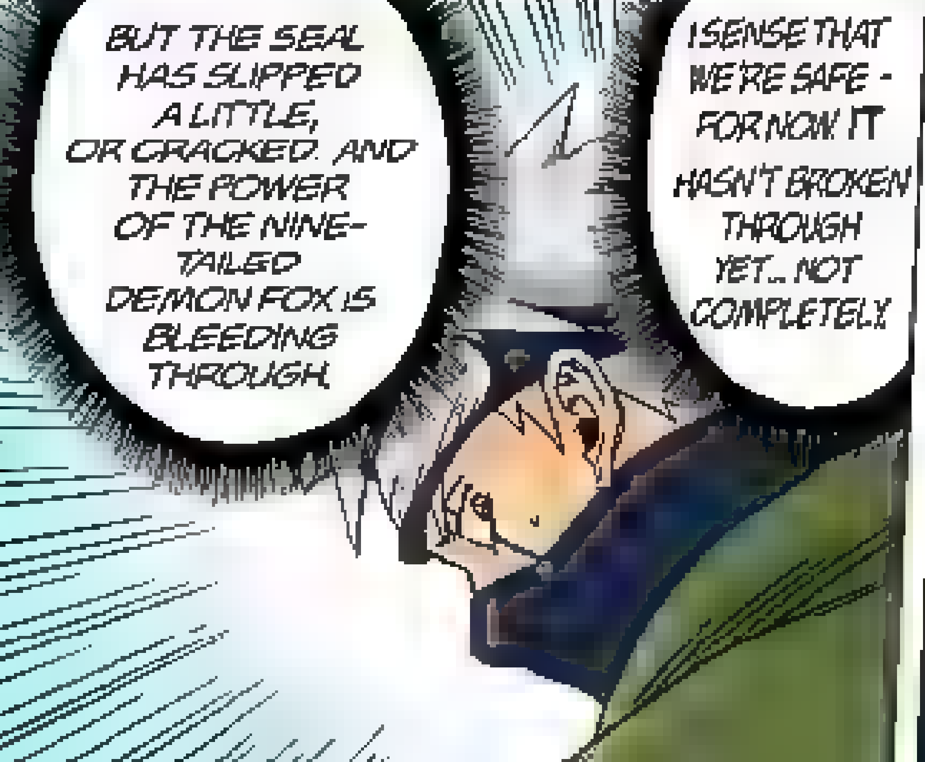

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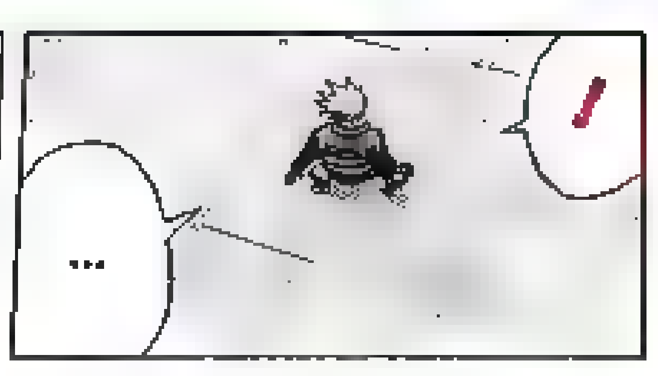

UNBELIEVABLE IT CAN'T BE! AFTER ALL THIS TIME
NARUTO!!


KAKASHI?
NO... IT SEEMS BIGGER THAN KAKASHI SOMEHOW BUT WHO?

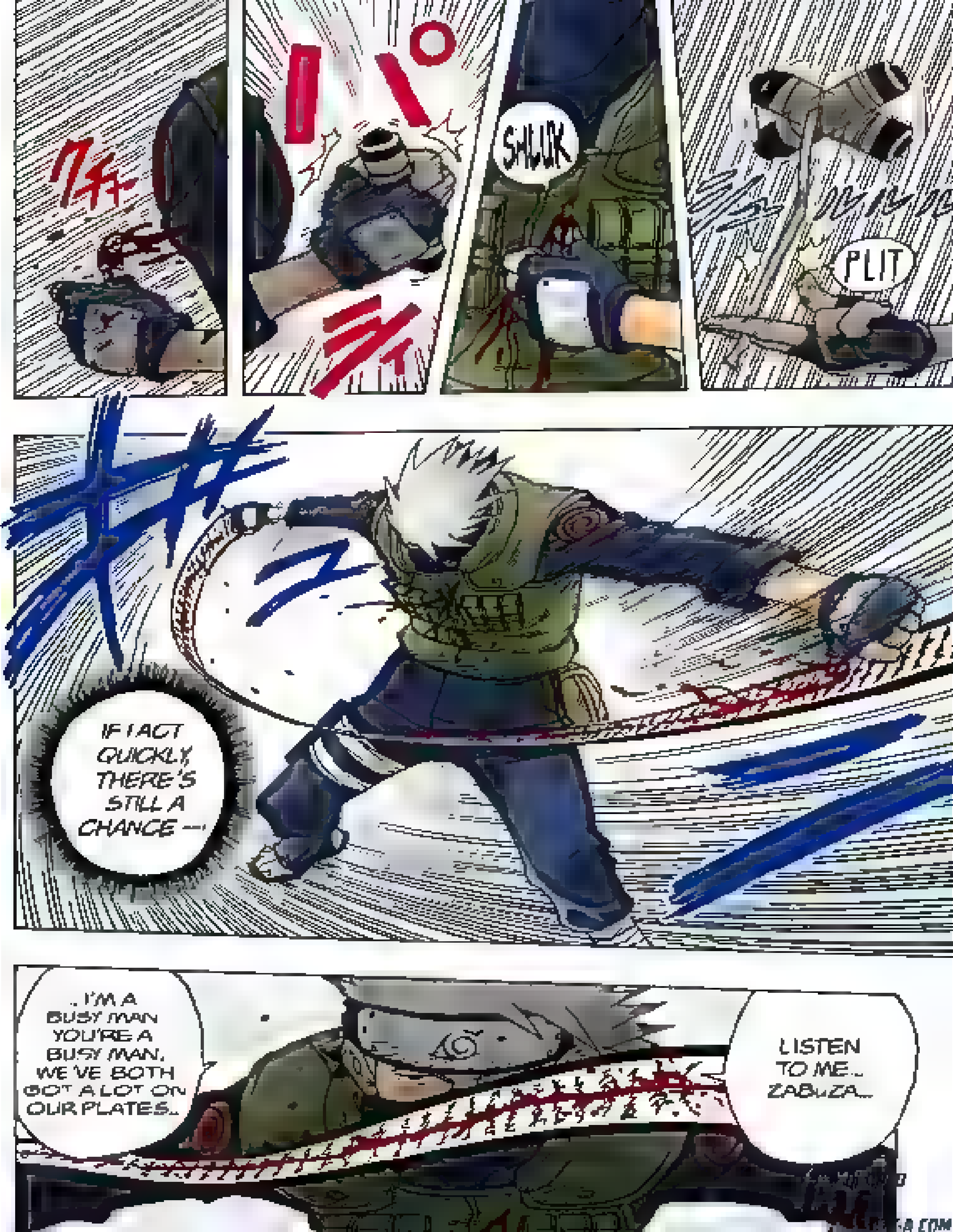

THIS CHAKRA!! I'M FEELING. SOMETHING ABOUT IT... FILLS ME WITH DREAD!


- HAS THE BINDING SPELL BEGUN TO UNRAVEL? IS THE SEAL BROKEN?


BUT THE SEAL HAS SLIPPED A LITTLE, OR CRACKED. AND THE POWER OF THE NINE-TAILED DEMON FOX IS BLEEDING THROUGH.
I SENSE THAT WE'RE SAFE - FOR NOW. IT HASN'T BROKEN THROUGH YET... NOT COMPLETELY.


!
...


...I SENSE...

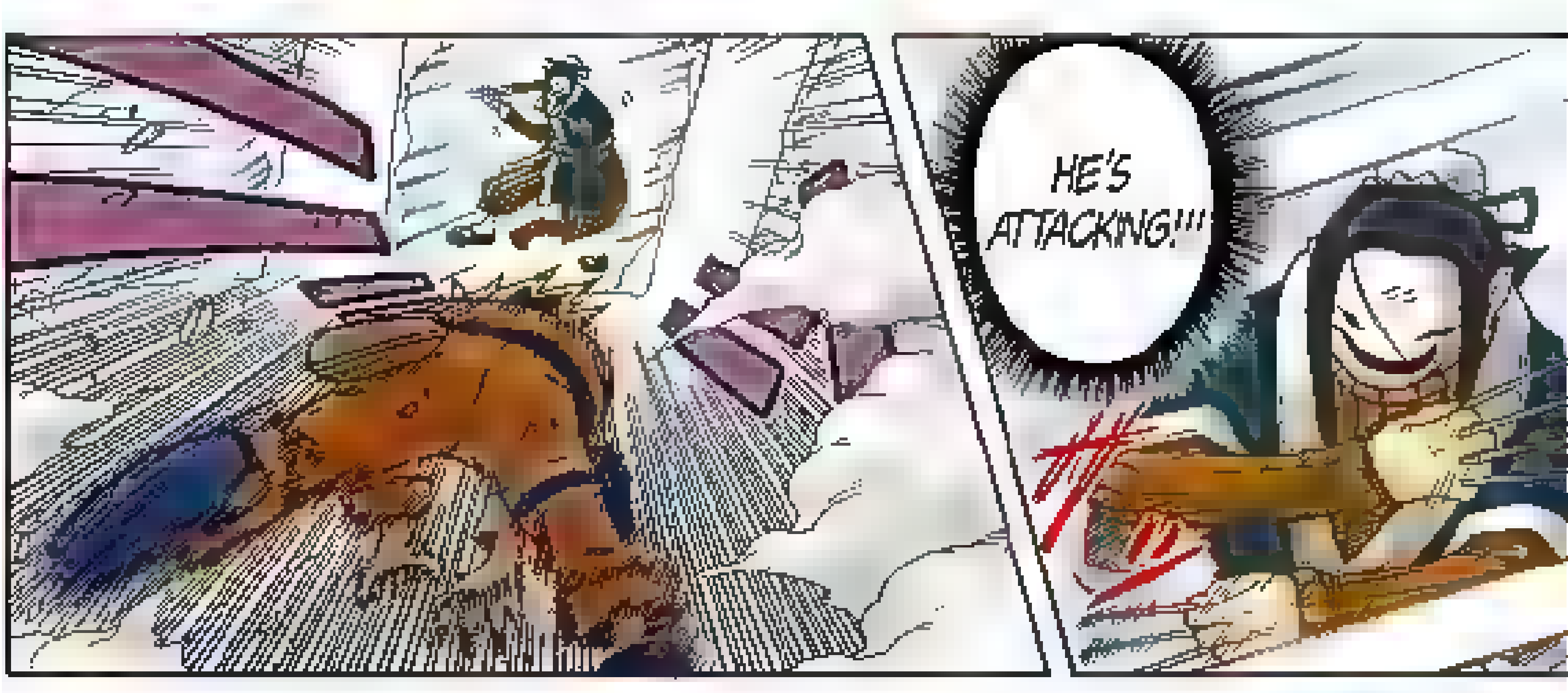

PLIT
SHUK
IF I ACT QUICKLY, THERE'S STILL A CHANCE —!
LISTEN TO ME.. ZABUZA...
..I'M A BUSY MAN YOU'RE A BUSY MAN. WE'VE BOTH GOT A LOT ON OUR PLATES..


...AND IT GOES AGAINST THE GRAIN TO EVEN SUGGEST THIS...
...BUT WHAT DO YOU SAY WE STOP SCREWING AROUND...
...AND WRAP THIS UP RIGHT NOW? ONE BIG MOVE, WINNER TAKE ALL?
AN INTRIGUING NOTION...
WHAT'S LEFT, KAKASHI?
SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT!

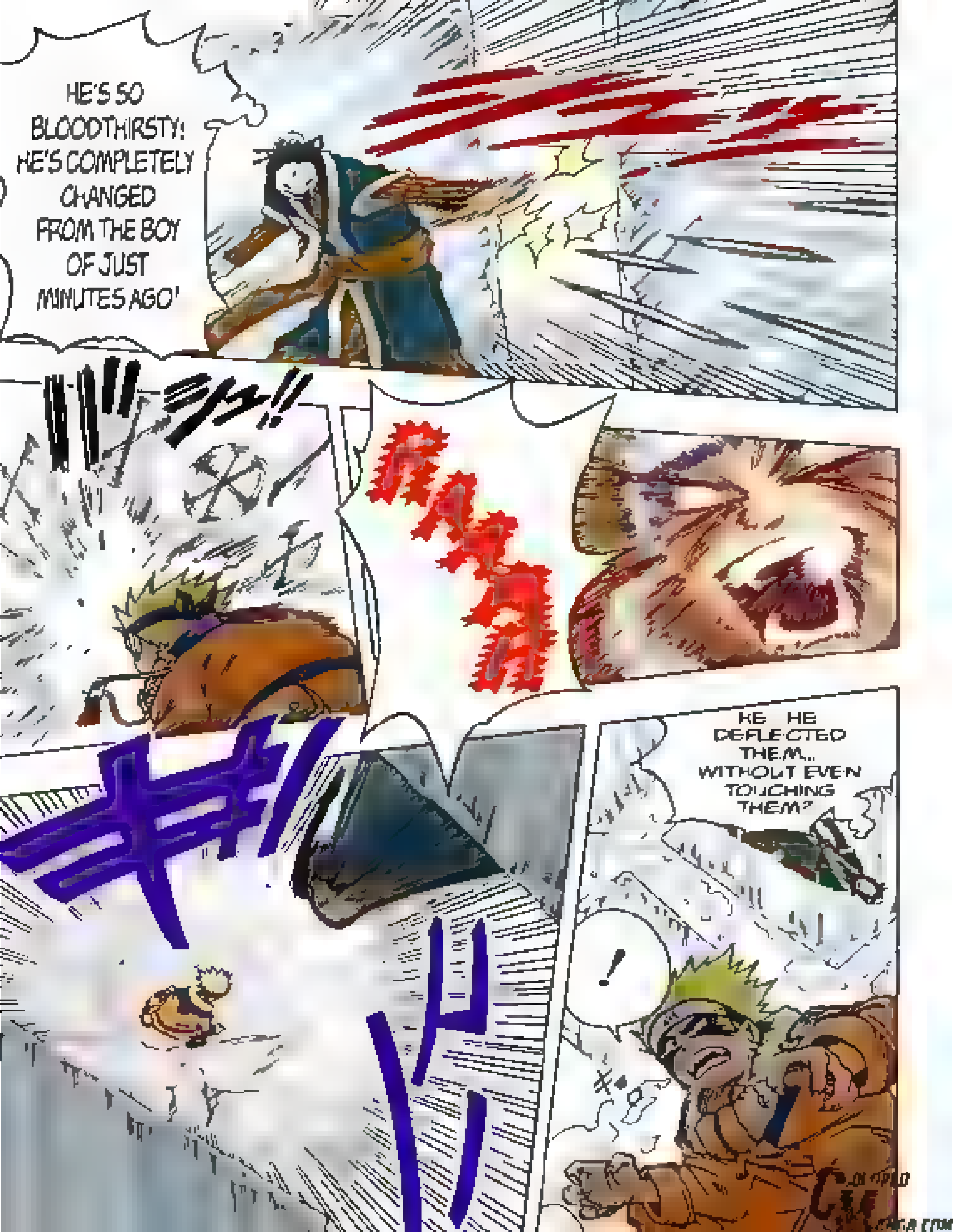

キッ!!






HE'S ATTACKING!!!


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HE'S SO BLOODTHIRSTY! HE'S COMPLETELY CHANGED FROM THE BOY OF JUST MINUTES AGO!
HE... HE DEFLECTED THEM... WITHOUT EVEN TOUCHING THEM?
!


I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT TO THE NEXT MIRROR!

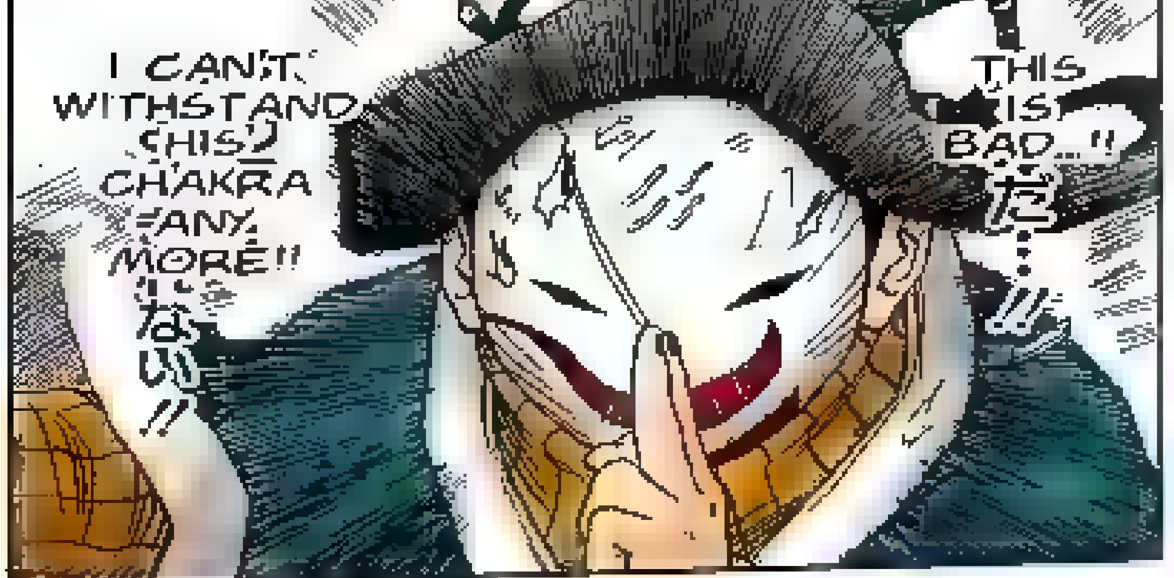
!!

HE COULDN'T HAVE--!!

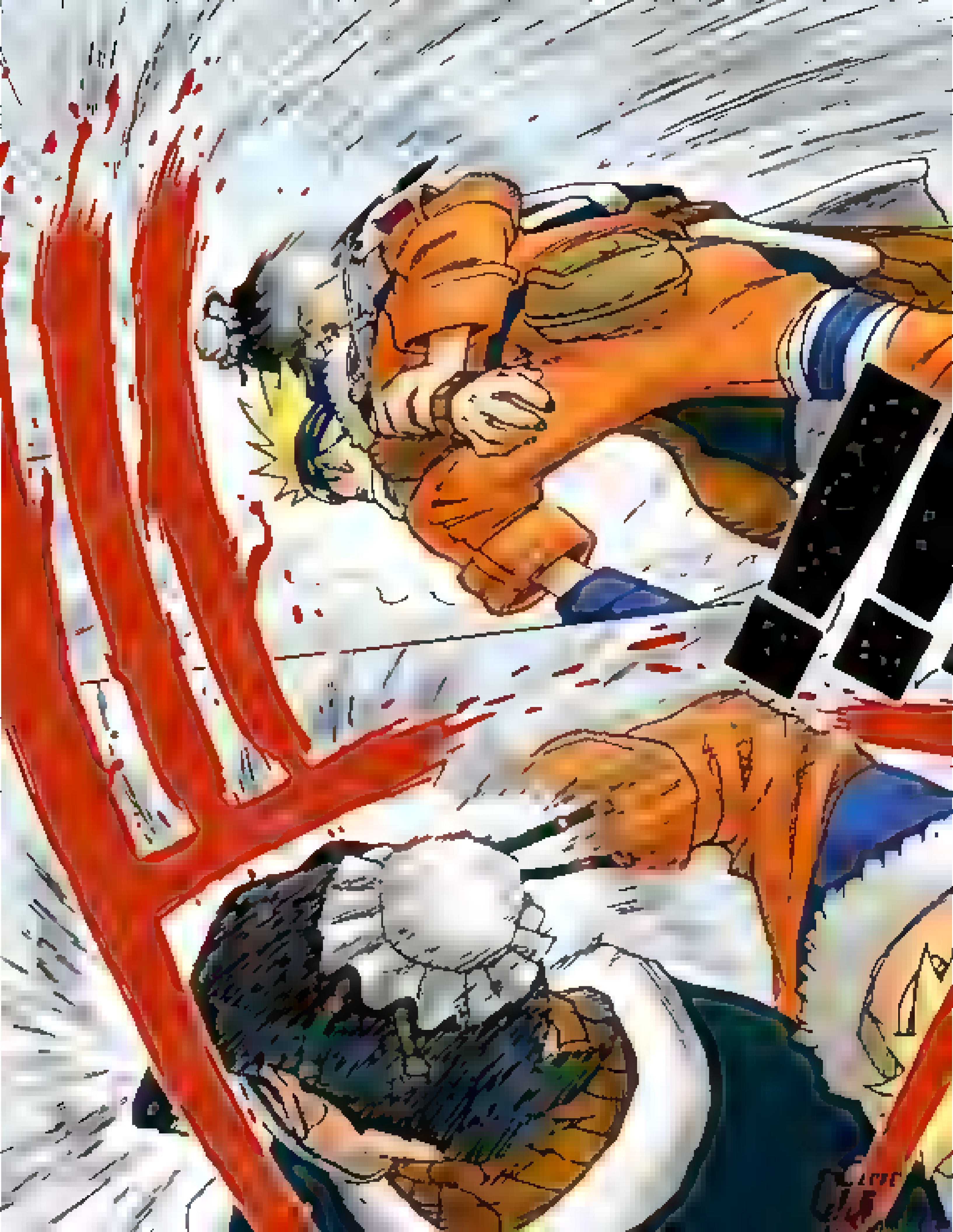


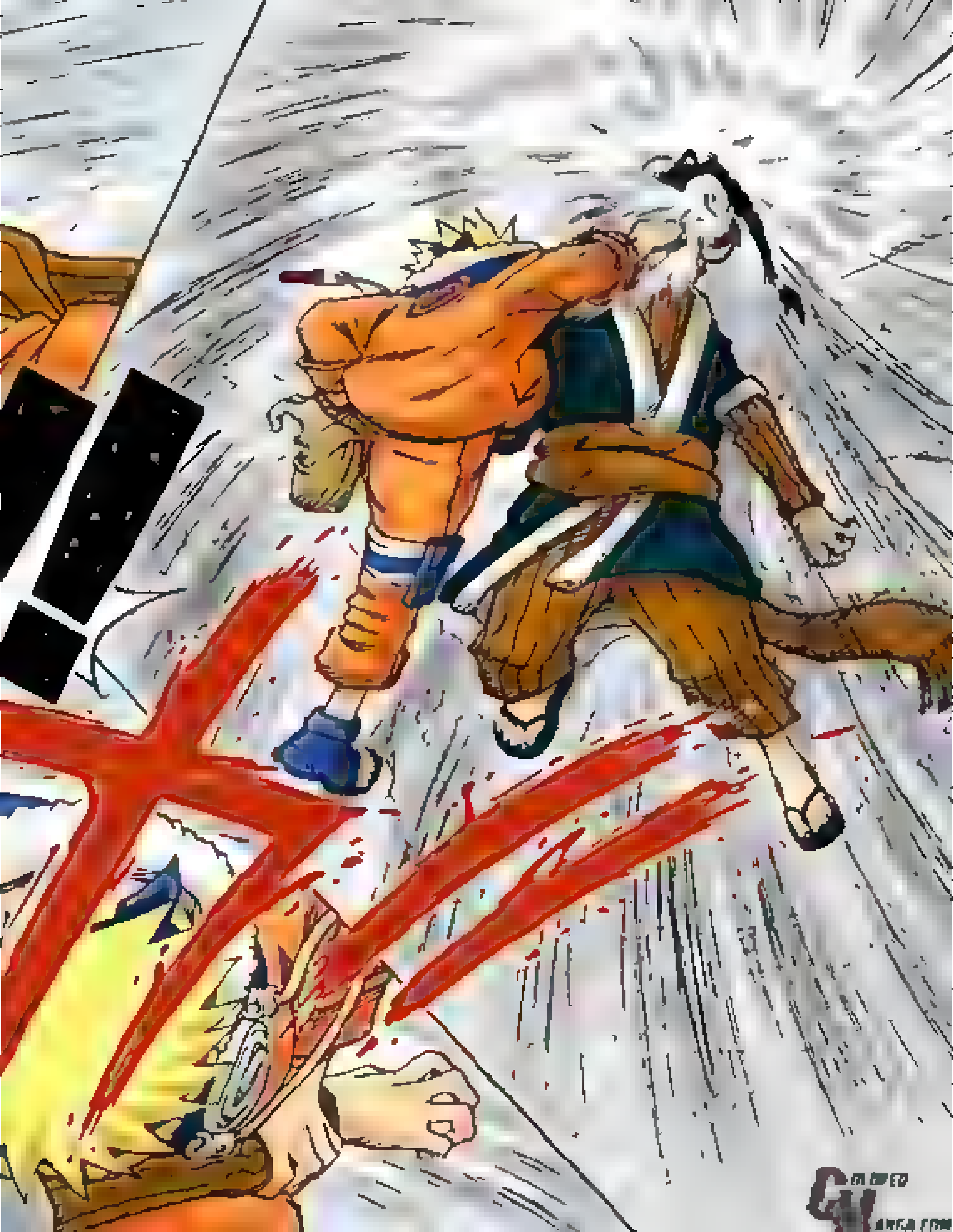
AAAUUURGH!!

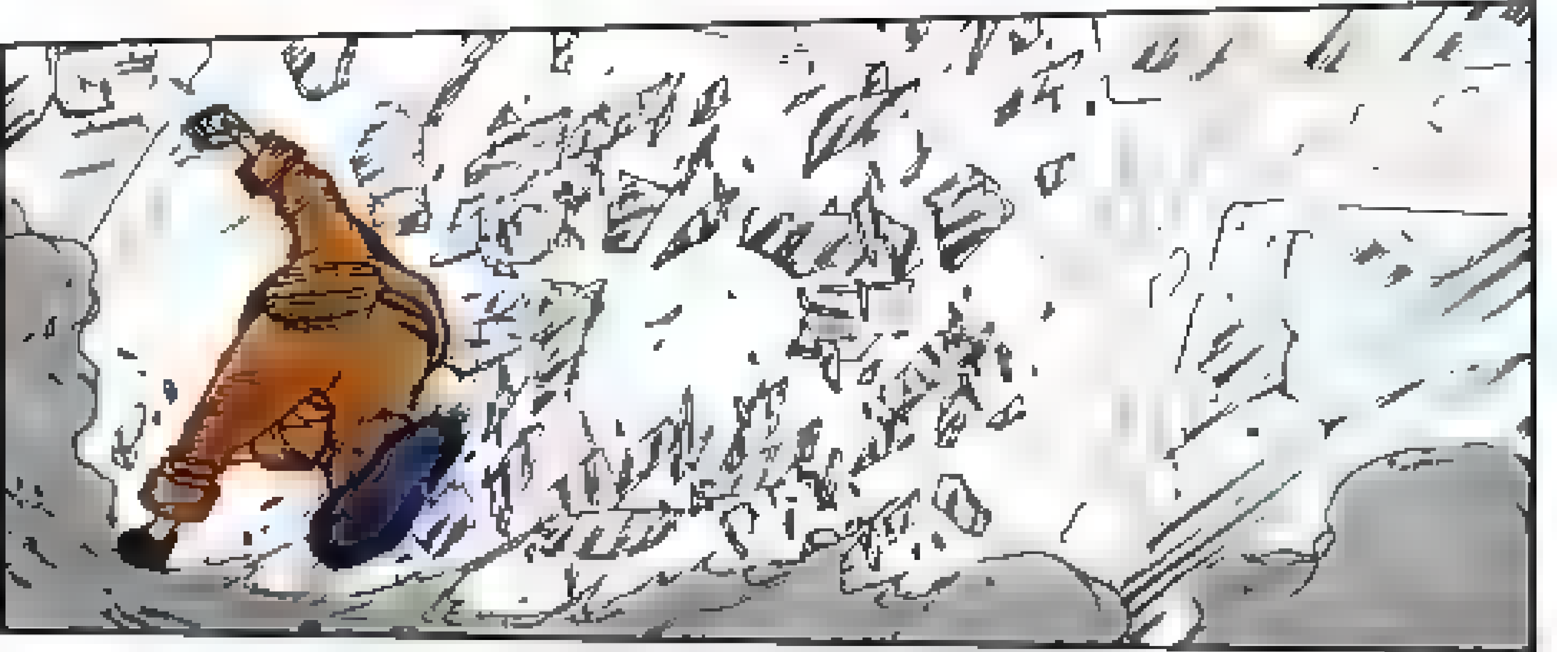



I CAN'T WITHSTAND (HIS) CHAKRA ANY MORE!!
ない!!
THIS IS BAD...!!
だ...!!

!
UHN...
ギリギリ
OW...
!!
ギロ

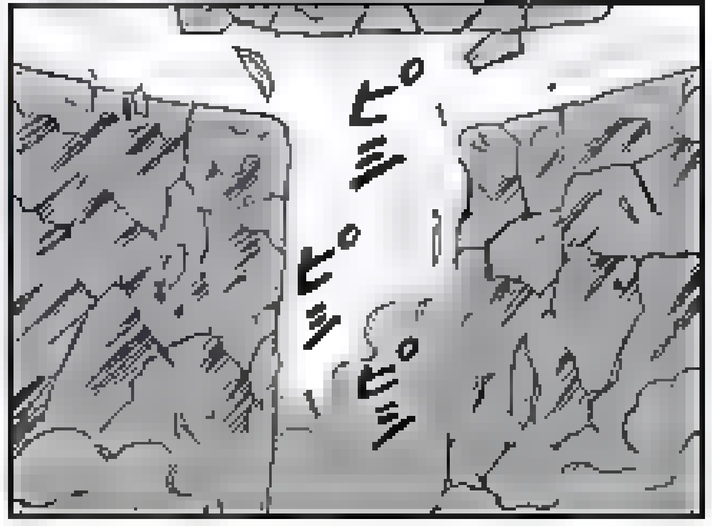



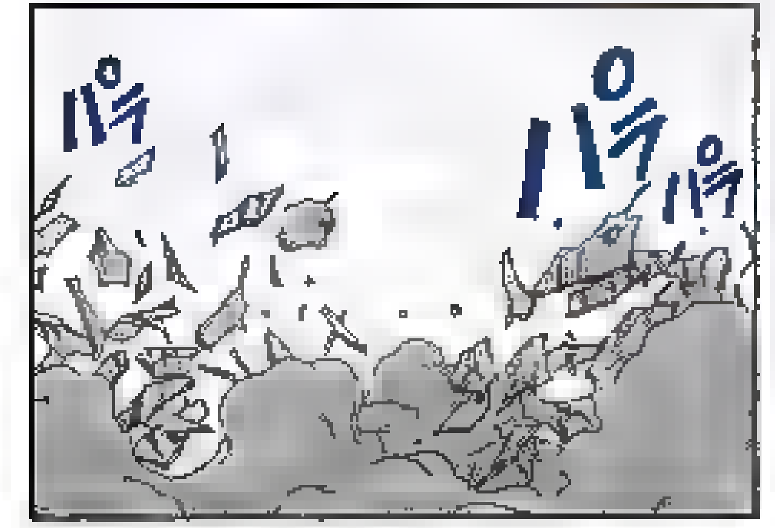







ドガガガガ





パラ

パラ











…ボクは……
I AM FINISHED.
には
せん……
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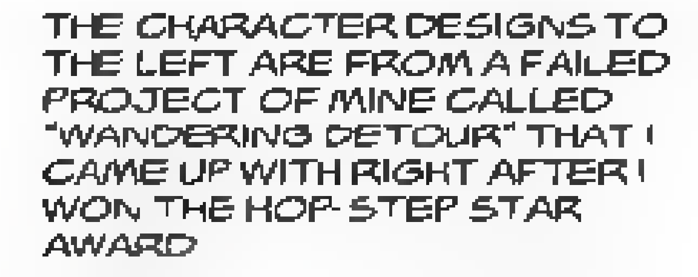
MASTER ZABUZA..

斬さん……

パラ

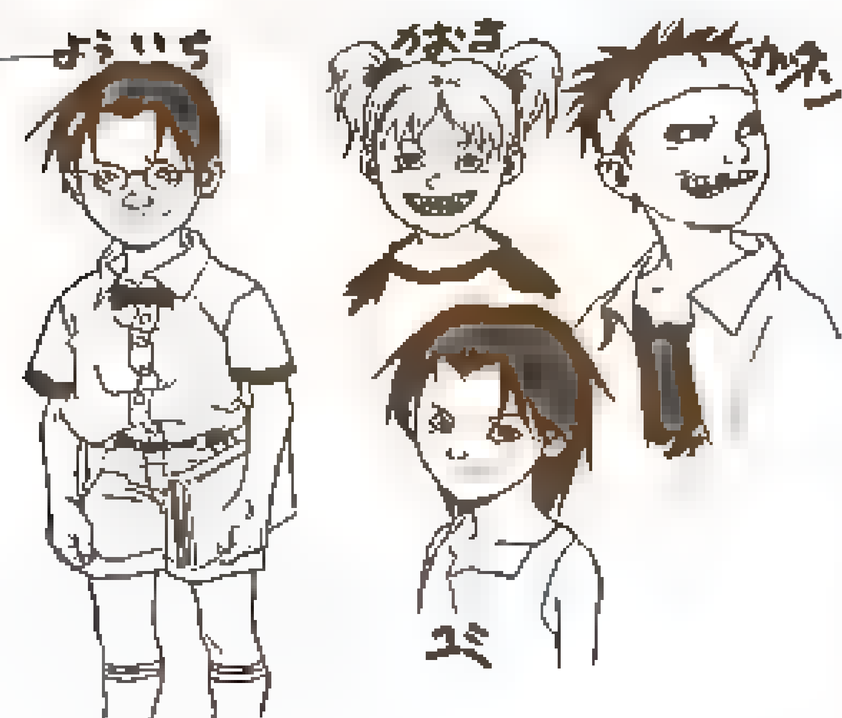


KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S FIRST MANGA REJECT SPECIAL!


THE CHARACTER DESIGNS TO THE LEFT ARE FROM A FAILED PROJECT OF MINE CALLED "WANDERING DETOUR" THAT I CAME UP WITH RIGHT AFTER I WON THE HOP-STEP STAR AWARD.



THE STORY IS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KID NAMED AKIRA AND HIS FRIENDS KATCHIN AND KAORU FIND A WALLET ON THE WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL, AND OF ALL OF THE TROUBLE THAT ENSUES WHEN THE THREE OF THEM DECIDE TO KEEP THE MONEY THAT THEY FIND AND SPEND IT ON THEMSELVES. MAYBE IT WAS TOO HARD TO FOLLOW, OR SIMPLY TOO DOWN-TO-EARTH FOR A BOYS' ADVENTURE MAGAZINE... BUT FOR WHATEVER REASON, IT WAS SUMMARILY REJECTED.

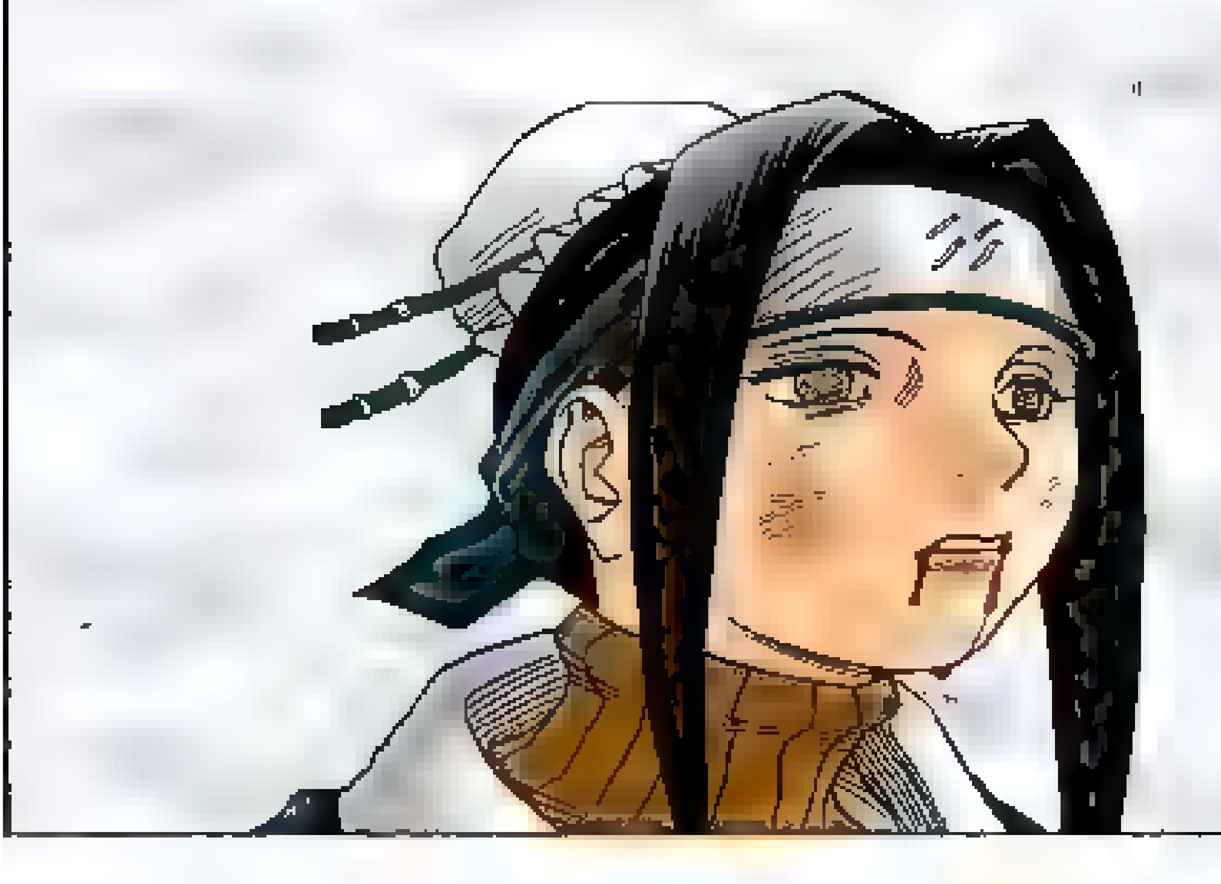
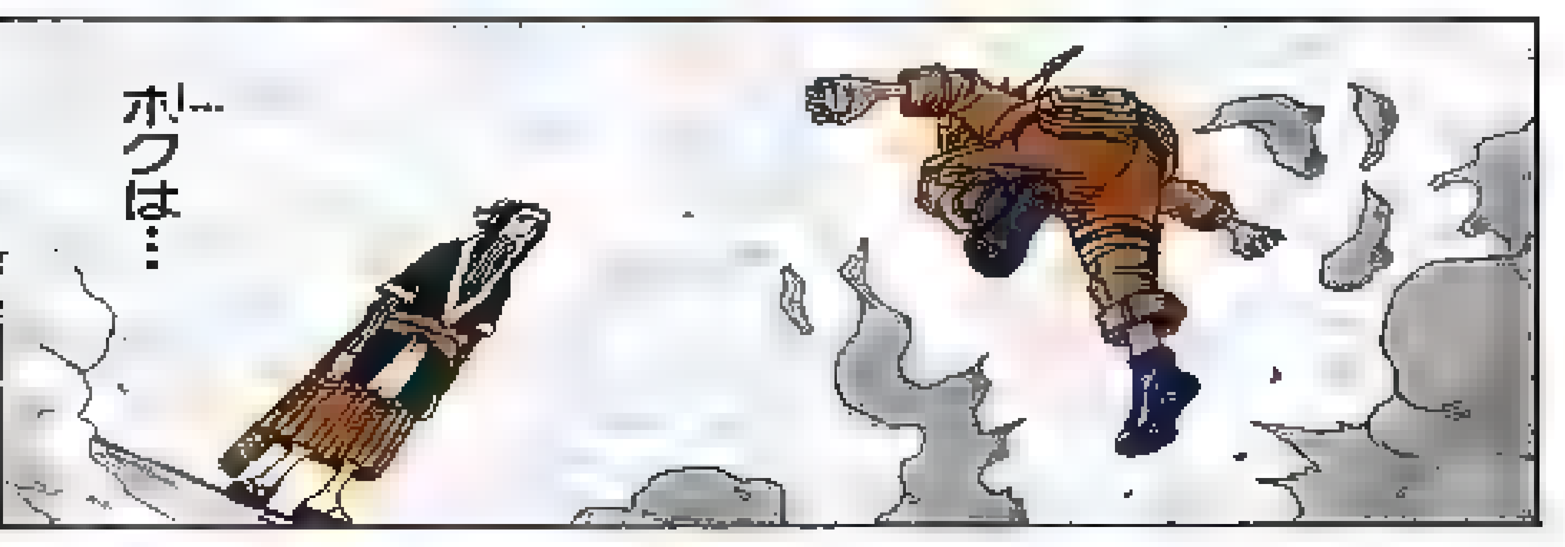


IT WAS MY FIRST REJECTION EVER. BUT I WAS SUCH A KID BACK THEN, EVEN GETTING MY FIRST REJECTION SEEMED LIKE A BIG DEAL, ANOTHER PROFESSIONAL MILESTONE I'D PASSED. FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I'D BEEN READING OTHER MANGA CARTOONISTS' TALES OF WOE ABOUT THE REJECTIONS THEY'D GOTTEN, AND I'D BEEN FEELING A LITTLE LEFT OUT. WITH "WANDERING DETOUR," I WAS FINALLY IN THE CLUB! I EVEN BRAGGED ABOUT IT A LITTLE. LIKE I SAID, I WAS A KID THEN. NOW, I'M A TRUE PROFESSIONAL, AND I AGREE WITH MY FRIENDS, "REJECTION SUCKS!" (LAUGHTER)





29
大切な人…!!
SOMEONE PRECIOUS TO YOU...!!
COLORED

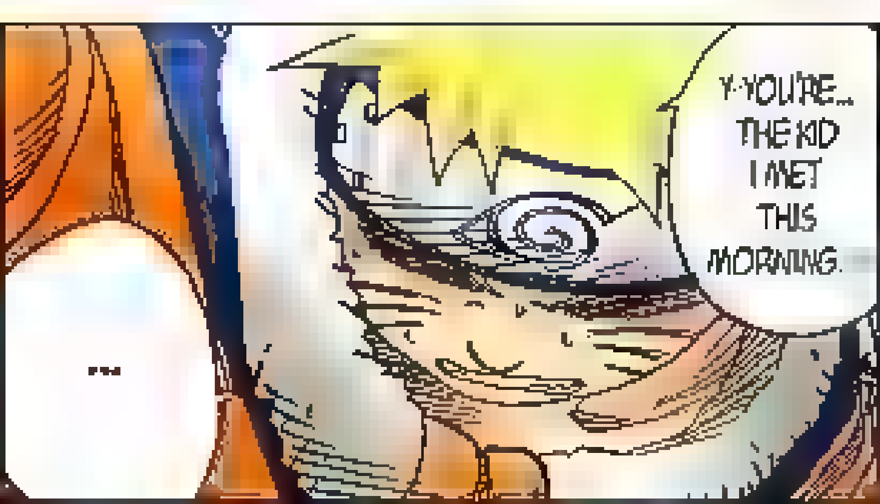

MASTER ZABUZA...
再不斬さん…

ボクは…

ポト

I'M...
ボクは…

COLORED
MANGA.COM

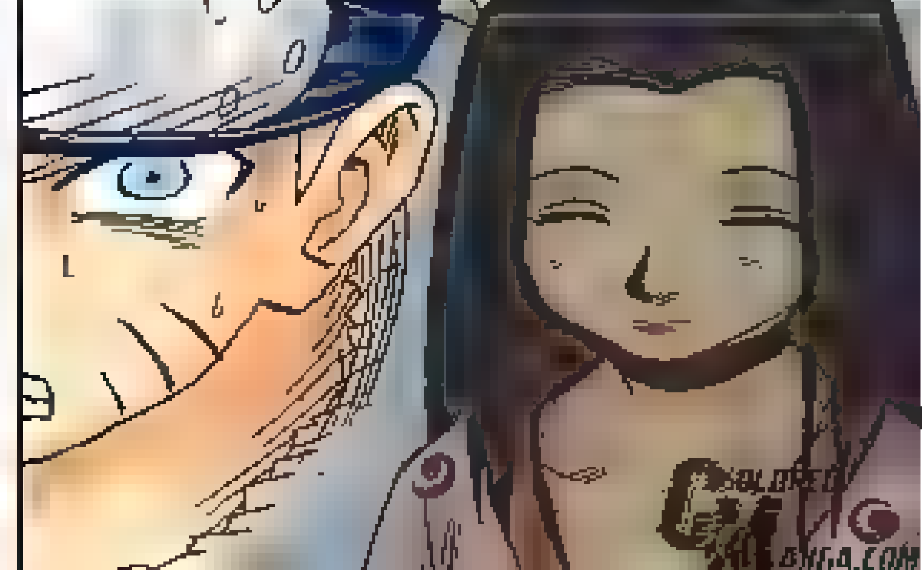



Y-YOU'RE... THE KID I MET THIS MORNING.
...






...
WHY DID YOU STOP?



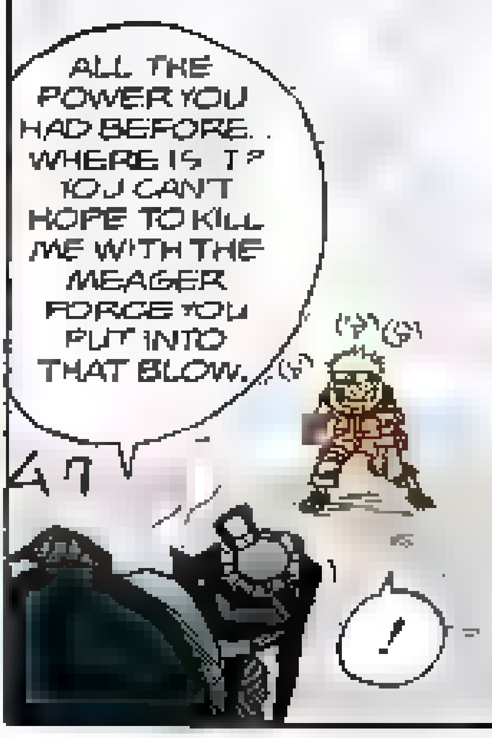
I MURDERED YOUR COMRADE... YOUR BELOVED FRIEND...

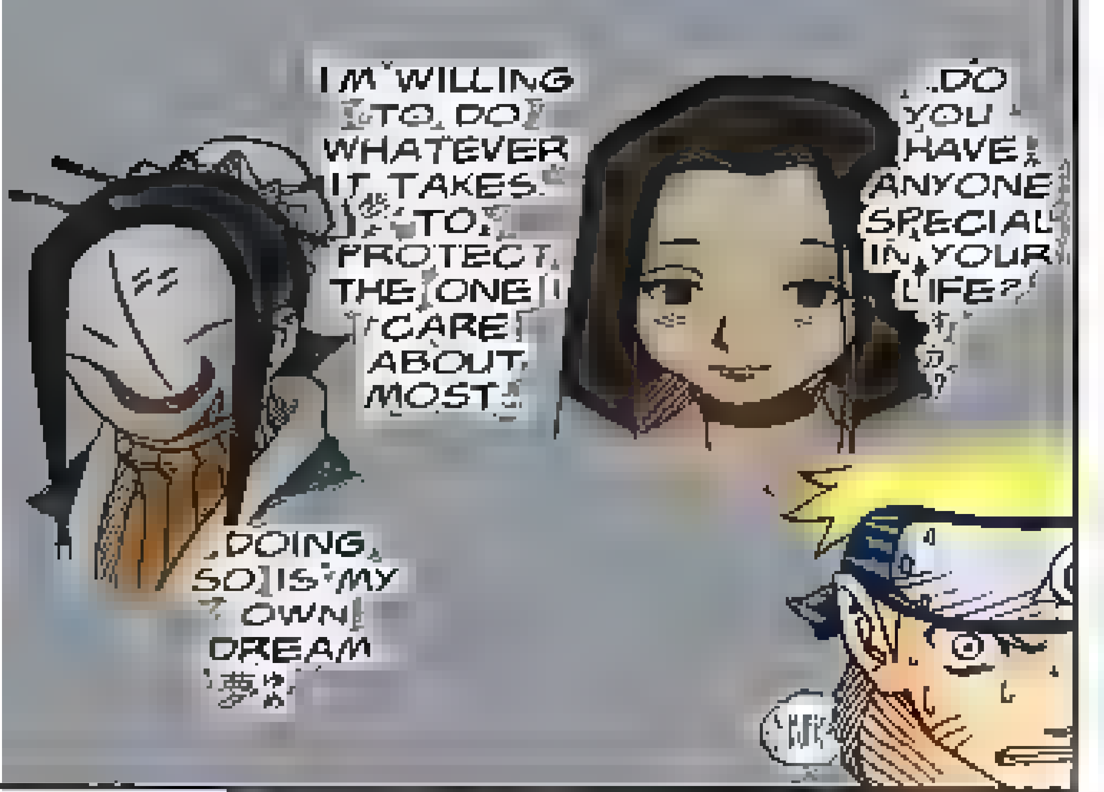
...AND YOU STILL SPARE ME?!

KOFF!

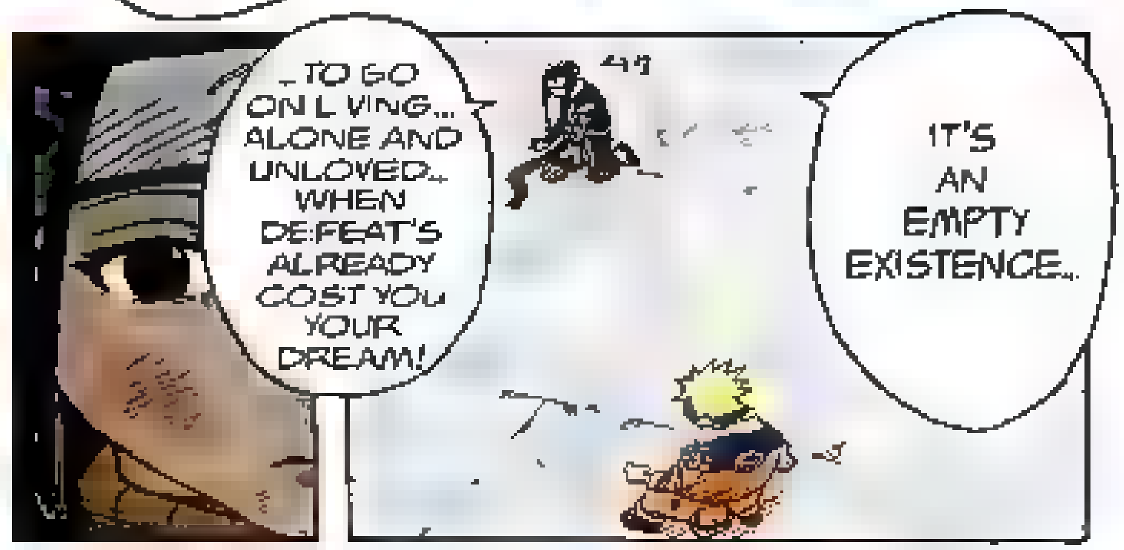
CRAAAAP!!




ALL THE POWER YOU HAD BEFORE.. WHERE IS IT? YOU CAN'T HOPE TO KILL ME WITH THE MEAGER FORCE YOU PUT INTO THAT BLOW.
!

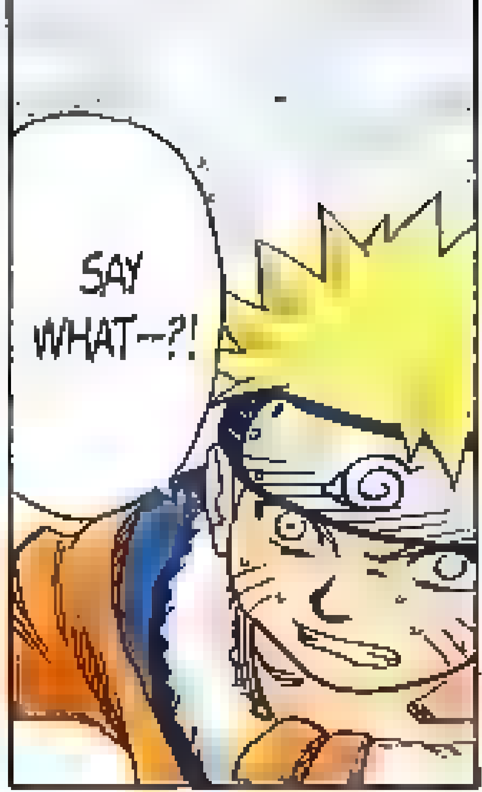
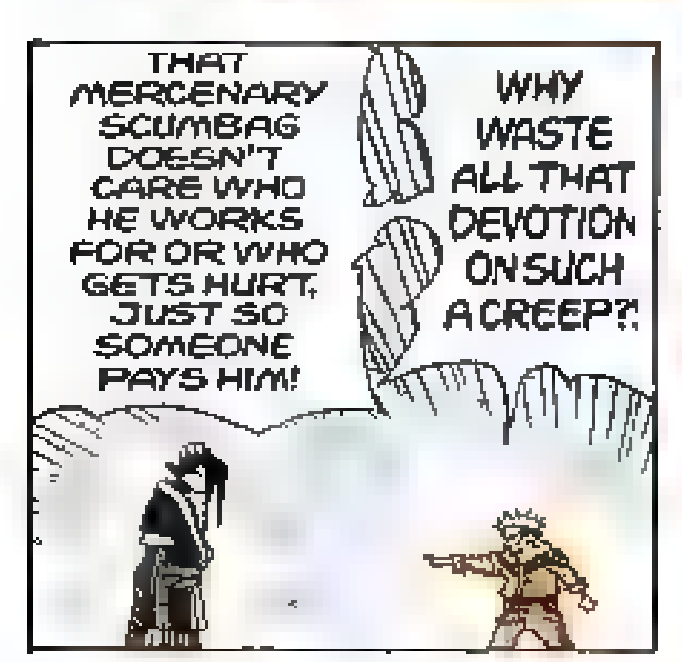
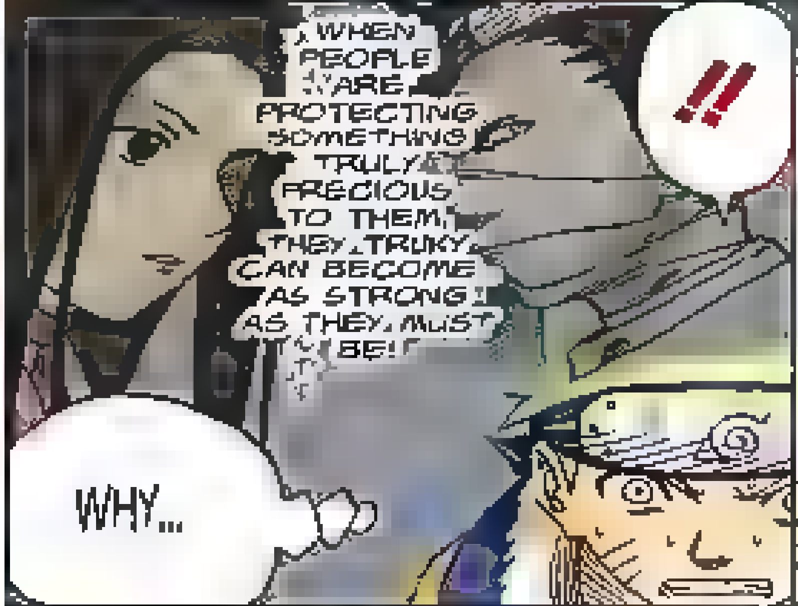
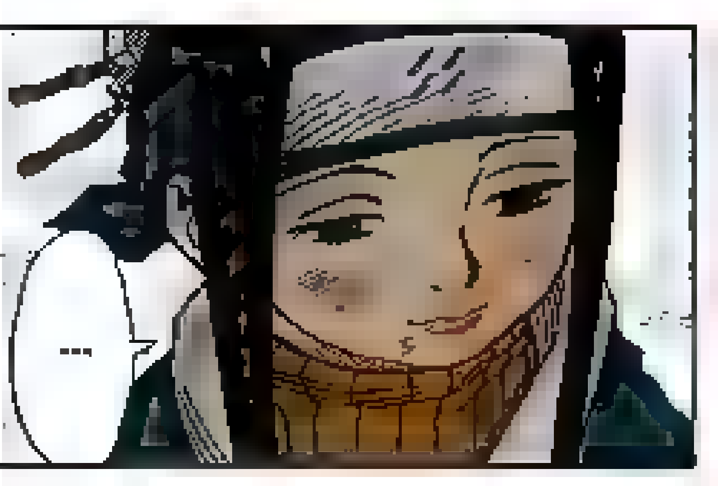

..DO YOU HAVE ANYONE SPECIAL IN YOUR LIFE?
I'M WILLING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO PROTECT THE ONE I CARE ABOUT MOST.
..DOING SO IS MY OWN DREAM


OFTEN PEOPLE HAVE IT WRONG, MISTAKENLY BELIEVING..
... THAT SHOWING MERCY TO AN ENEMY IS KINDNESS.
THEY SPARE THE FOE WHOSE LIFE IS IN THEIR HANDS...
BUT DON'T YOU SEE?


IT'S AN EMPTY EXISTENCE..
..TO GO ON LIVING... ALONE AND UNLOVED.. WHEN DEFEAT'S ALREADY COST YOU YOUR DREAM!



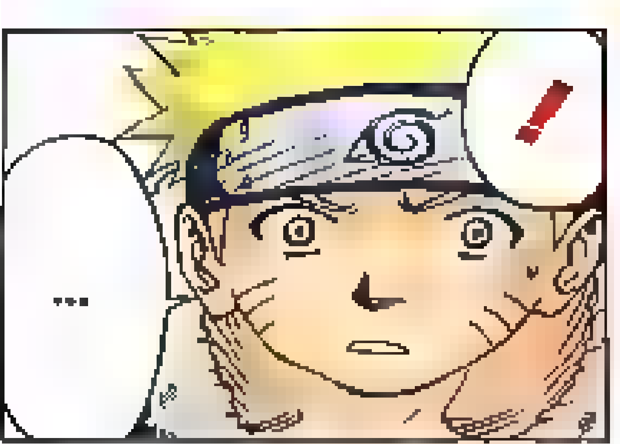



YOU'VE TAKEN AWAY MY REASON FOR LIVING!
MASTER ZABUZA HAS NO USE FOR A WEAK SHINOBI.

SAY WHAT--?!

THAT MERCENARY SCUMBAG DOESN'T CARE WHO HE WORKS FOR OR WHO GETS HURT, JUST SO SOMEONE PAYS HIM!
WHY WASTE ALL THAT DEVOTION ON SUCH A CREEP?!

WHEN PEOPLE ARE PROTECTING SOMETHING TRULY PRECIOUS TO THEM, THEY TRULY CAN BECOME AS STRONG AS THEY MUST BE!
!!
WHY...

...

IS THAT BROWLESS WONDER REALLY PRECIOUS TO YOU - YOUR "BELOVED FRIEND?!!!"


...
ONCE... I WAS PRECIOUS. I BELONGED... TO...
!
MY...
...

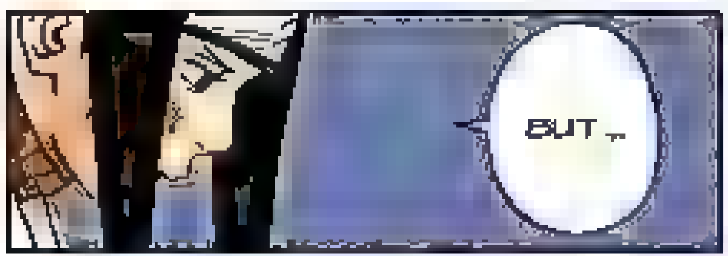

...PARENTS.


!
...

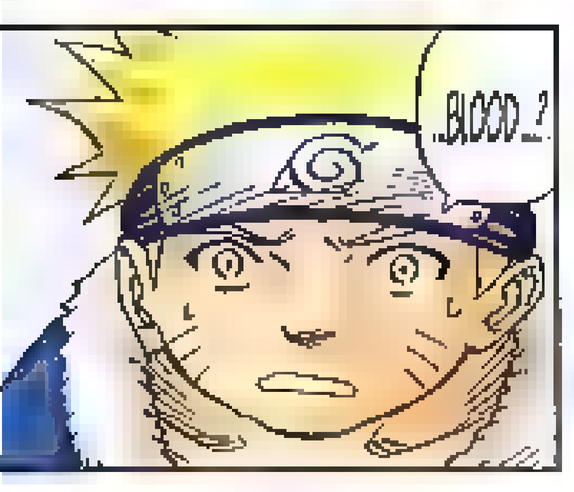
I WAS BORN IN A SNOWY, LITTLE VILLAGE IN THE LAND OF MIST.
AND I WAS HAPPY... MY PARENTS WERE GOOD, KIND PEOPLE.

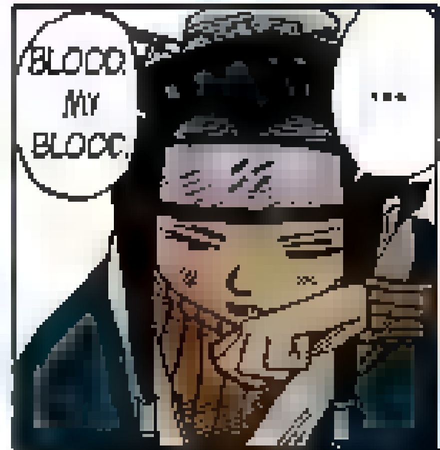


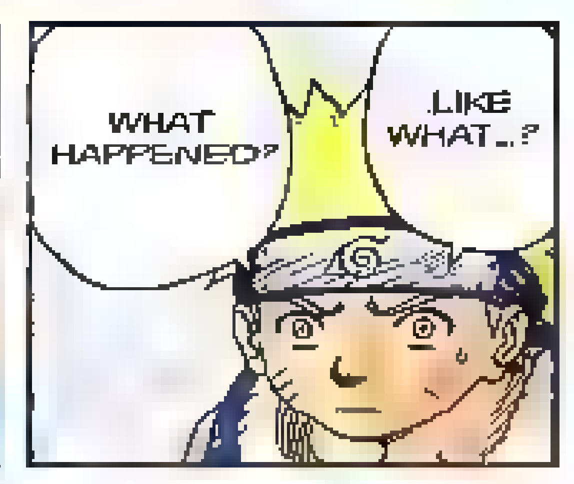

JUST AS I WAS GETTING OLD ENOUGH TO REALLY NOTICE THE WORLD AROUND ME..
SOMETHING HAPPENED.

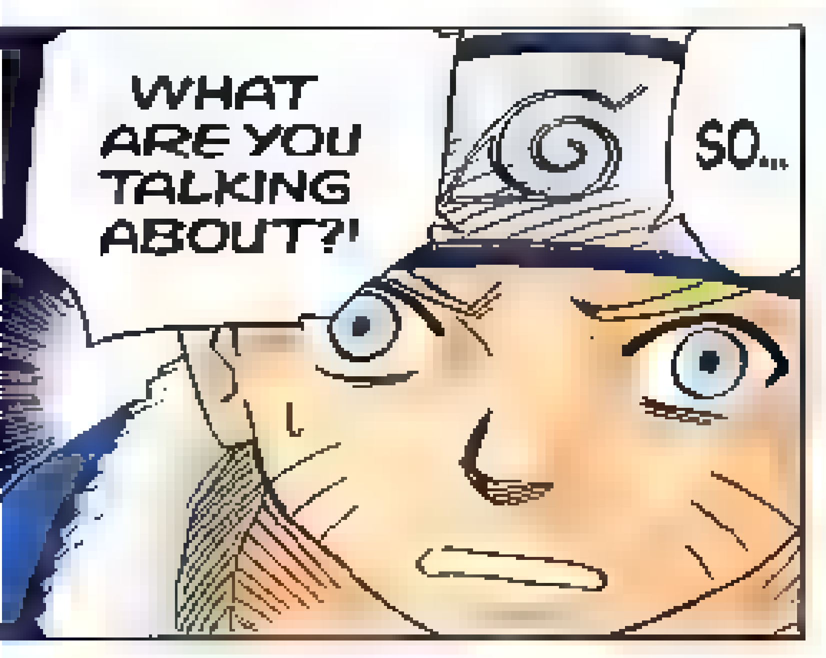

BUT ..




..BLOOD..?

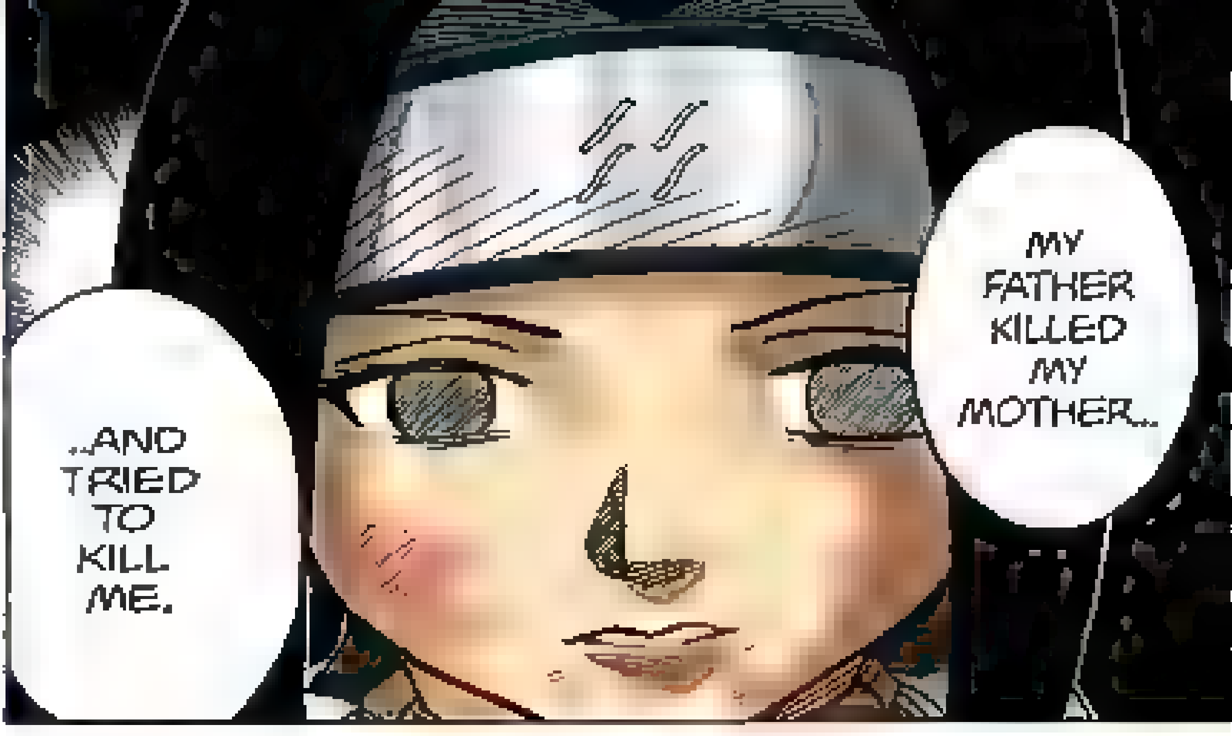

BLOOD. MY BLOOD.
...

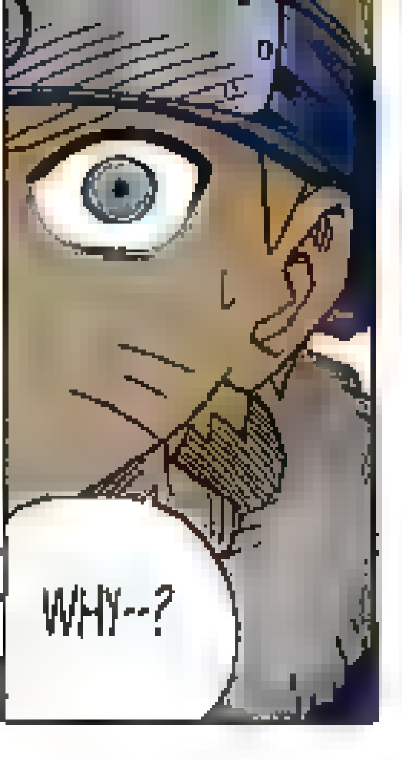

WHAT HAPPENED?
..LIKE WHAT..?

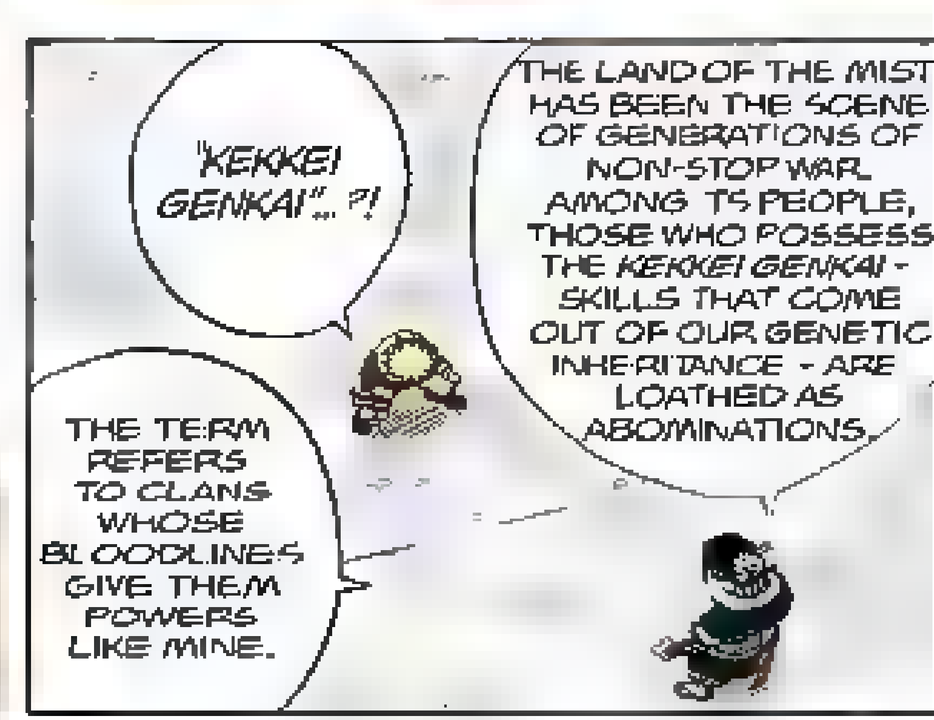

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
SO...

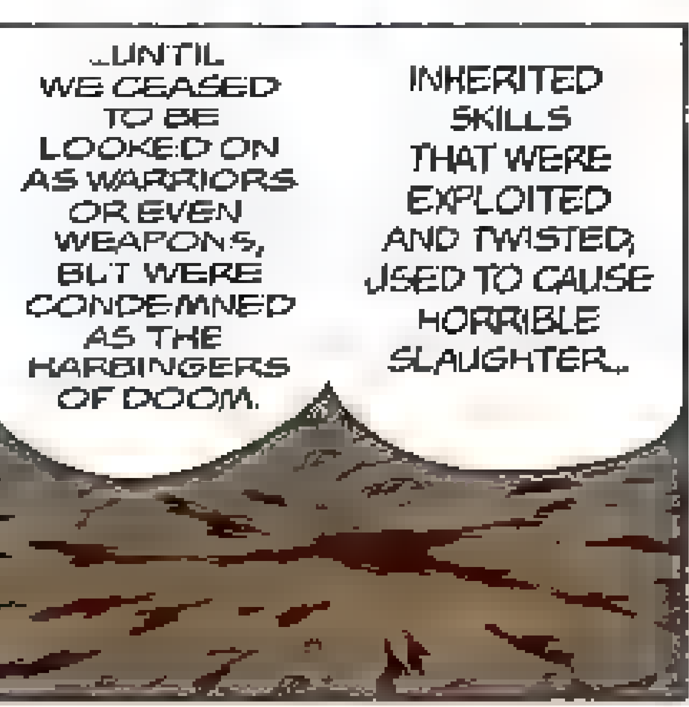

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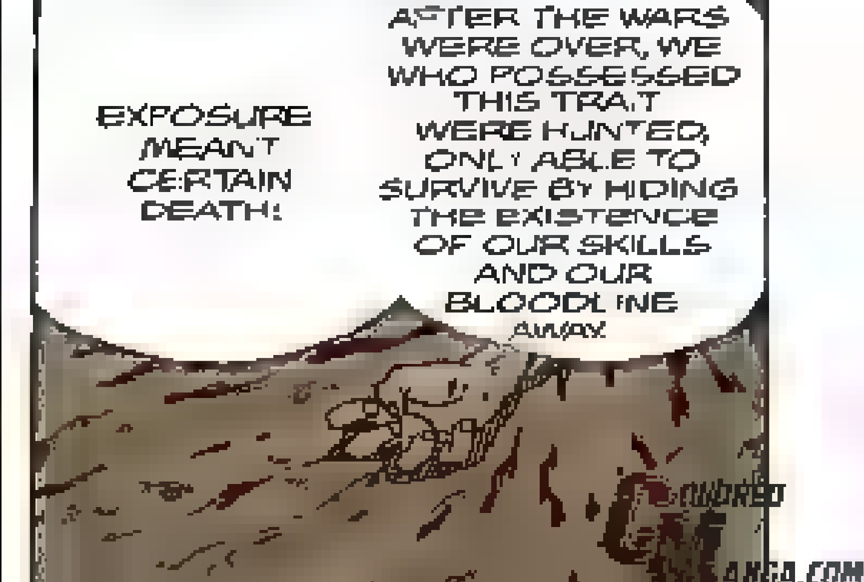


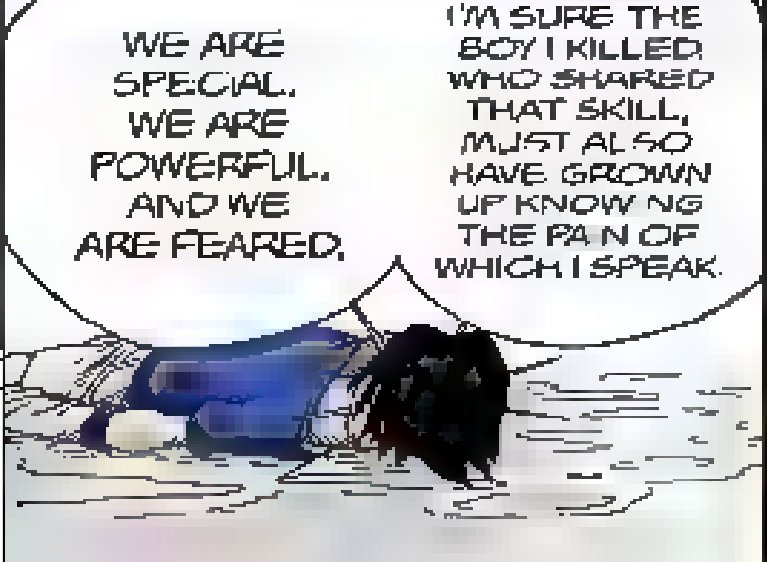

MY FATHER KILLED MY MOTHER...
...AND TRIED TO KILL ME.


WHY--?


THE LAND OF THE MIST HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF GENERATIONS OF NON-STOP WAR AMONG ITS PEOPLE, THOSE WHO POSSESS THE KEKKEI GENKAI - SKILLS THAT COME OUT OF OUR GENETIC INHERITANCE - ARE LOATHED AS ABOMINATIONS.
"KEKKEI GENKAI"...?!
THE TERM REFERS TO CLANS WHOSE BLOODLINES GIVE THEM POWERS LIKE MINE.


INHERITED SKILLS THAT WERE EXPLOITED AND TWISTED, USED TO CAUSE HORRIBLE SLAUGHTER...
...UNTIL WE CEASED TO BE LOOKED ON AS WARRIORS OR EVEN WEAPONS, BUT WERE CONDEMNED AS THE HARBINGERS OF DOOM.


AFTER THE WARS WERE OVER, WE WHO POSSESSED THIS TRAIT WERE HUNTED, ONLY ABLE TO SURVIVE BY HIDING THE EXISTENCE OF OUR SKILLS AND OUR BLOODLINE AWAY.
EXPOSURE MEANT CERTAIN DEATH!


I'M SURE THE BOY I KILLED, WHO SHARED THAT SKILL, MUST ALSO HAVE GROWN UP KNOWING THE PAIN OF WHICH I SPEAK.
WE ARE SPECIAL. WE ARE POWERFUL. AND WE ARE FEARED.

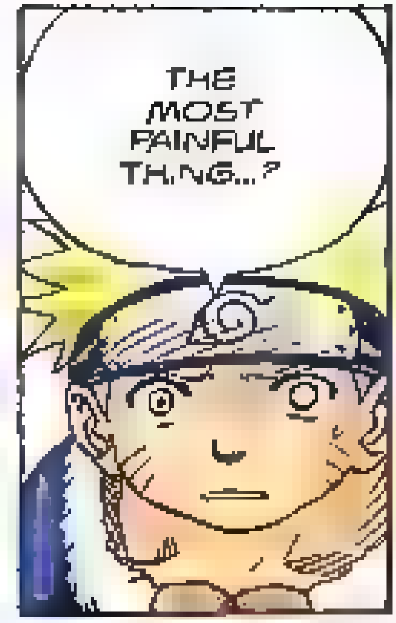

PLAN TO RESTORE MY CLAN, AND THERE'S SOMEONE I HAVE SWORN TO KILL

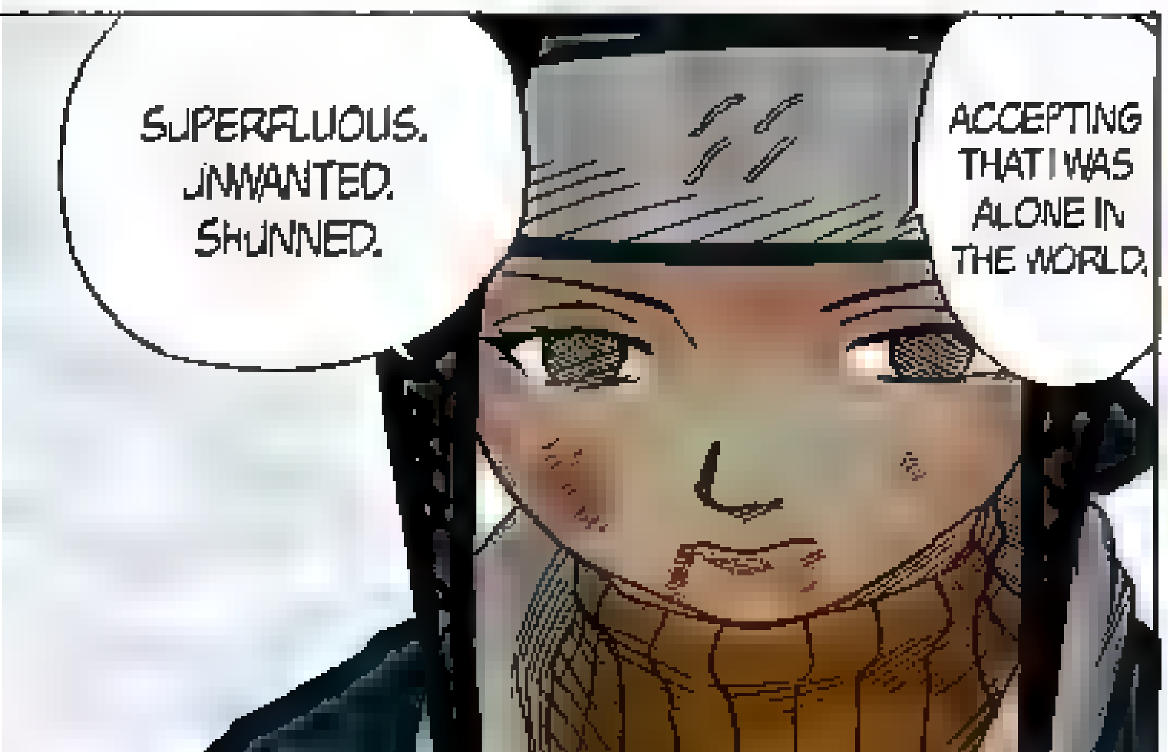

MY FATHER LEARNED... THAT MY MOTHER...
...CAME FROM SUCH A CLAN... AND BEFORE EVEN REALIZED WHAT WAS ABOUT TO DO...
MY FATHER HAD DIED... BY MY HAND.



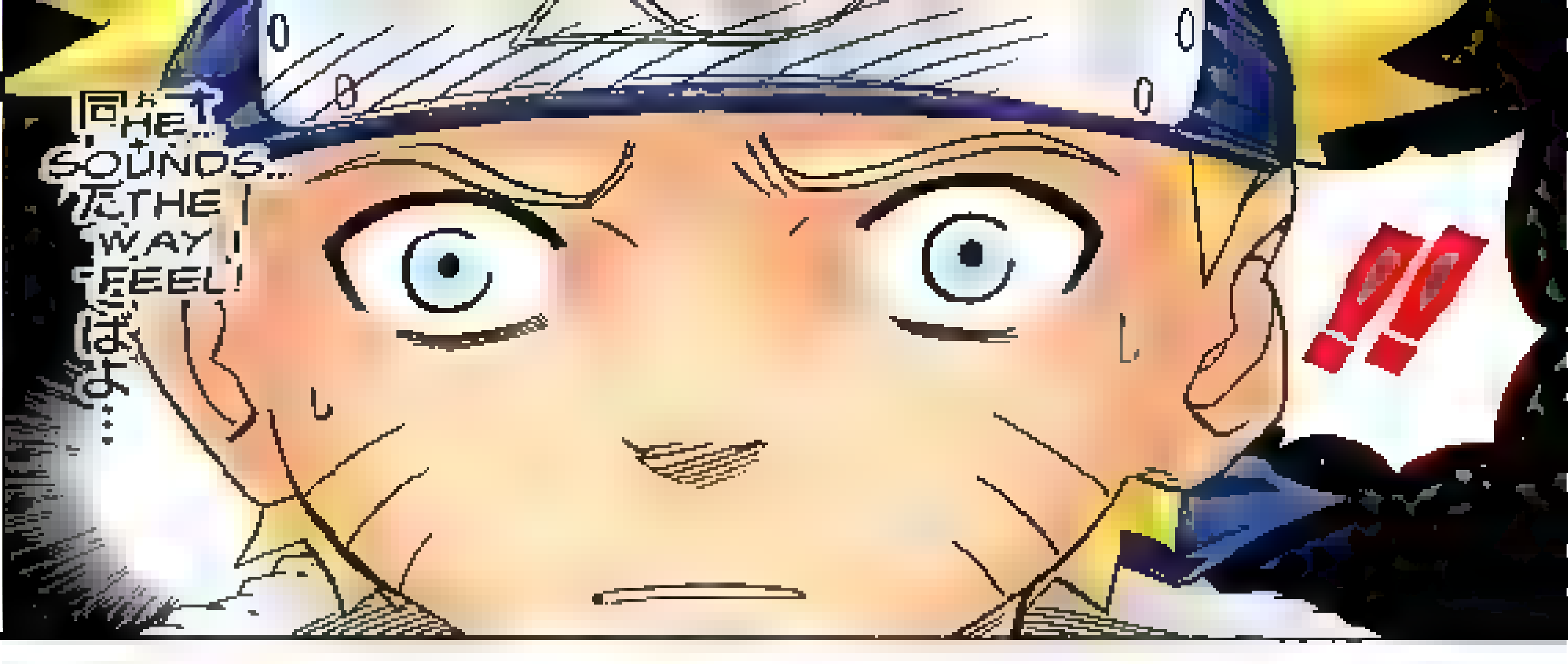
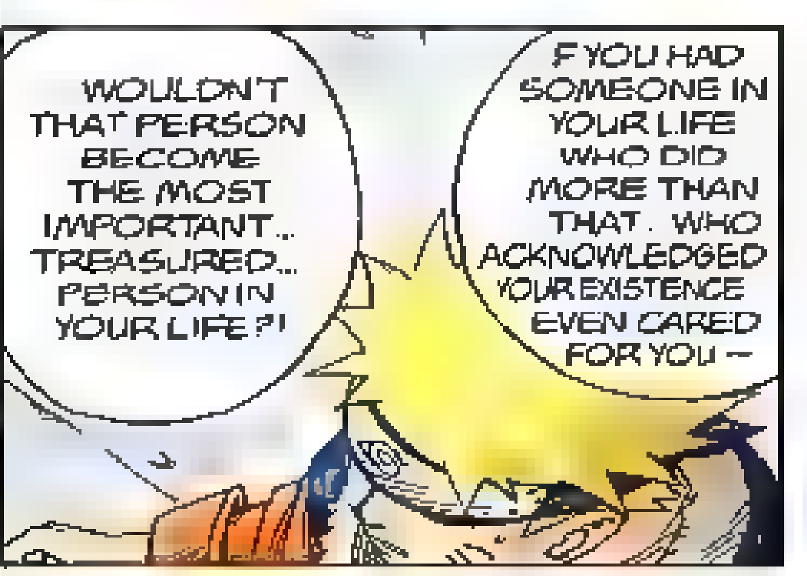
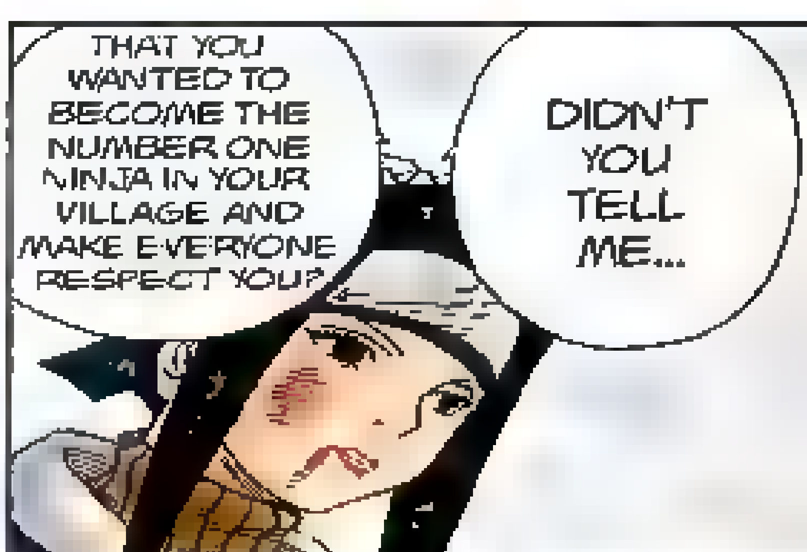
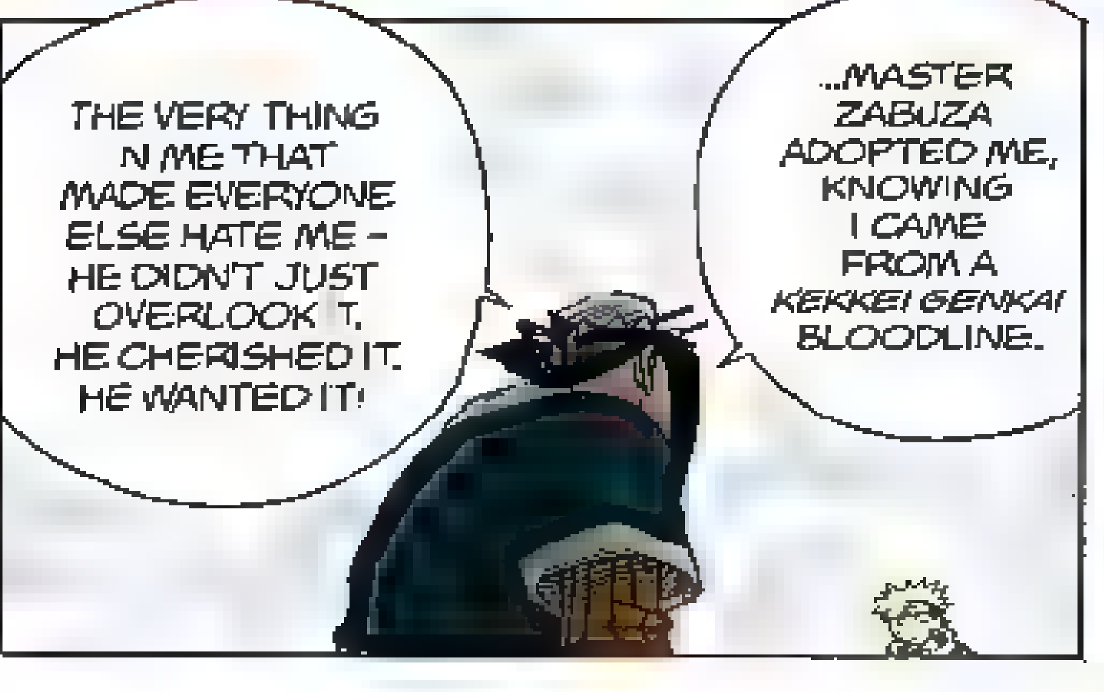

AND THEN IT CAME TO ME
I KNEW WHAT I WAS.


...
AND I WAS FORCED TO ACCEPT IT.
THAT WAS THE MOST PAINFUL THING.

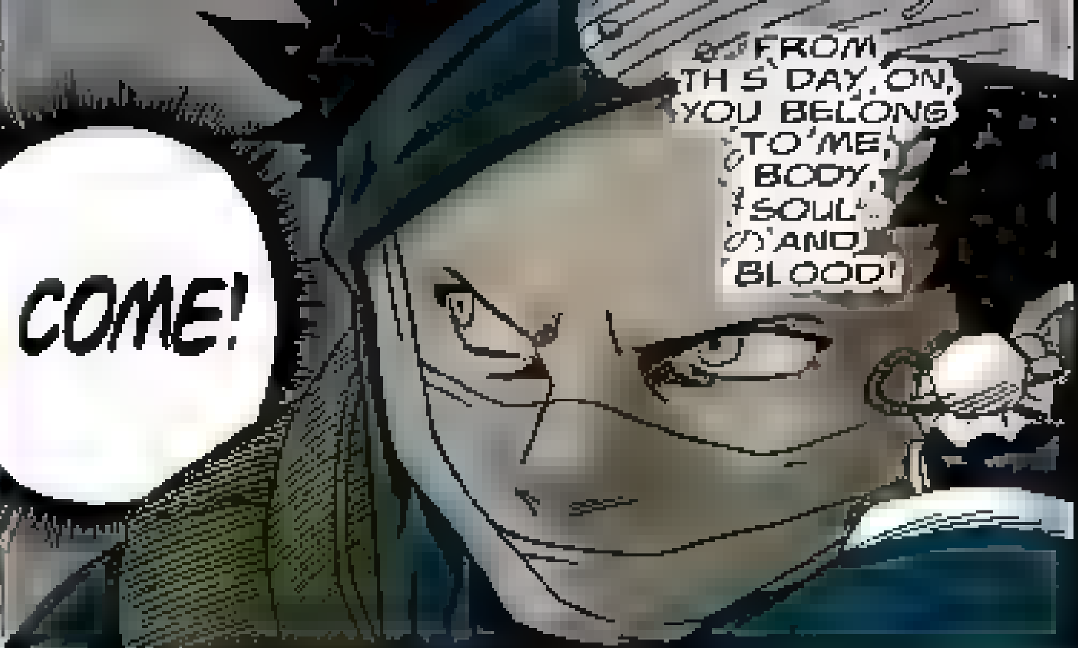

THE MOST PAINFUL THING...?


ACCEPTING THAT I WAS ALONE IN THE WORLD.
SUPERFLUOUS. UNWANTED. SHUNNED.

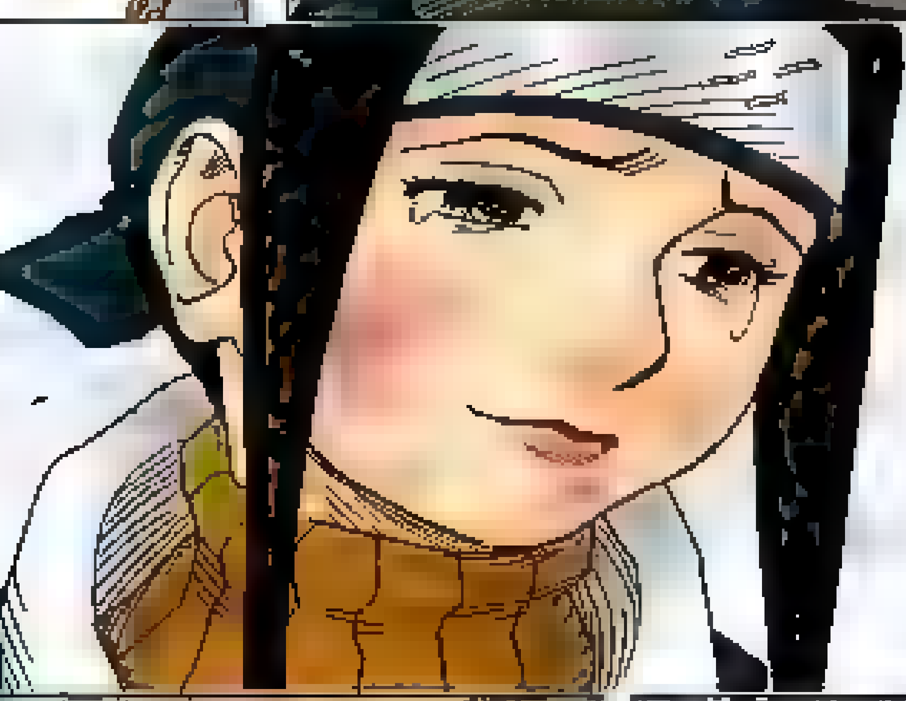



HE... SOUNDS... THE WAY I FEEL!
!!

F YOU HAD SOMEONE IN YOUR LIFE WHO DID MORE THAN THAT. WHO ACKNOWLEDGED YOUR EXISTENCE EVEN CARED FOR YOU --
WOULDN'T THAT PERSON BECOME THE MOST IMPORTANT... TREASURED... PERSON IN YOUR LIFE?!

DIDN'T YOU TELL ME...
THAT YOU WANTED TO BECOME THE NUMBER ONE NINJA IN YOUR VILLAGE AND MAKE EVERYONE RESPECT YOU?

...MASTER ZABUZA ADOPTED ME, KNOWING I CAME FROM A KEKKEI GENKAI BLOODLINE.
THE VERY THING N ME THAT MADE EVERYONE ELSE HATE ME -- HE DIDN'T JUST OVERLOOK T. HE CHERISHED IT. HE WANTED IT!


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FROM THIS DAY ON, YOU BELONG TO ME, BODY, SOUL AND BLOOD!
COME!


!!




I WAS SO HAPPY...!!


I HAVE BAD NEWS FOR YOU, HAKU... I'M LEAVING THIS LAND TONIGHT!
BUT I'VE SWORN AN OATH TO RETURN ONE DAY... AS A CONQUERER, WHO'LL CRUSH THEM ALL BENEATH MY FEET


AND, TO DO THAT, WHAT I NEED FROM YOU IS NEITHER LOVE NOR AFFECTION AND SUPPORT. WHAT I REQUIRE IS...
UNDER-STAND?



I AM YOUR WEAPON AND YOUR TOOL

KEEP ME BESIDE YOU AND I'LL STRIKE WHERE YOU TELL ME TO STRIKE, KILL WHOM YOU TELL ME TO KILL











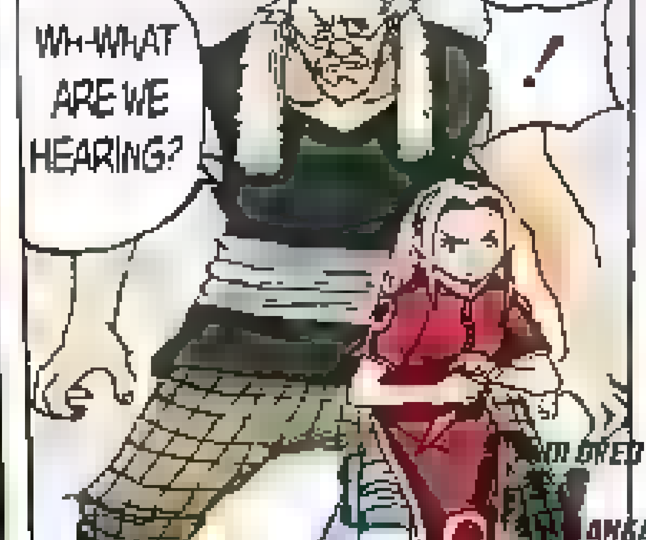




バッ
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忍法 口寄せ!
SHINOBI CONJURATION
土遁 追牙の術!!
EARTH STYLE! FANGED VENGEANCE TECHNIQUE!!
メリ
メリ
メリ


THIS POSTURING WILL GET YOU NOWHERE, KAKASHI!
YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL WHERE I TRULY AM!!!
WHILE I, ON THE OTHER HAND, KNOW EXACTLY WHERE YOU ARE AND EXACTLY HOW TO DEFEAT YOU!!!
YOU ARE COMPLETELY ENMESHED IN MY SPELL!
!!
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
EH-?!
ドゴ
NO!!!!
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!!!


WH-WHAT ARE WE HEARING?
!


WHEN YOUR EYES AND YOUR EARS HAVE LET YOU DOWN --
-- YOU CAN ALWAYS FOLLOW YOUR NOSE!

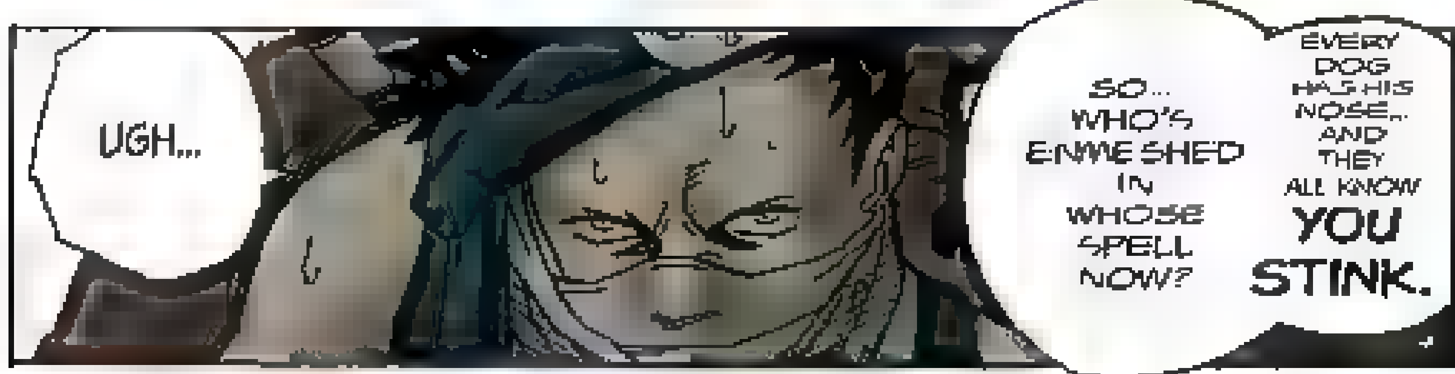
UHN...



THIS CONJURATION S SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR TRACKING.
T WORKED BECAUSE YOU SHUT YOUR EYES IN THE MIST.



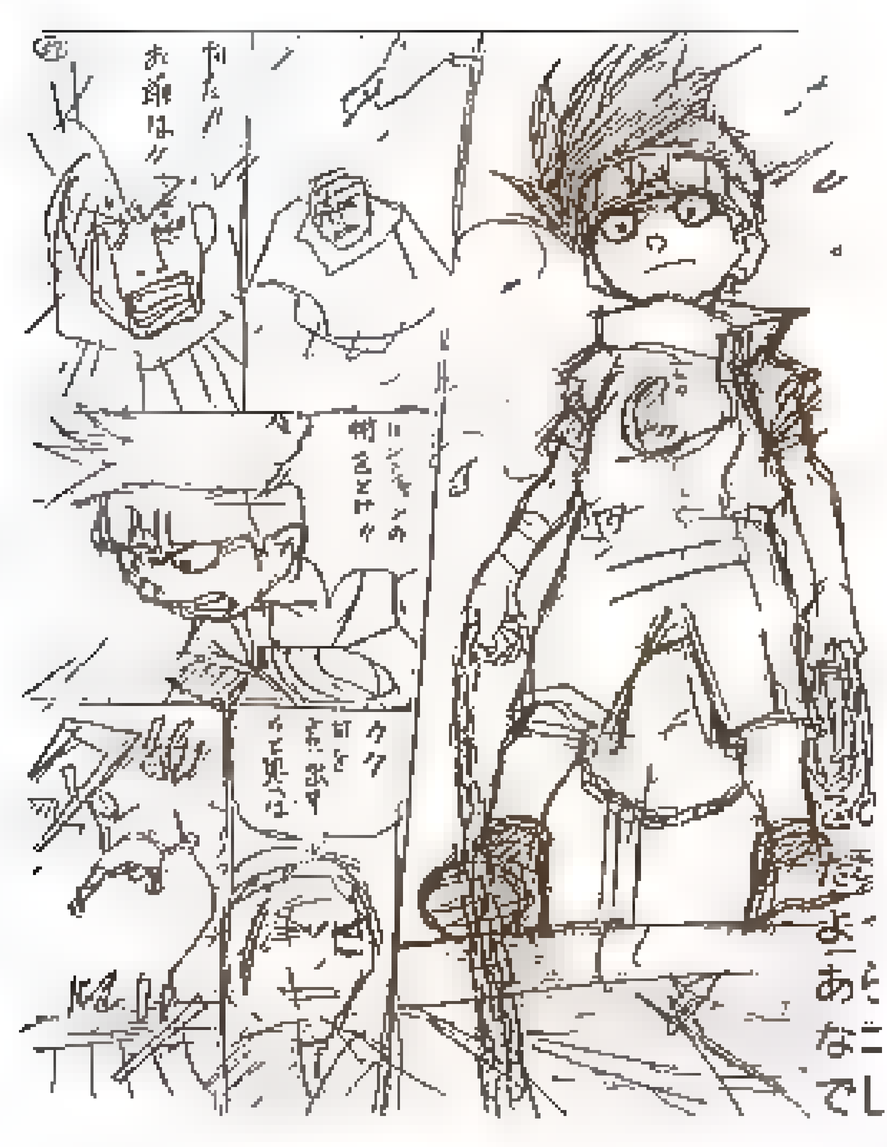
MY LITTLE NINJA PUPS COULDN'T MISS IT.
I'T'S WHY I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TO BLEED A BIT DURING BOTH OF OUR EARLIER ENCOUNTERS.
THE SMELL OF MY BLOOD IS ALL OVER YOU AND YOUR WEAPONS SO THICK...
UHN...







KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S SECOND MANGA REJECT SPECIAL.

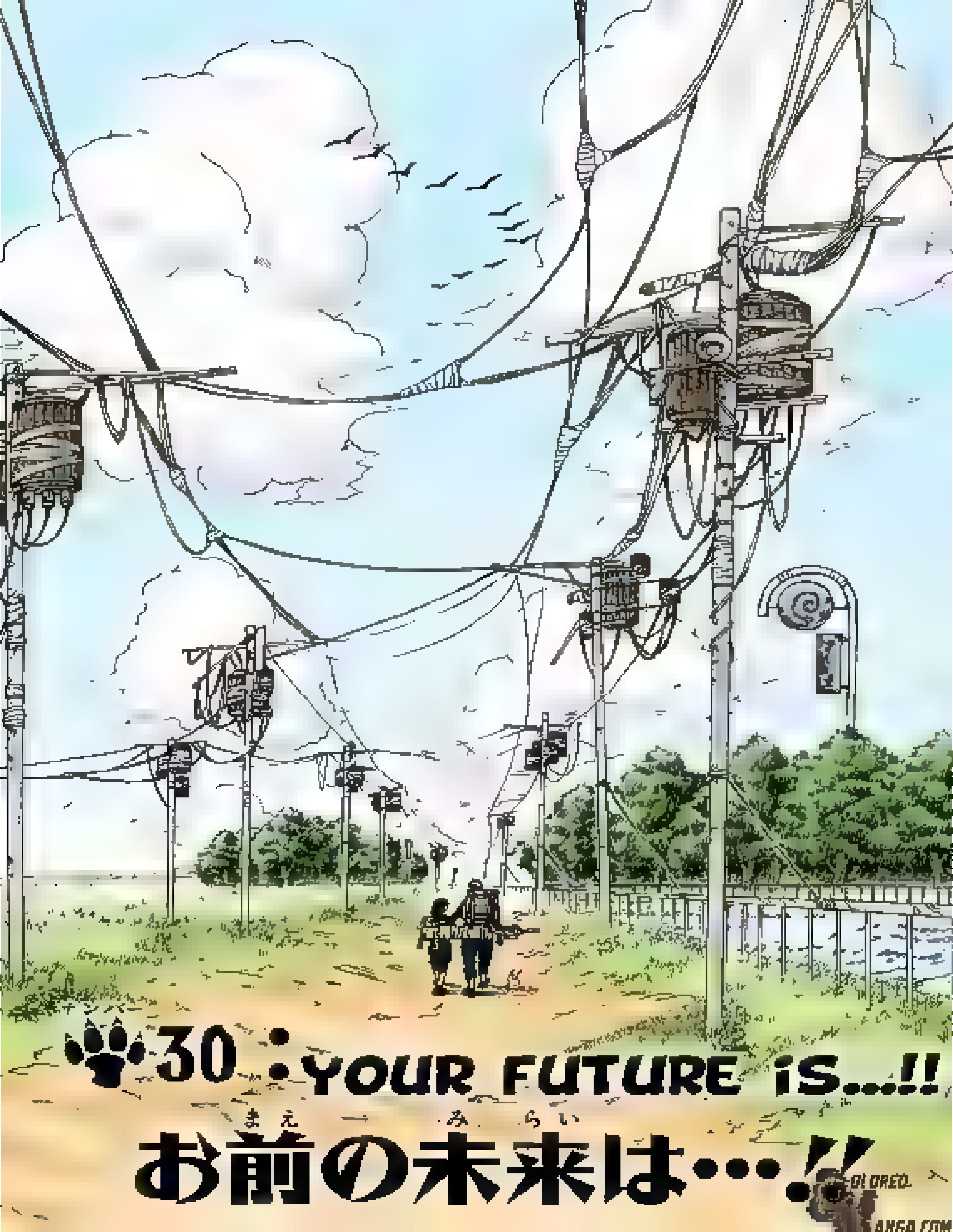


THE DESIGN TO THE LEFT IS FROM ANOTHER FLOP - A MANGA CALLED "ASIAN PUNK", THAT WAS RESOUNDINGLY REJECTED AT EVERY TURN. TO BE FRANK, THE PREMISE WAS—NOT COINCIDENTALLY -KINDA LIKE "GHOSTBUSTERS."

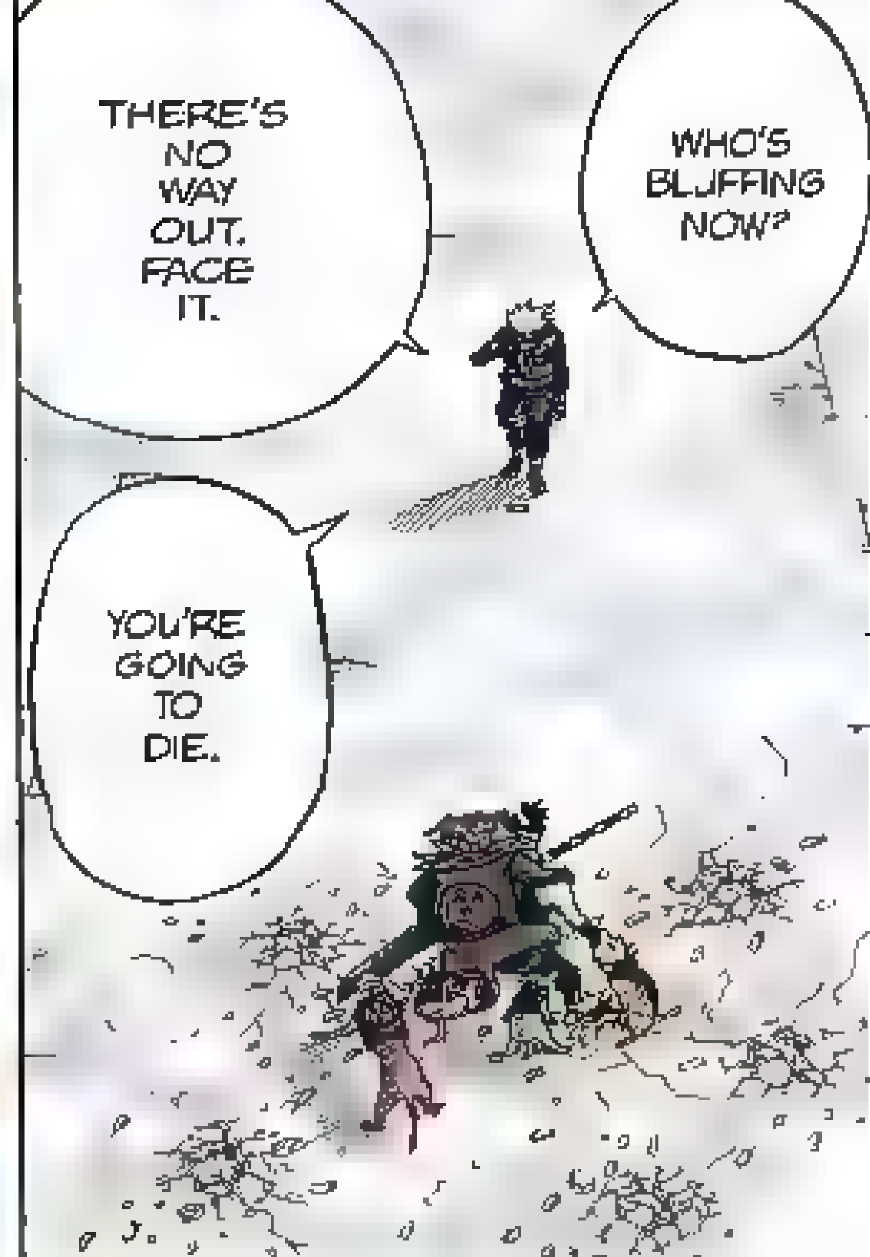
THE MA N CHARACTER WAS A K D WITH AN AXE TAKING ON AN EVIL FENG SHUI MASTER WHO COULD SUMMON AND CONTROL EVIL SPIRITS... AND THE MAIN CHARACTER WASN'T REALLY HUMAN HIMSELF, BUT HAD BEEN CREATED BY SOME GREATER POWER. THERE WAS MORE, BUT WE DON'T NEED TO GO INTO IT HERE.

THE THING IS, W TH THAT STORY, MY PRIZE-WINNING SERIES KARAKUR, AND NARUTO, IT OCCURS ME TO ME THAT MY HEROES ARE ALWAYS THESE YOUNG GUYS. GUESS I'M JUST A SUCKER FOR BOYS' ADVENTURE TALES!

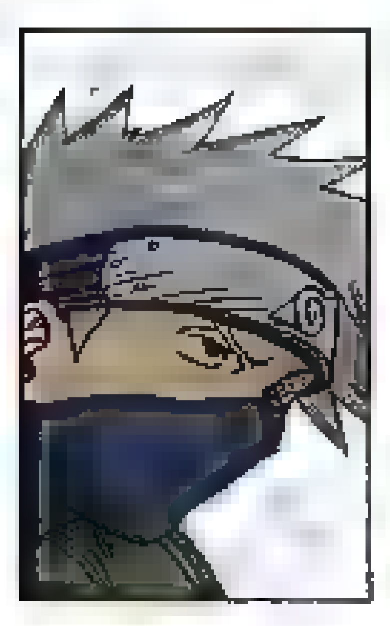


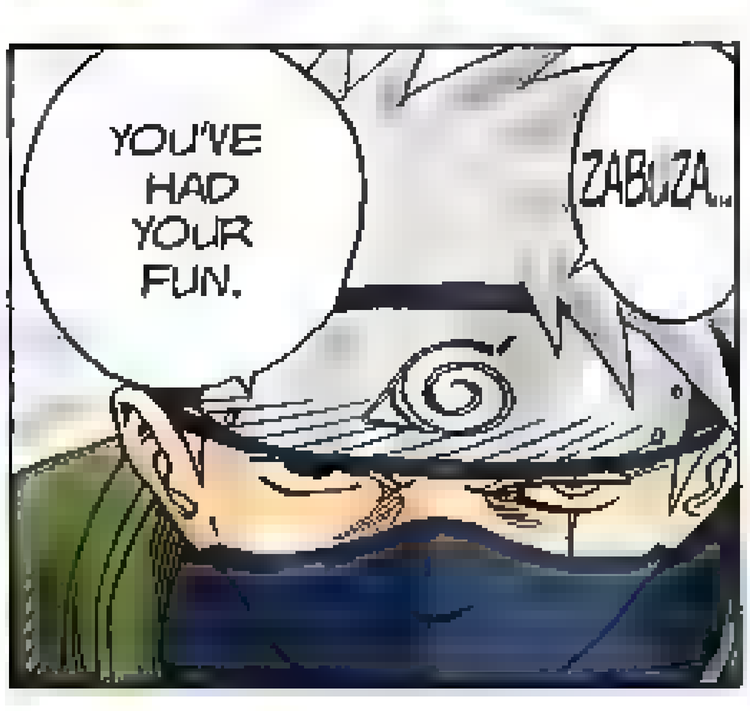

30 : YOUR FUTURE IS...!!
お前の未来は…!!


YOU SAY MY FUTURE IS DEATH..?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR BLUFFS.


WHO'S BLUFFING NOW?
THERE'S NO WAY OUT. FACE IT.
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE.






ZABUZA...
YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN.


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WE KNOW ALL ABOUT THE FAILED COUP YOU AND YOUR FOLLOWERS STAGED, AND ABOUT THE ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE MIZUKAGE THE WATER SHADOW, LEADER OF YOUR PEOPLE.

THE DAY YOU DESERTED THE LAND OF THE MIST AND BECAME A TURNCOAT AND RENEGADE YOUR NAME AND YOUR ACTIONS WERE REPORTED TO US AT KONOHA VILLAGE.

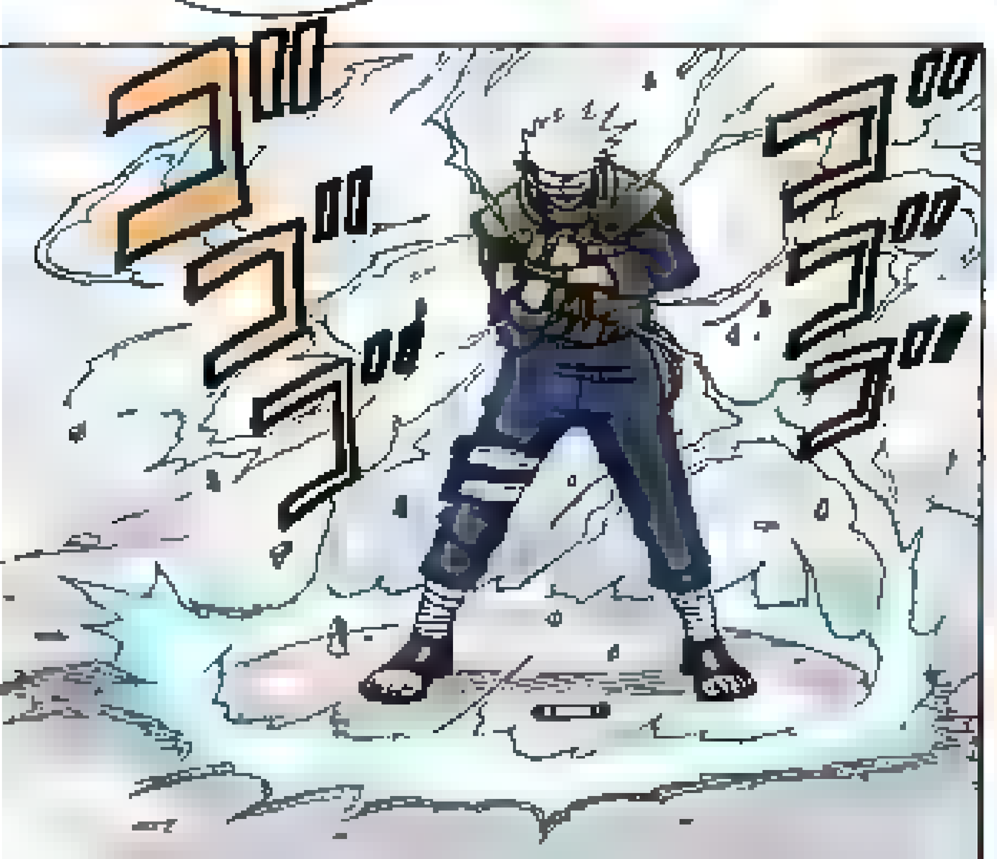
YOU SCHEMED YOUR SCHEMES...

...

IT'S WHY YOU'D STOOP TO WORK FOR A PARASITE LIKE GATO.



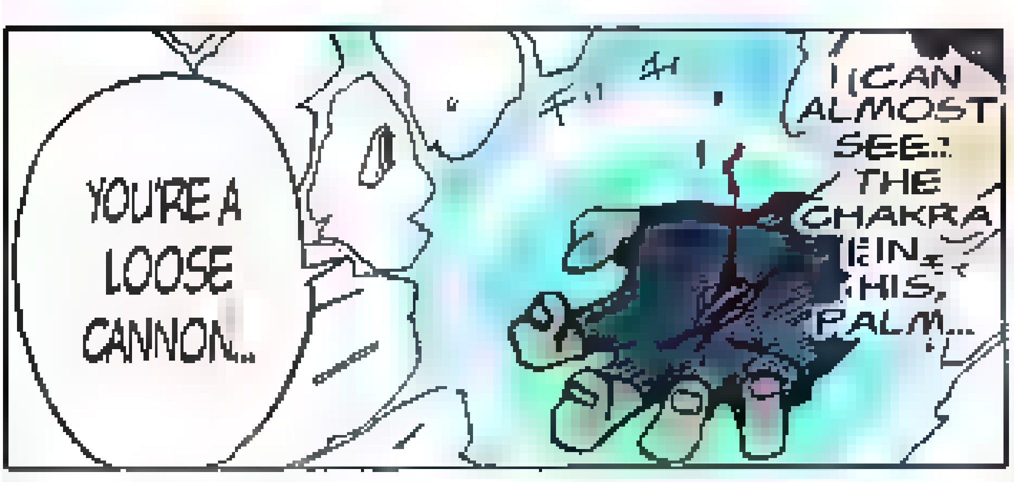
YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO RAISE FUNDS FOR A SECOND ATTEMPT, AND BARELY STAYING A JUMP AHEAD OF THE SHINOBI HUNTERS... WHICH IS WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE.





LIGHTNING BLADE!!

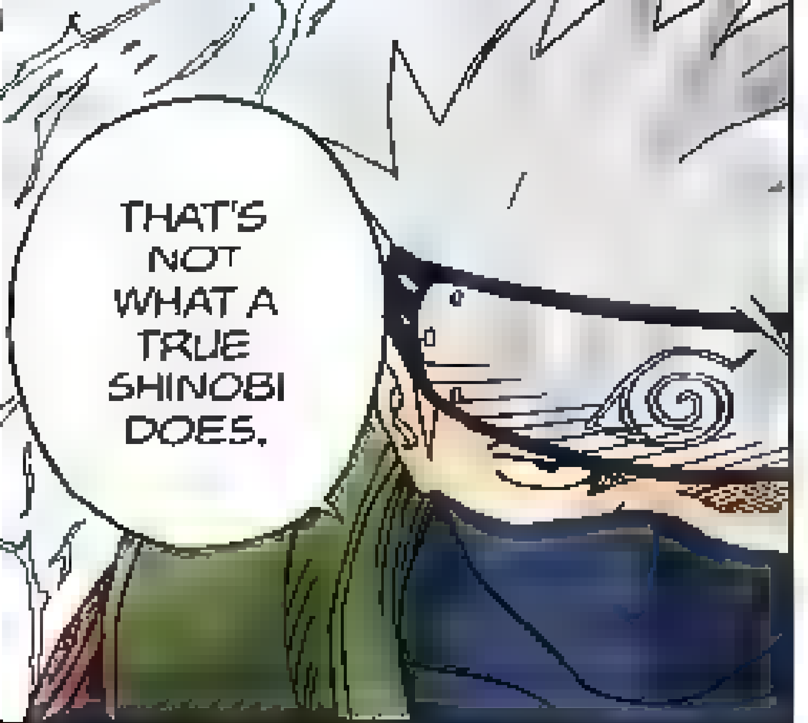
雷切!!

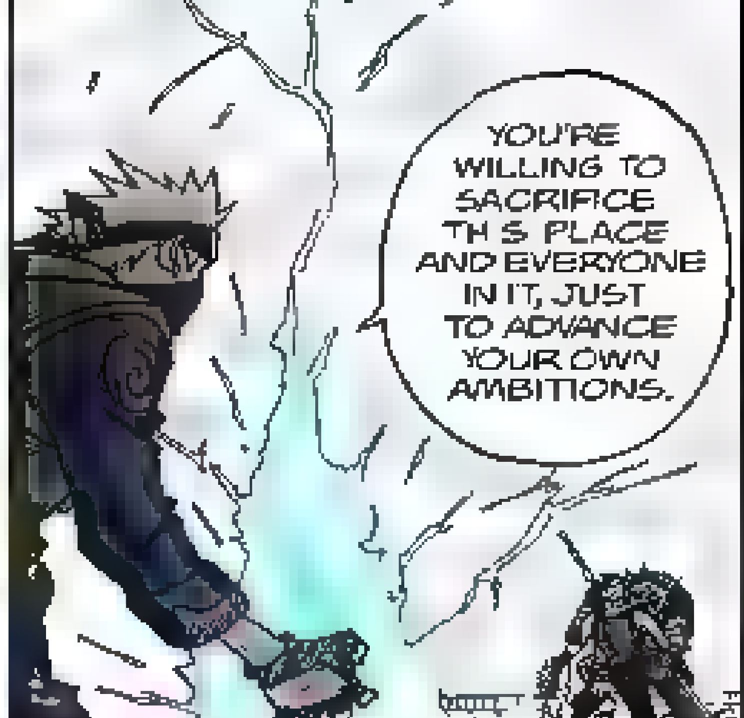


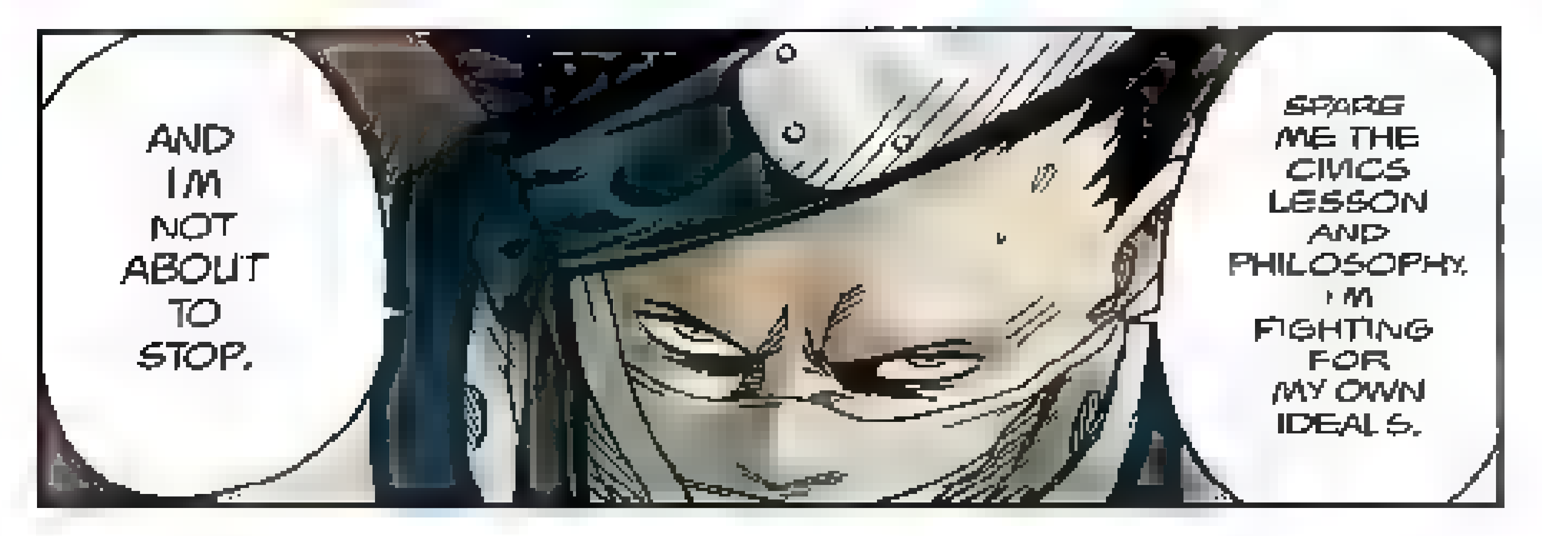


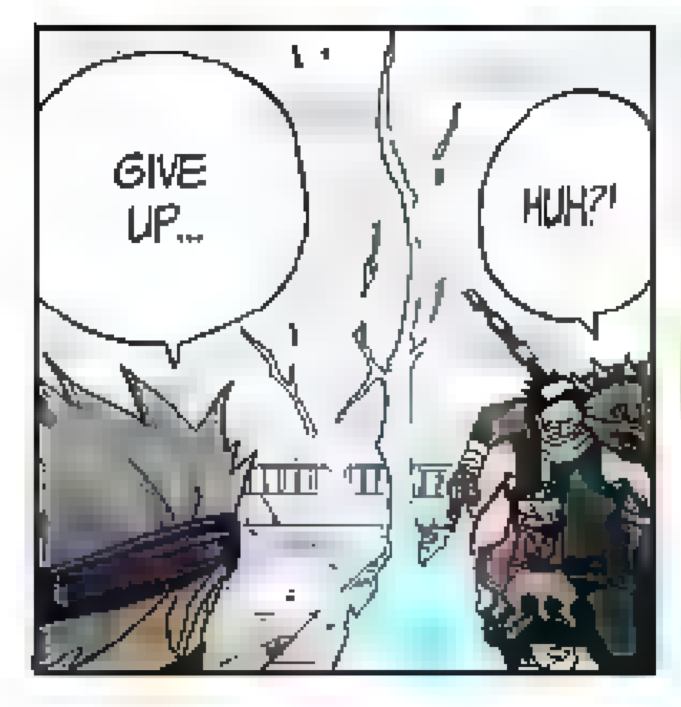





THAT'S NOT WHAT A TRUE SHINOBI DOES.


YOU'RE WILLING TO SACRIFICE TH S PLACE AND EVERYONE IN IT, JUST TO ADVANCE YOUR OWN AMBITIONS.


SPARE ME THE CIVICS LESSON AND PHILOSOPHY. I'M FIGHTING FOR MY OWN IDEALS.
AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO STOP.


GIVE UP...
HUH?!


I'LL SAY THIS JUST ONCE MORE.




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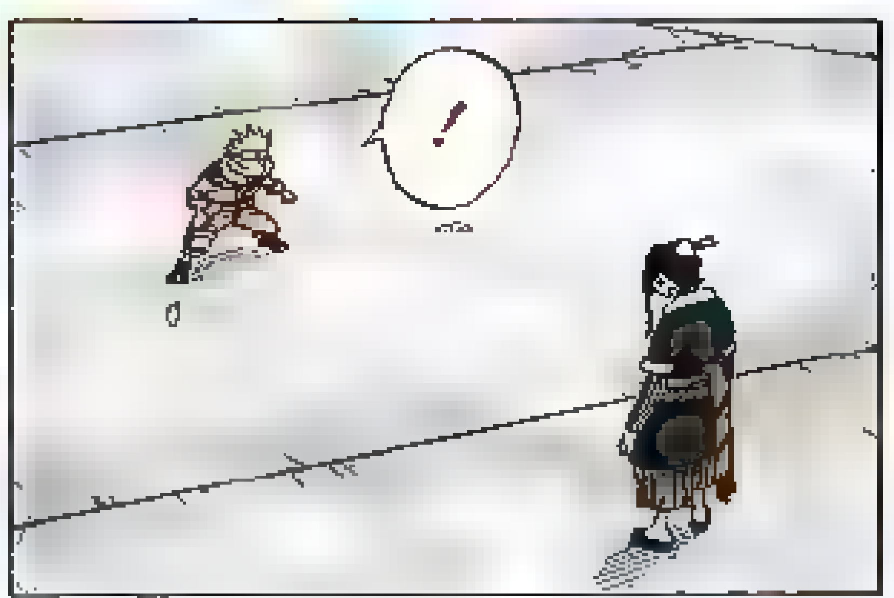
YOUR FUTURE IS DEATH.



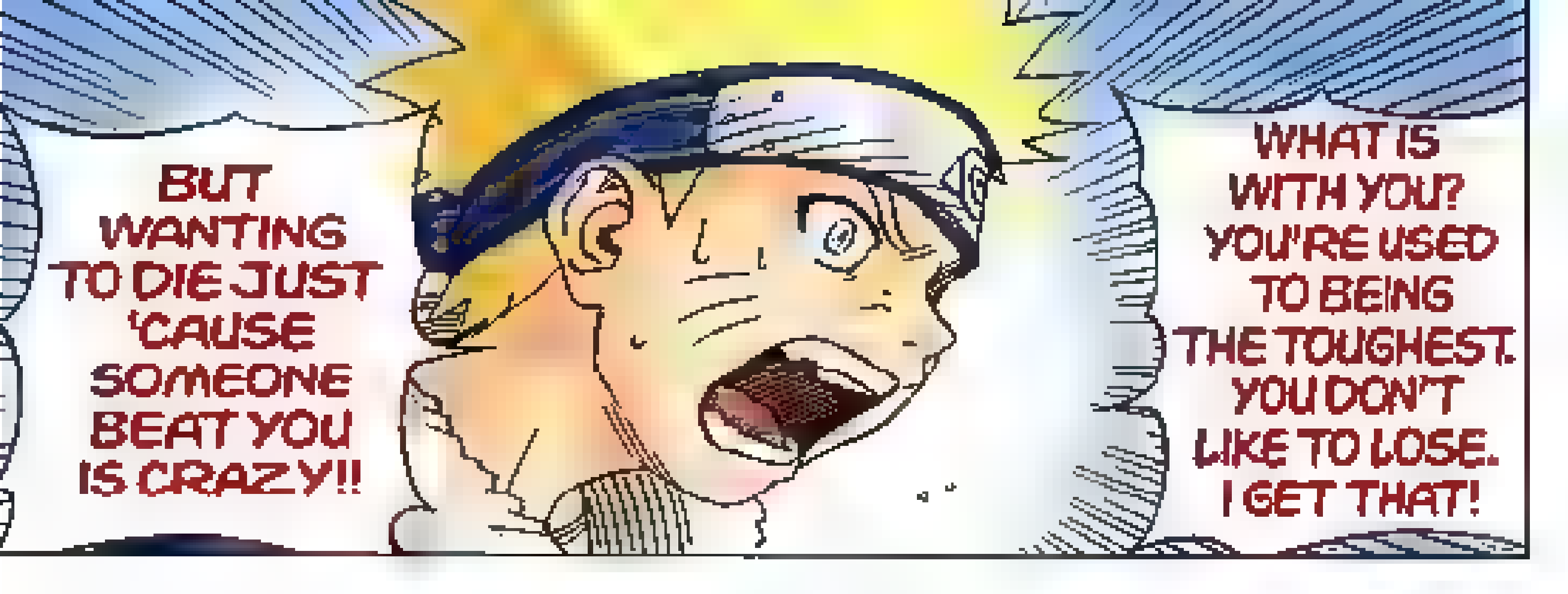




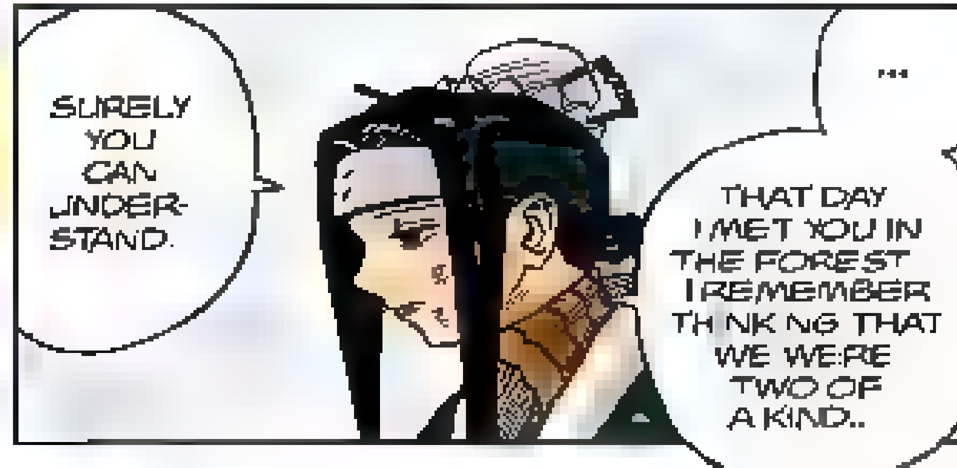


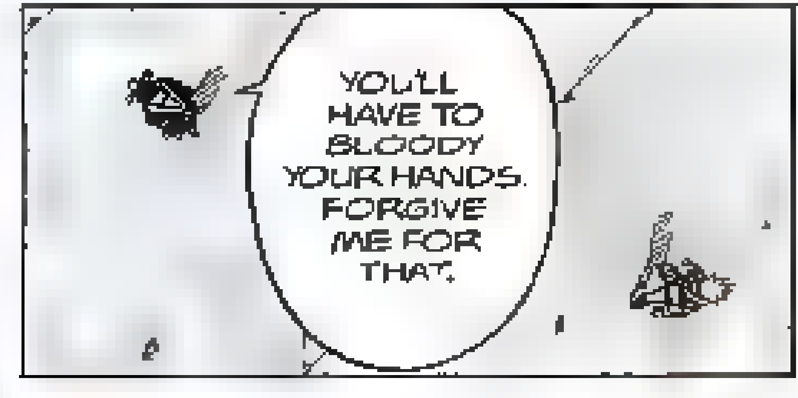
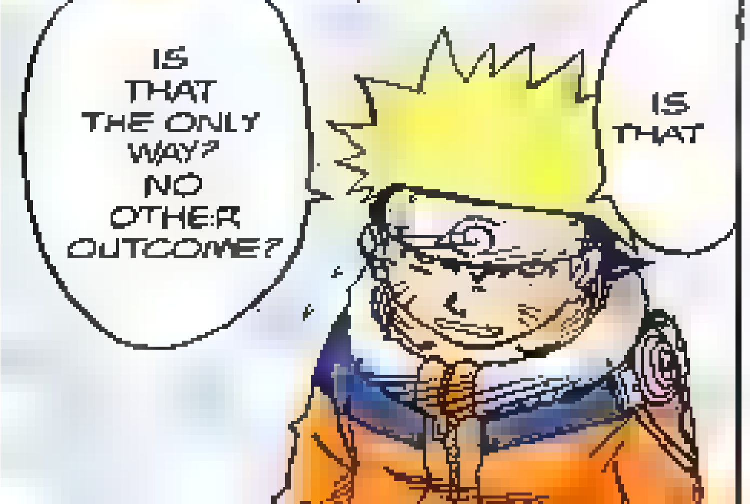





WHAT IS WITH YOU? YOU'RE USED TO BEING THE TOUGHEST. YOU DON'T LIKE TO LOSE. I GET THAT!
BUT WANTING TO DIE JUST 'CAUSE SOMEONE BEAT YOU IS CRAZY!!

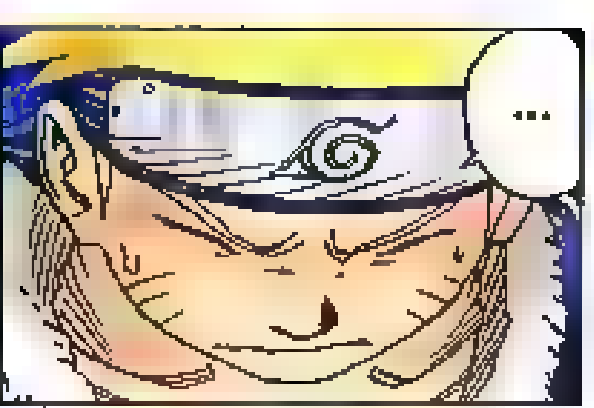
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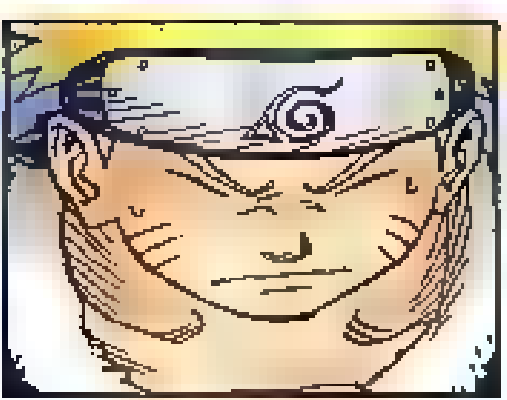
THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN JUST FIGHTING. THERE'S MORE TO YOU!
YOUR BOSS MUST LIKE YOU FOR MORE THAN JUST THAT... RIGHT? DOESN'T HE?

...
THAT DAY I MET YOU IN THE FOREST I REMEMBER TH NK NG THAT WE WERE TWO OF A KIND..
SURELY YOU CAN UNDER-STAND.

!

YOU'LL HAVE TO BLOODY YOUR HANDS. FORGIVE ME FOR THAT.

IS THAT
IS THAT THE ONLY WAY? NO OTHER OUTCOME?

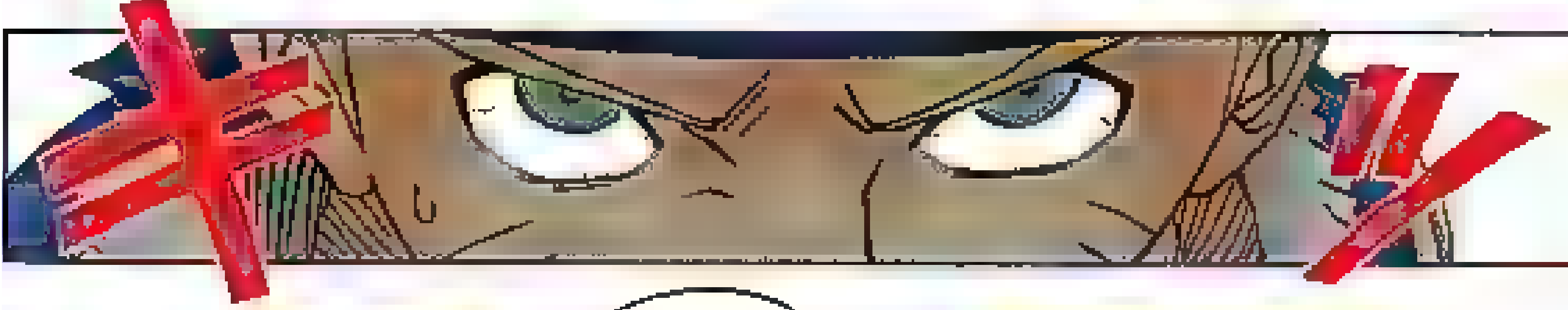
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YES...!!

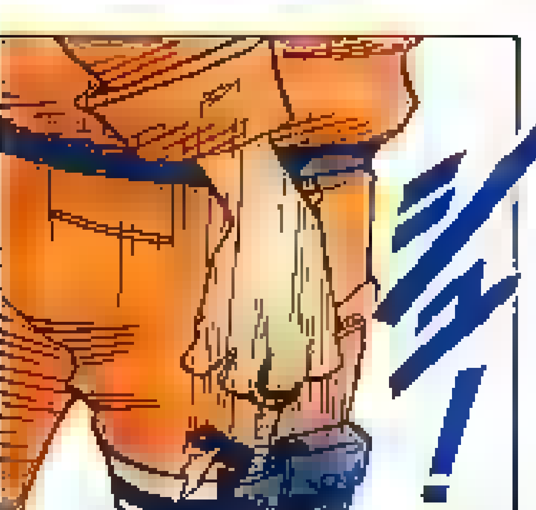






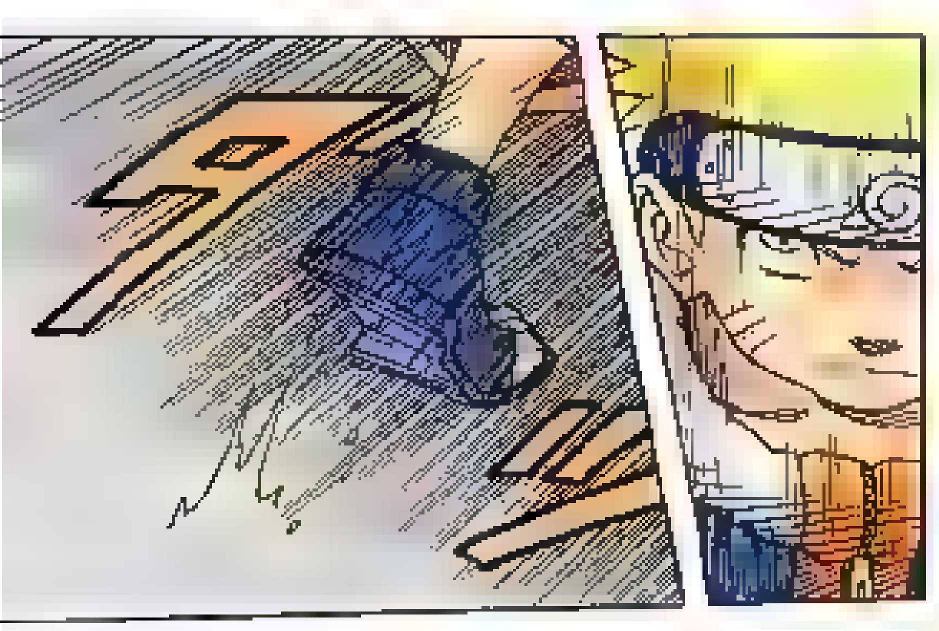
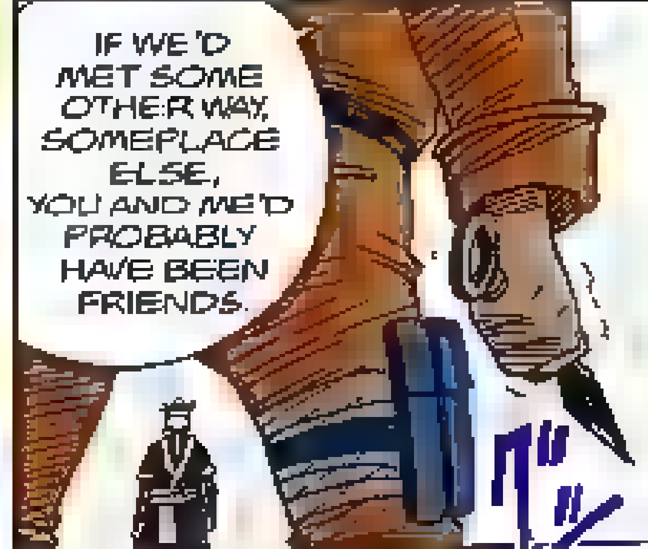




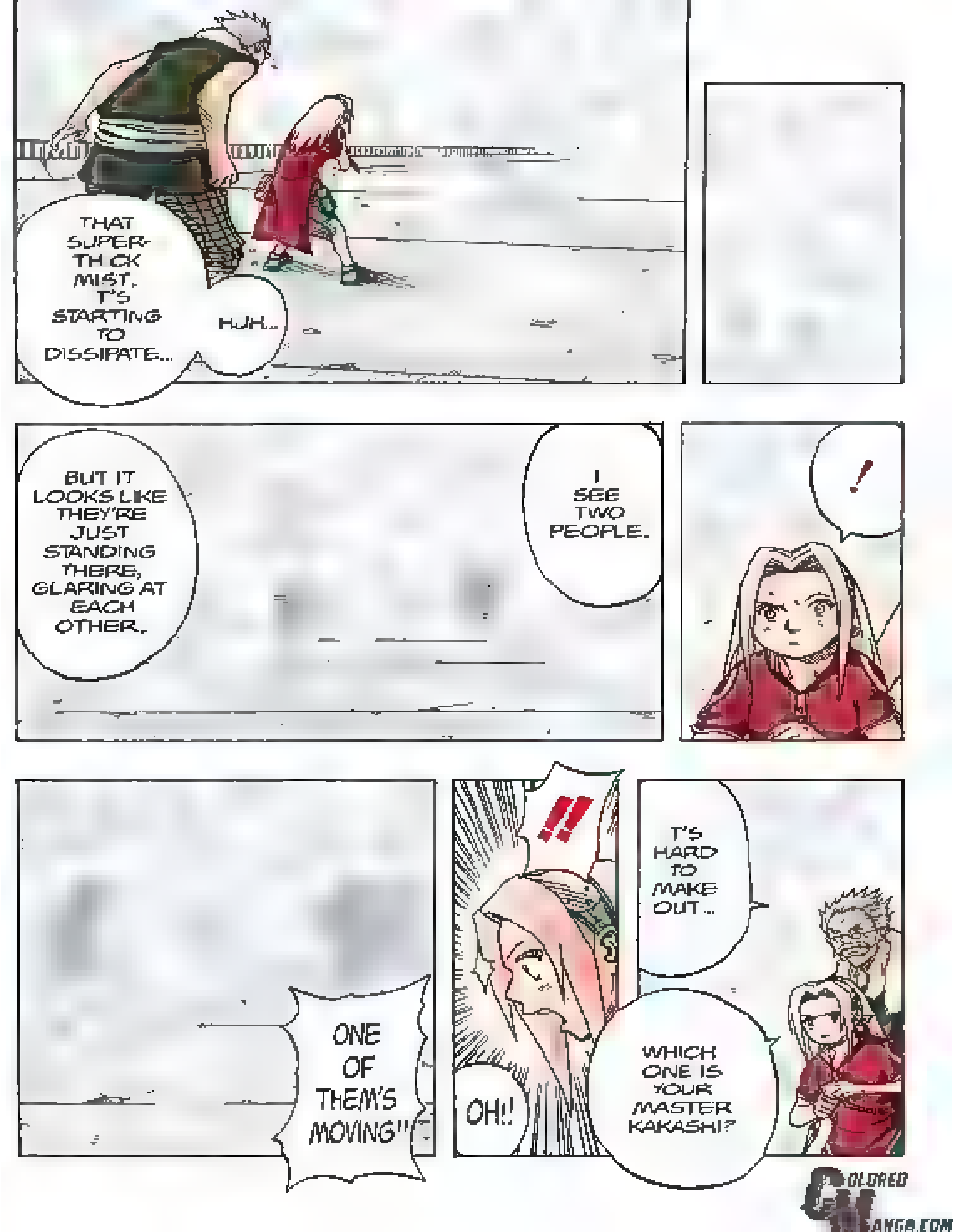


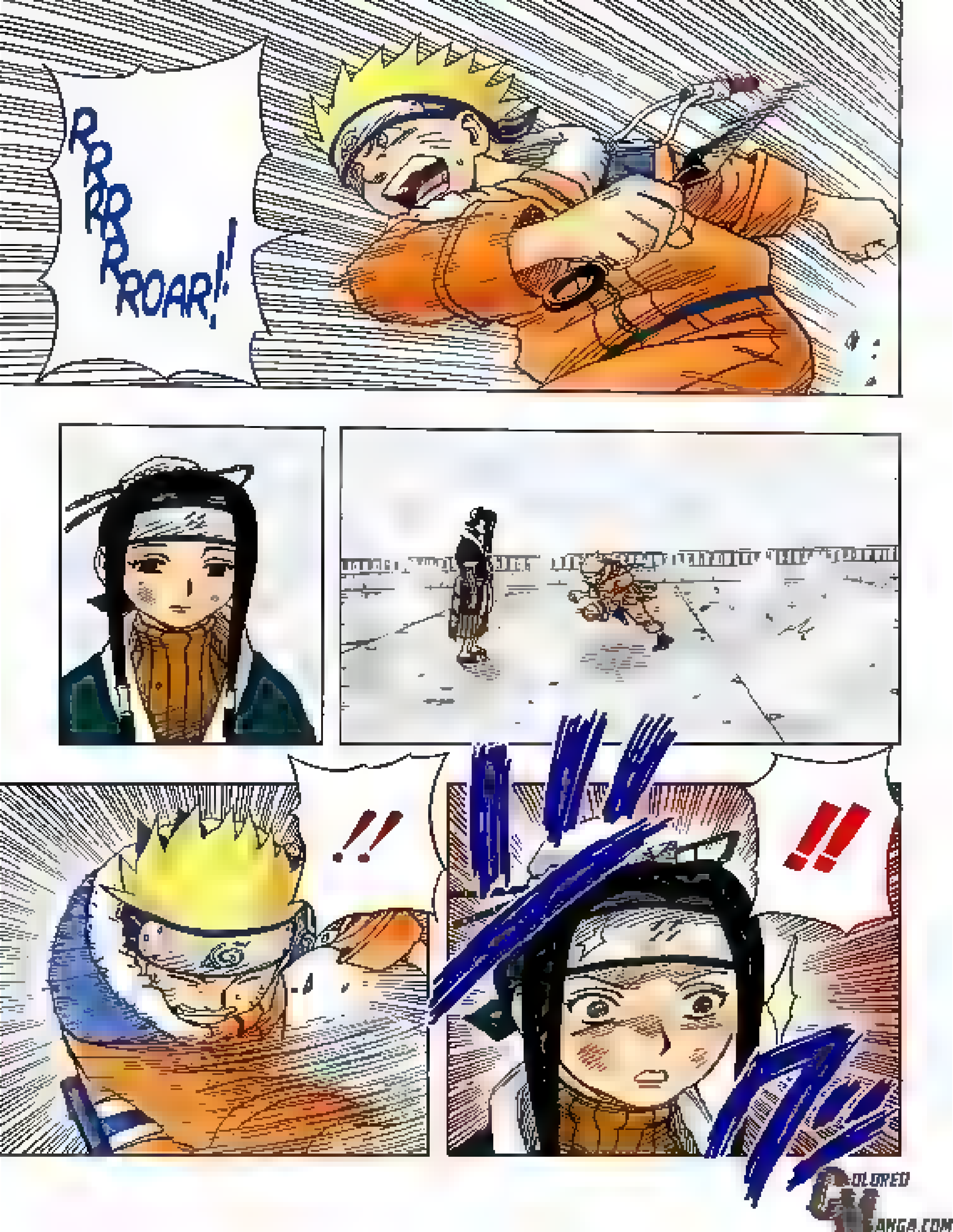



...SASUKE HAD A DREAM, TOO...
...HE...

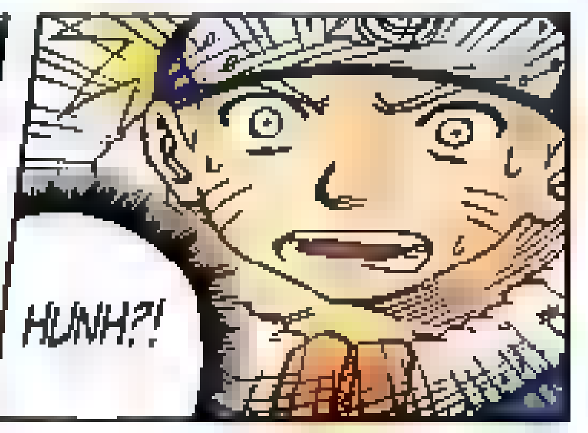



IF WE'D MET SOME OTHER WAY, SOMEPLACE ELSE, YOU AND ME'D PROBABLY HAVE BEEN FRIENDS.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE VERY STRONG.
THANK YOU



THAT SUPER-TH CK MIST, T'S STARTING TO DISSIPATE...
HUH..
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE JUST STANDING THERE, GLARING AT EACH OTHER.
I SEE TWO PEOPLE.
!
ONE OF THEM'S MOVING!!
!!
OH!!
T'S HARD TO MAKE OUT..
WHICH ONE IS YOUR MASTER KAKASHI?
COLORED MANGA.COM


RRRRROAR!!
!!
!!

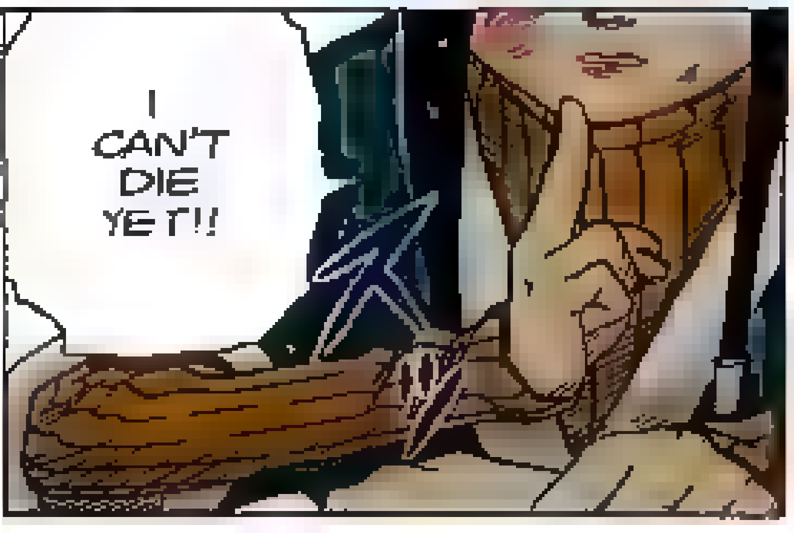
!!





I'M SORRY, NARUTO!







WHAT?
!!!
ガッ
パキ
パキ
パキ
パキキ



!!

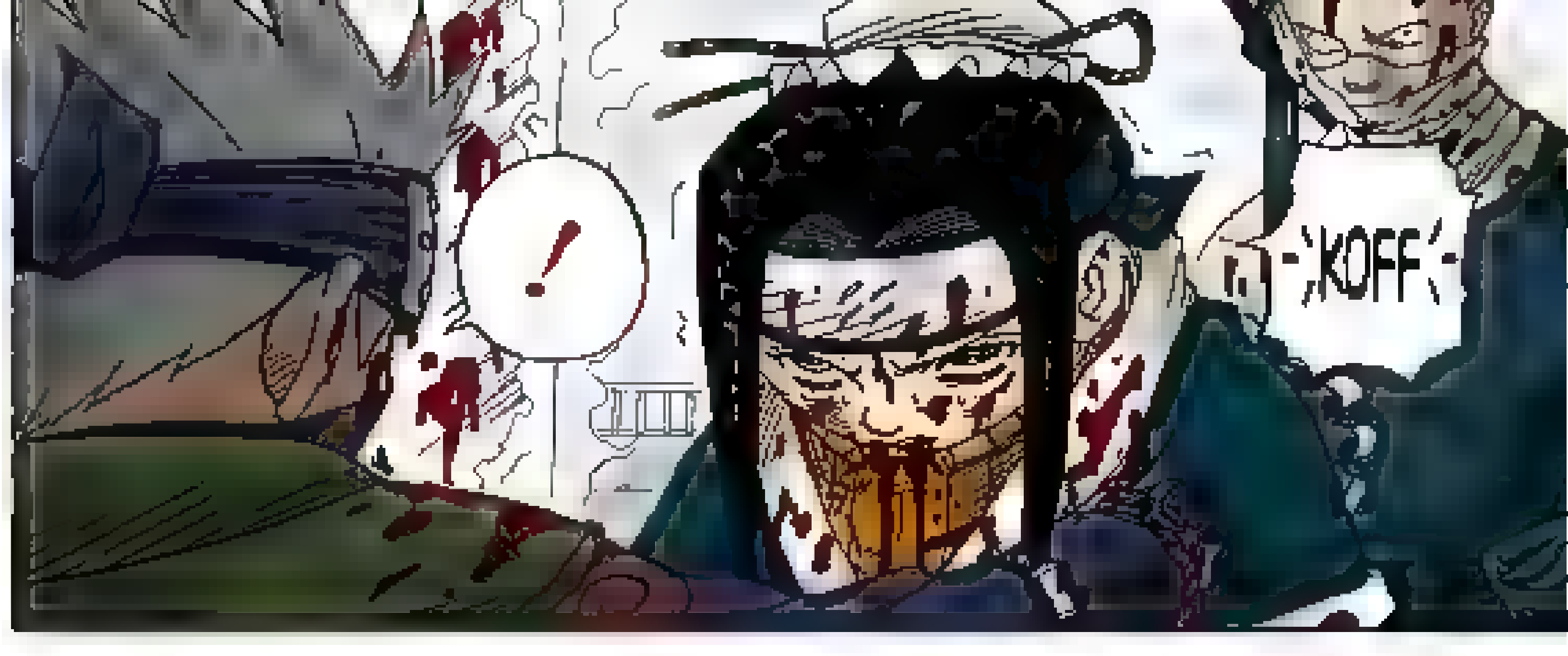
WH-WHAT THE !!




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!
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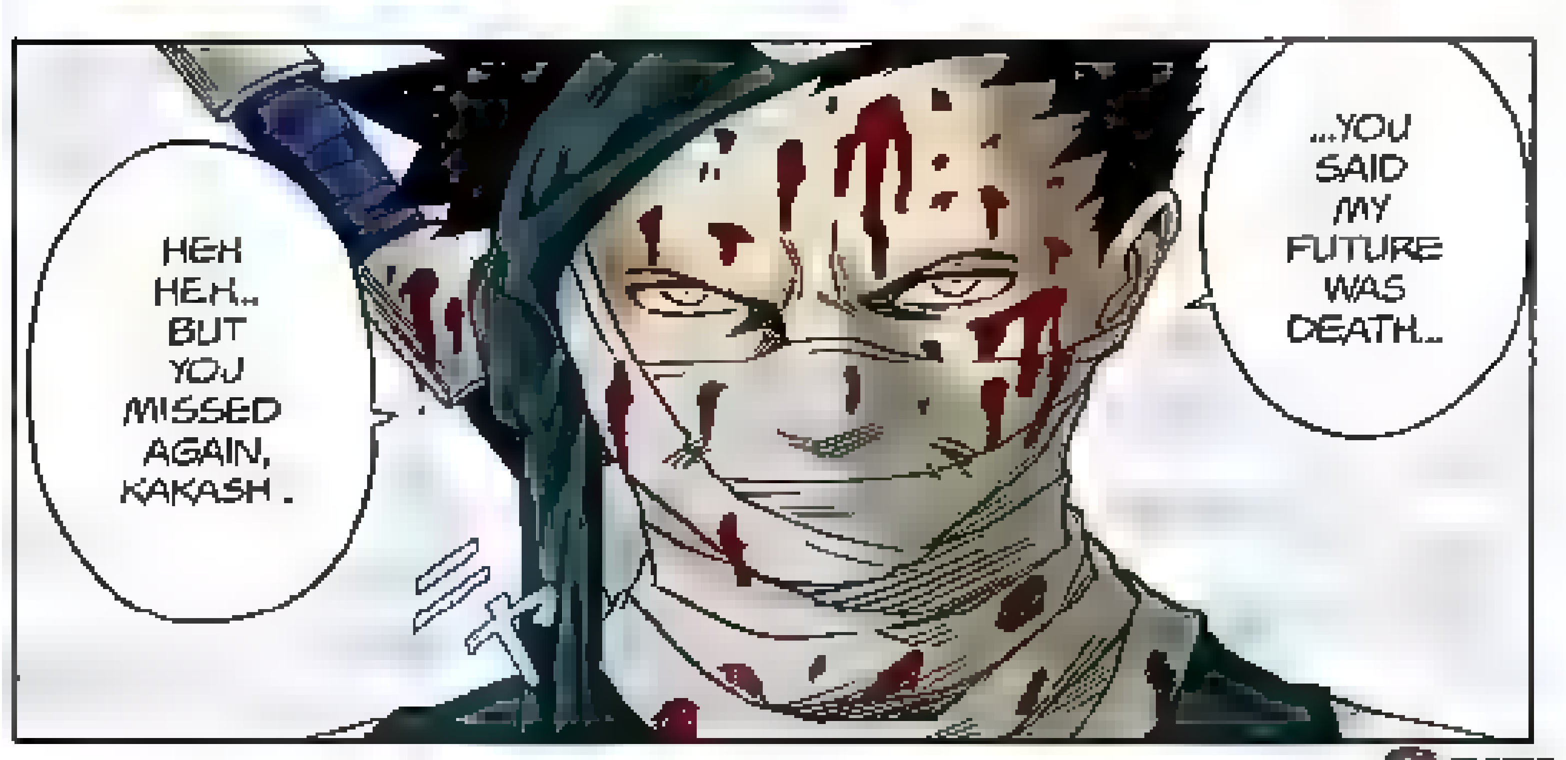



!
KOFF






!
ZABUZA... S-SIR..

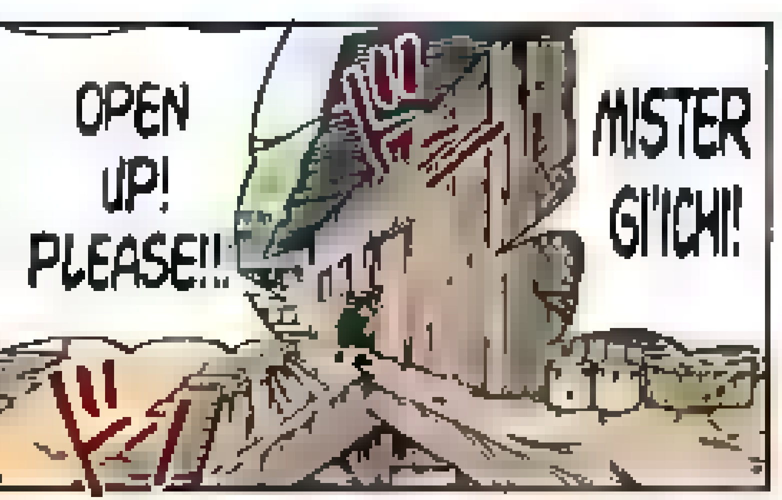

...YOU SAID MY FUTURE WAS DEATH...
HEH HEH.. BUT YOU MISSED AGAIN, KAKASHI.

31：それぞれの戦い…!!

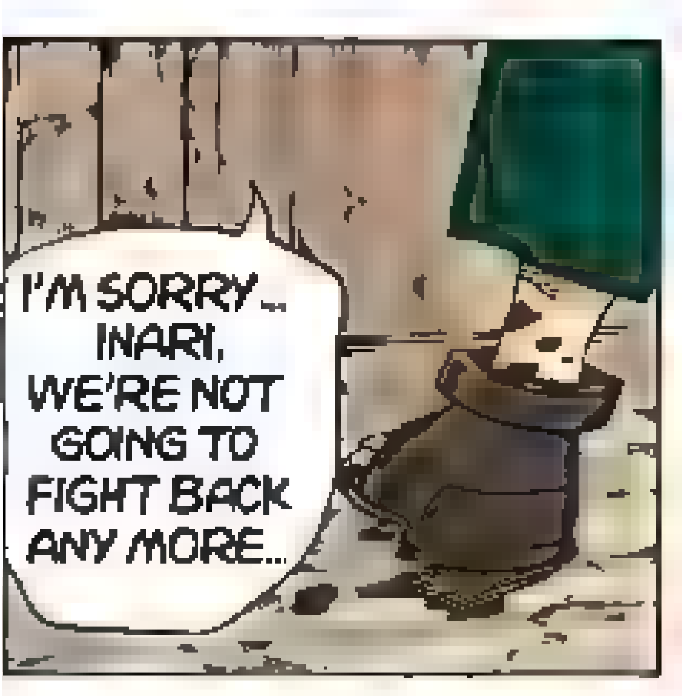
TO EACH HIS OWN STRUGGLE...!!

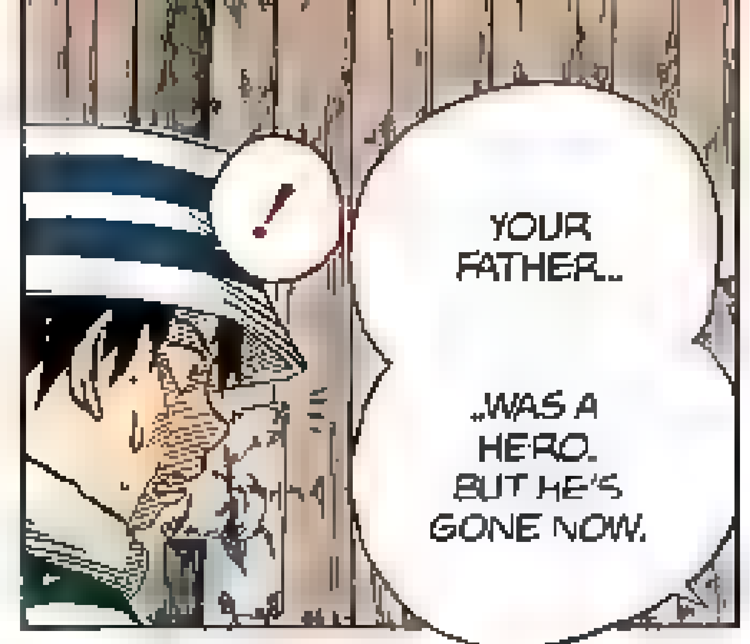


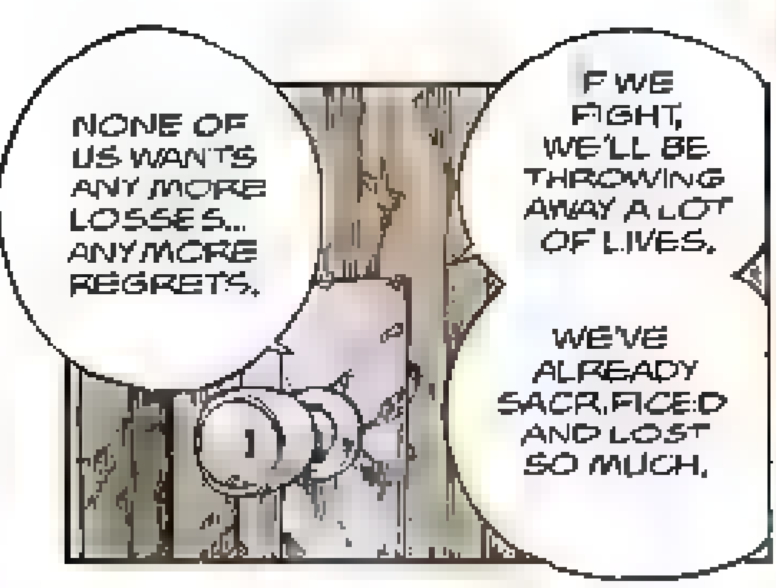



MISTER GI'ICHI!
OPEN UP! PLEASE!!


I NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME TO THE BRIDGE!!!
IF WE STICK TOGETHER, THIS TIME WE CAN BEAT GATō AND HIS WHOLE GANG!


I'M SORRY... INARI, WE'RE NOT GOING TO FIGHT BACK ANY MORE...

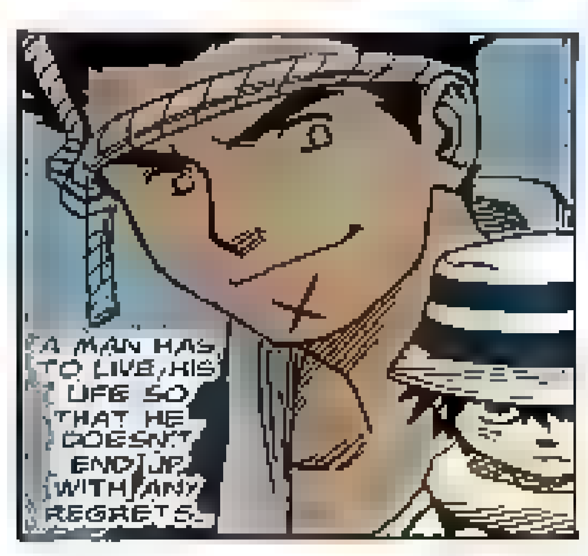

!
YOUR FATHER...
...WAS A HERO. BUT HE'S GONE NOW.

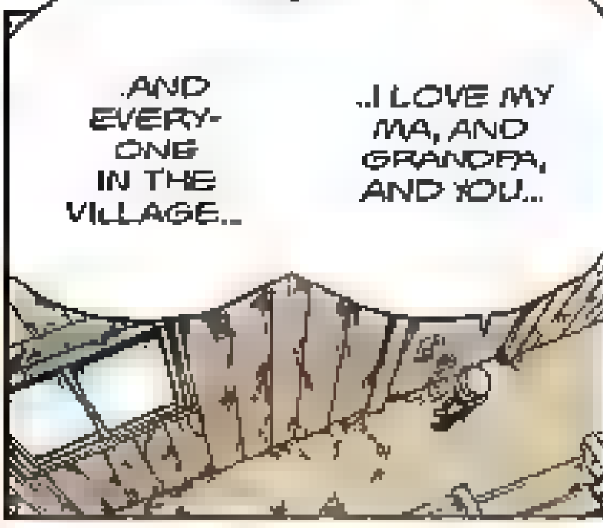

IF WE FIGHT, WE'LL BE THROWING AWAY A LOT OF LIVES.
WE'VE ALREADY SACRIFICED AND LOST SO MUCH.
NONE OF US WANTS ANY MORE LOSSES... ANY MORE REGRETS.


...
...I DON'T WANT ANY REGRETS EITHER.


...


THAT'S WHY...
...I HAVE TO FIGHT.


A MAN HAS TO LIVE HIS LIFE SO THAT HE DOESN'T END UP WITH ANY REGRETS.

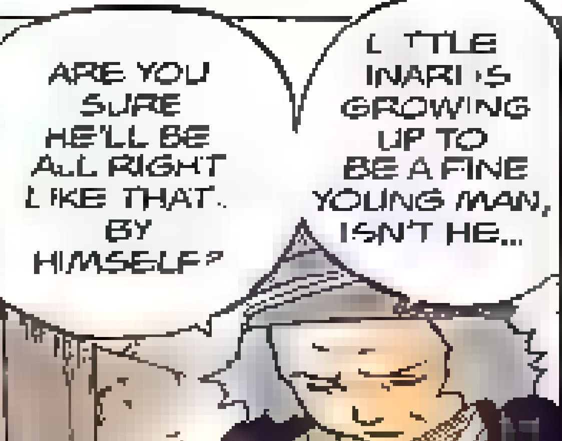

...I LOVE MY MA, AND GRANDPA, AND YOU...
...AND EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE...

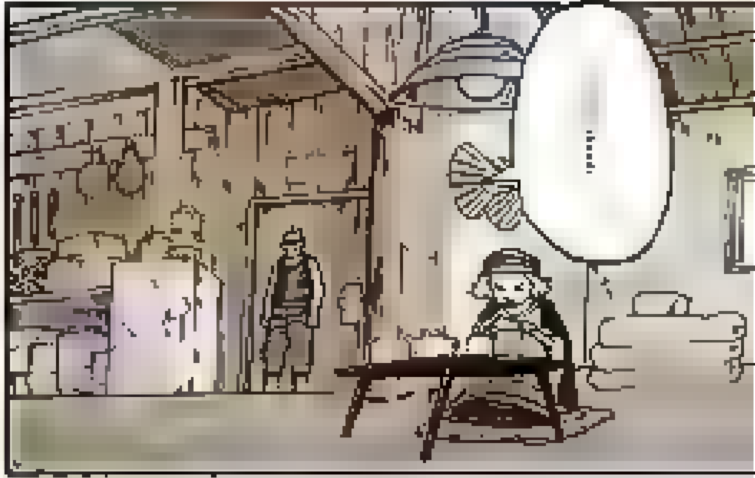

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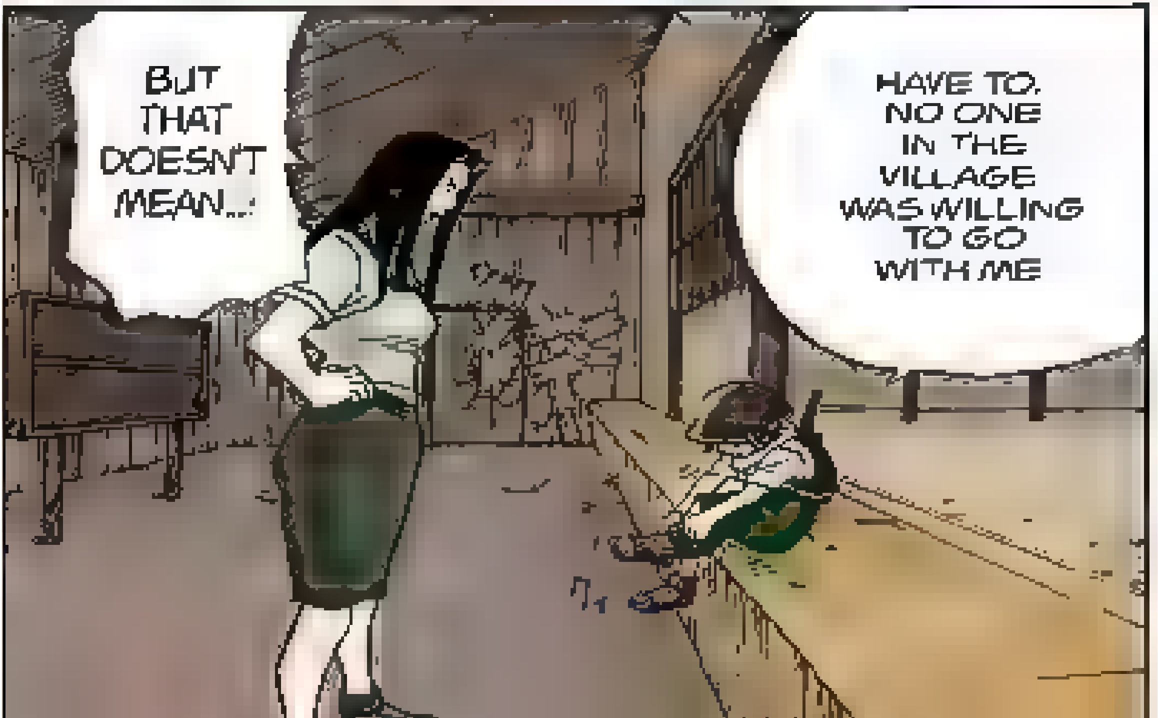


AND UNDERSTAND NOW...
THAT I CAN'T PROTECT ANYONE BY BEING A BIG CRYBABY.





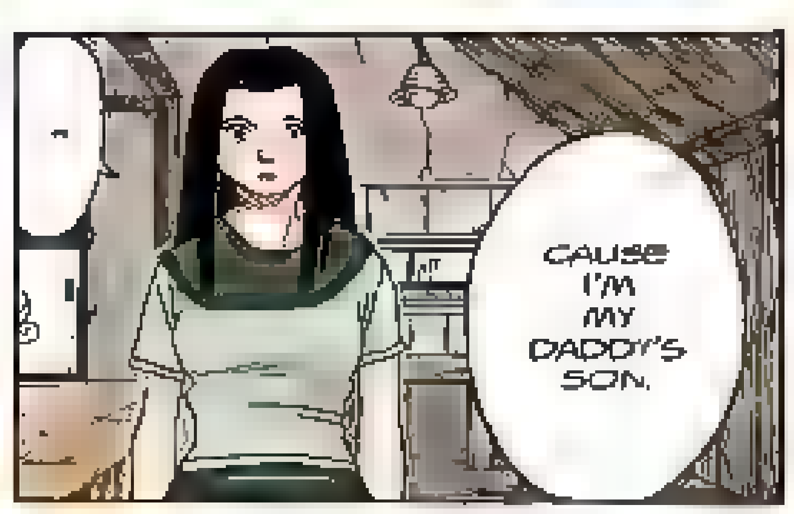


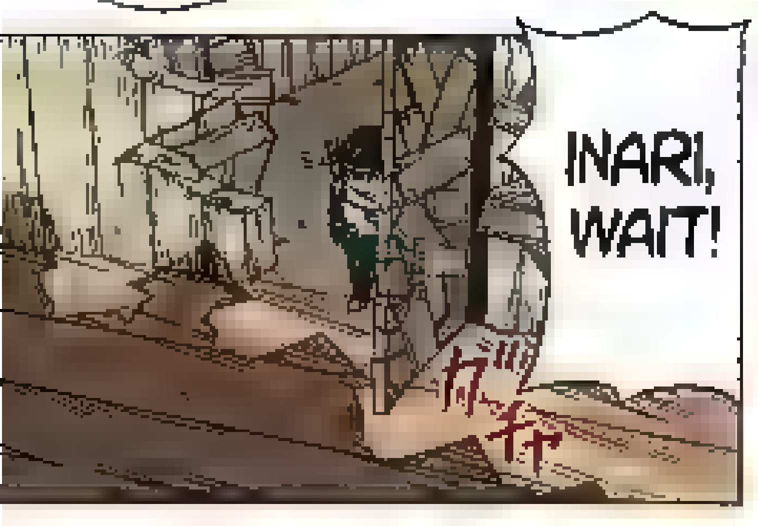




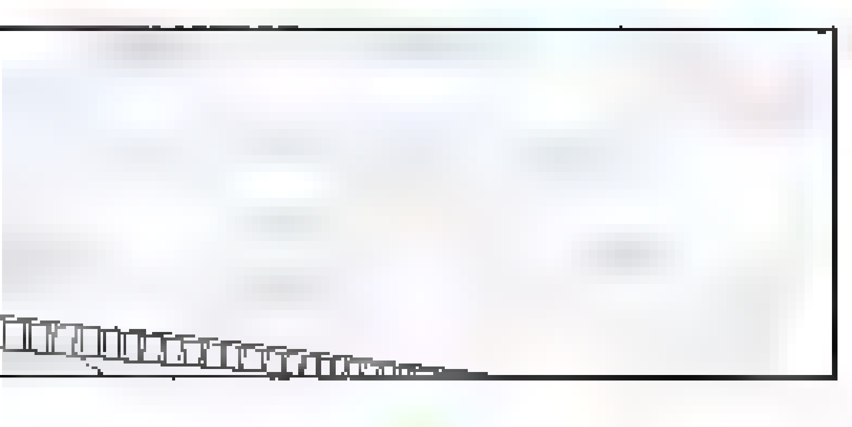

YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE BOY!

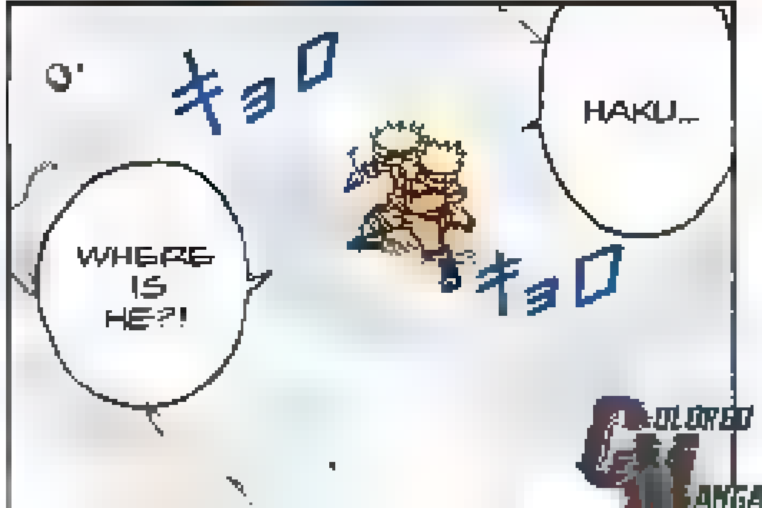

I MAY BE LITTLE...
...BUT I KNOW HOW TO FIGHT...

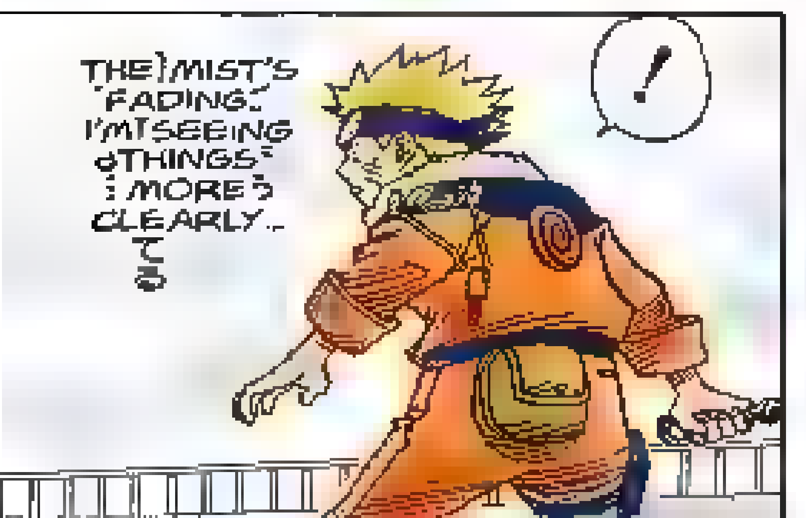

CAUSE I'M MY DADDY'S SON.


INARI, WAIT!

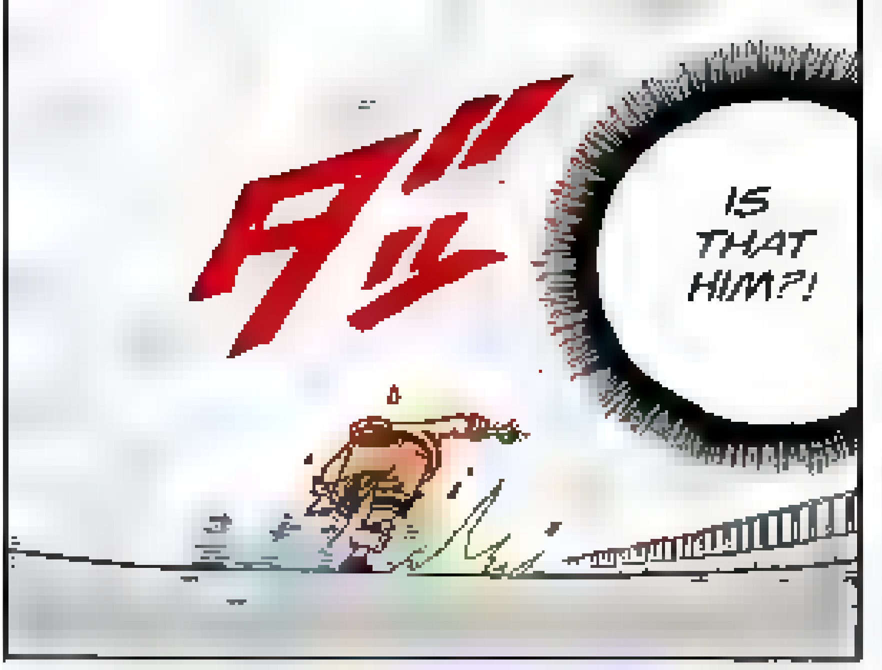

!

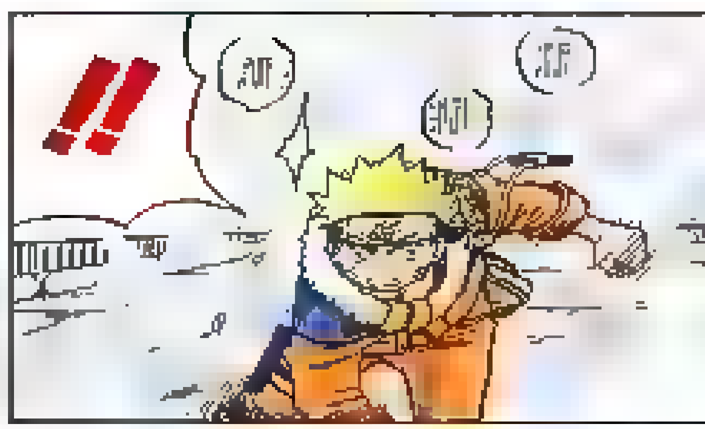


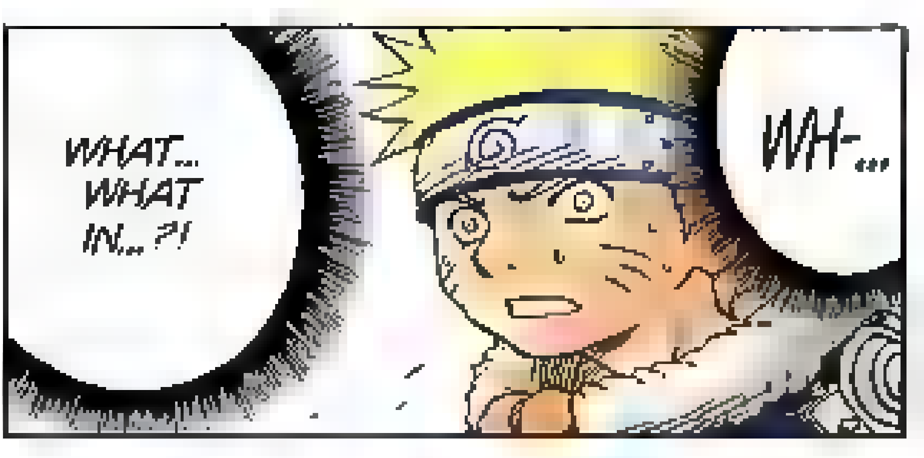

HAKU...
キョロ
キョロ
WHERE IS HE?!


!
THE MIST'S FADING. I'M SEEING THINGS MORE CLEARLY...


HUHNH?!
!?


ダッ
IS THAT HIM?!


!!

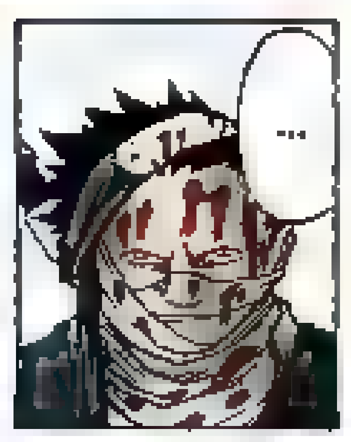

WH-...
WHAT... WHAT IN...?!



ISN'T THAT THAT BOY IN THE MASK..?

HE JUMPED BETWEEN.. TO SAVE ZABUZA..


THAT WAS BRILLIANT.. HAKU.

HEH HEH..
...

...

..THE BOY...

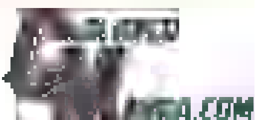
!

...IS ALREADY...

...DEAD.







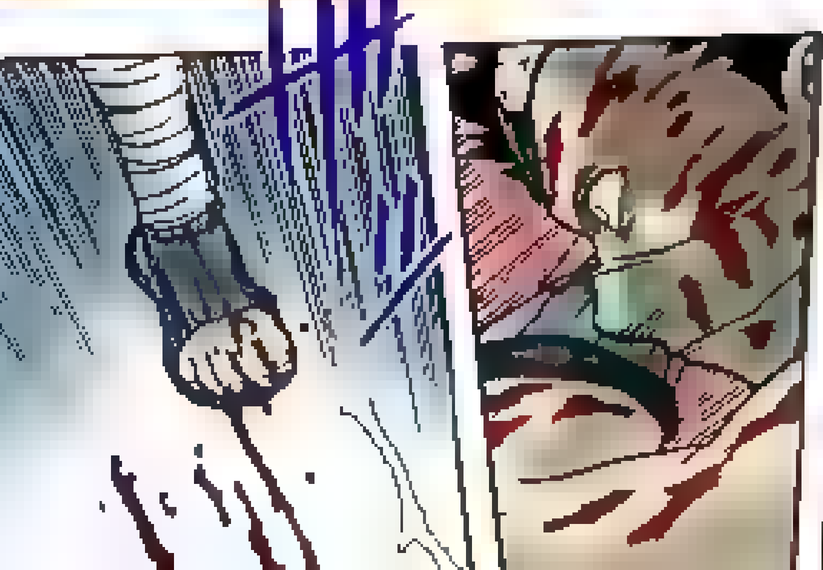
!!

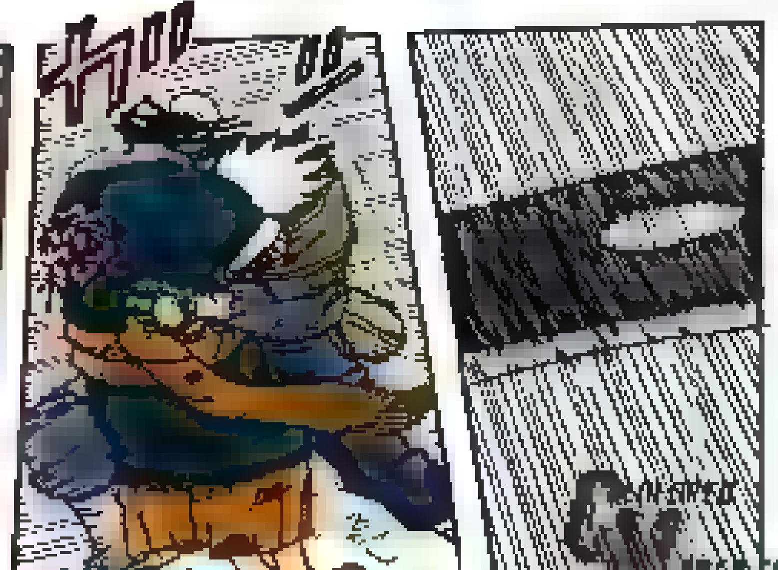
MASTER KAKASHI!!

I AM YOUR WEAPON AND YOUR TOOL

I REALLY DID FIND A TREASURE IN THAT GUTTER...

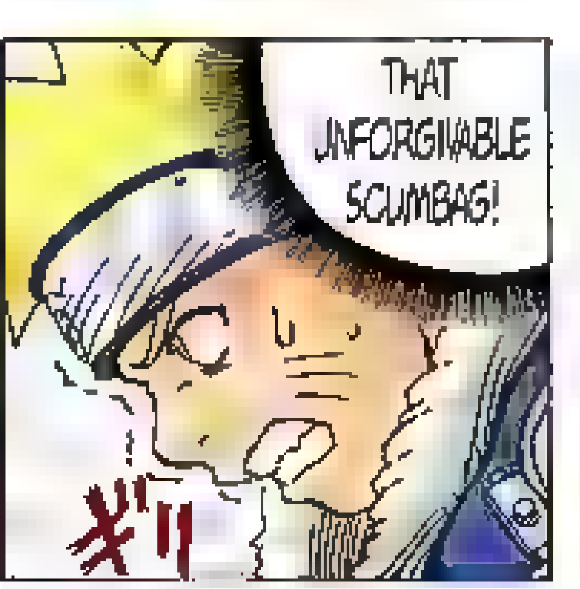
TO THINK THAT HE'D GRANT ME THIS MARVELOUS CHANCE IN THE END!!



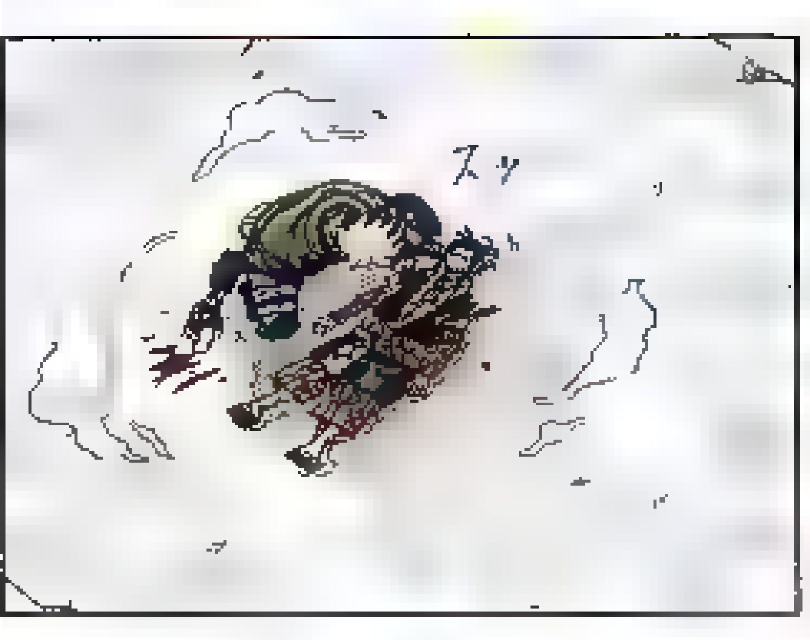







THAT UNFORGIVABLE SCUMBAG!
ギリ


HEH HEH.. SO.. YOU WERE ABLE TO GET AWAY... BECAUSE POOR HAKU WAS ALREADY DEAD.


スッ


NARUTO... STAY OUT OF THIS!
!


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...NARUTO...?

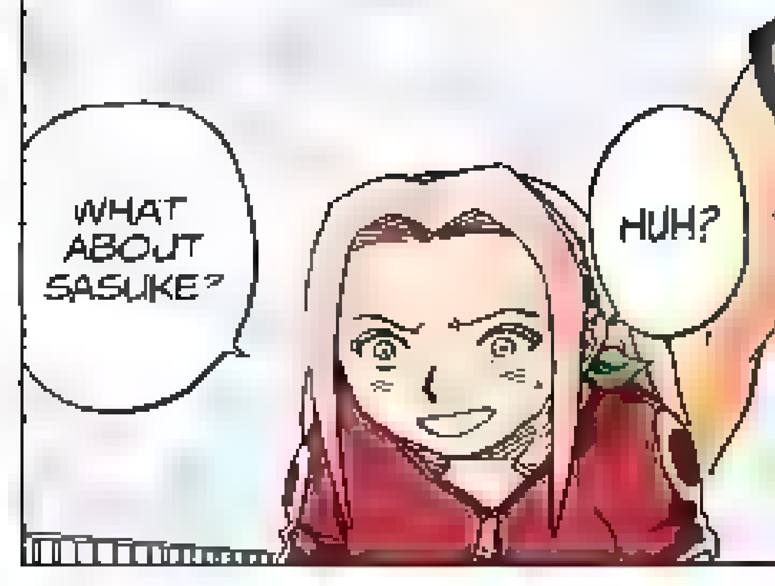
!

THIS IS MY FIGHT!!







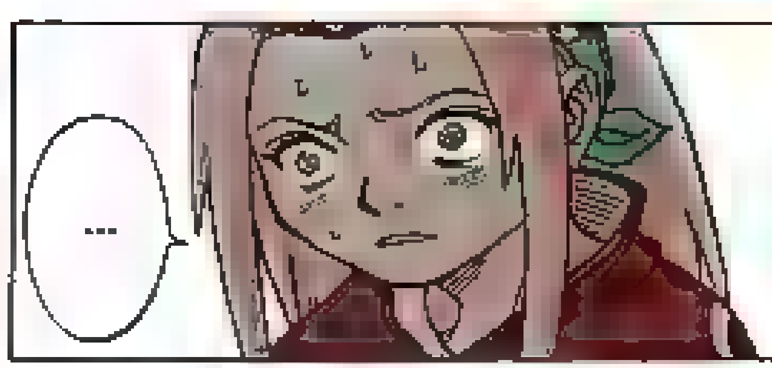

HUH?
WHAT ABOUT SASUKE?


!!
NARUTO!! WHERE'S SASUKE?!!

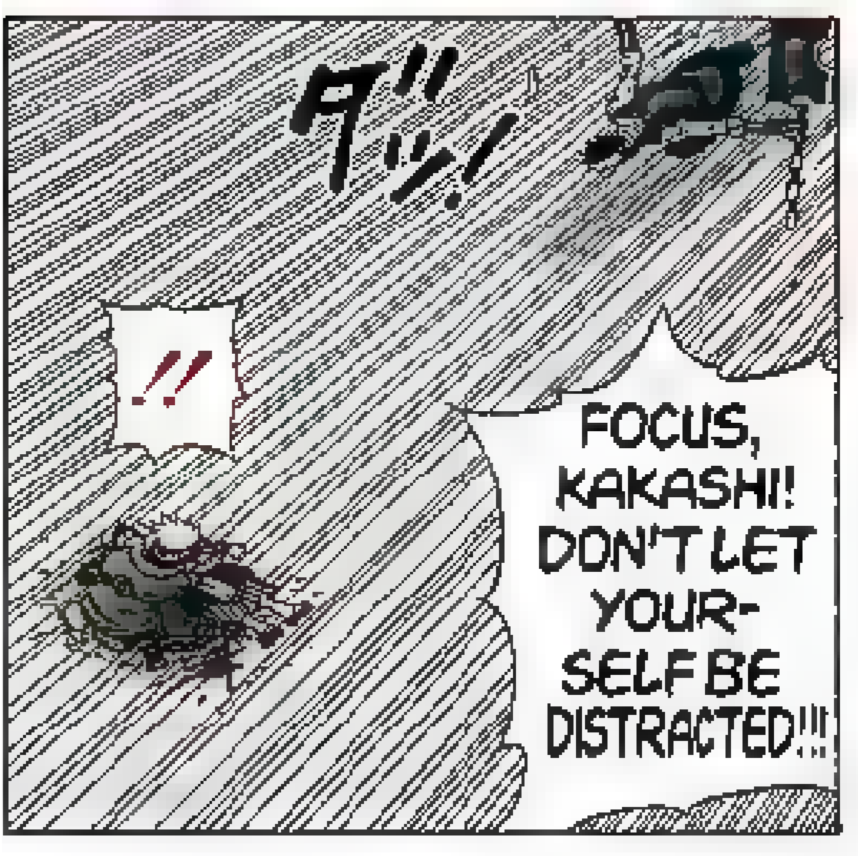

...


?

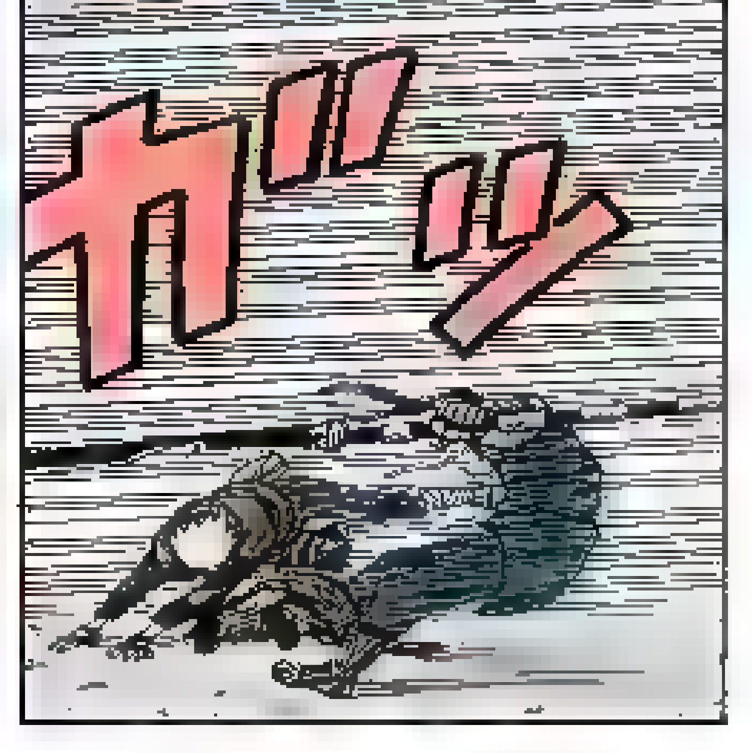

...


...



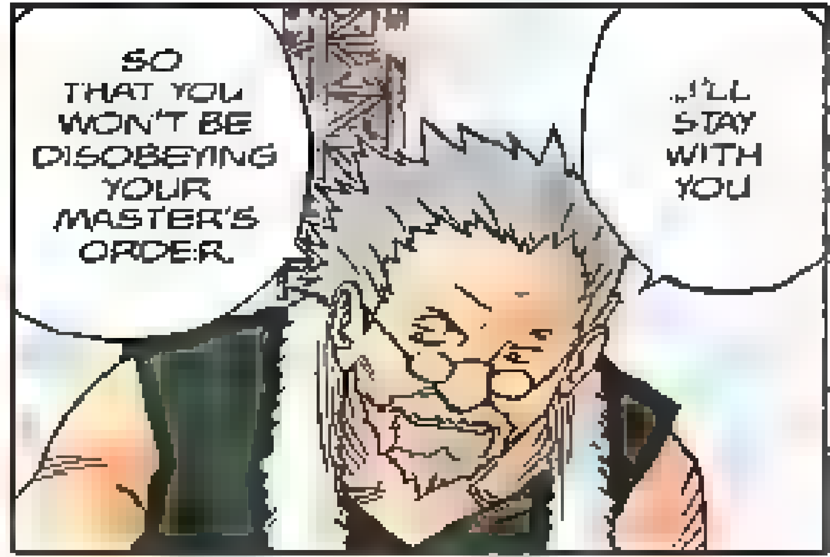

ダッ!
!!
FOCUS, KAKASHI! DON'T LET YOURSELF BE DISTRACTED!!!

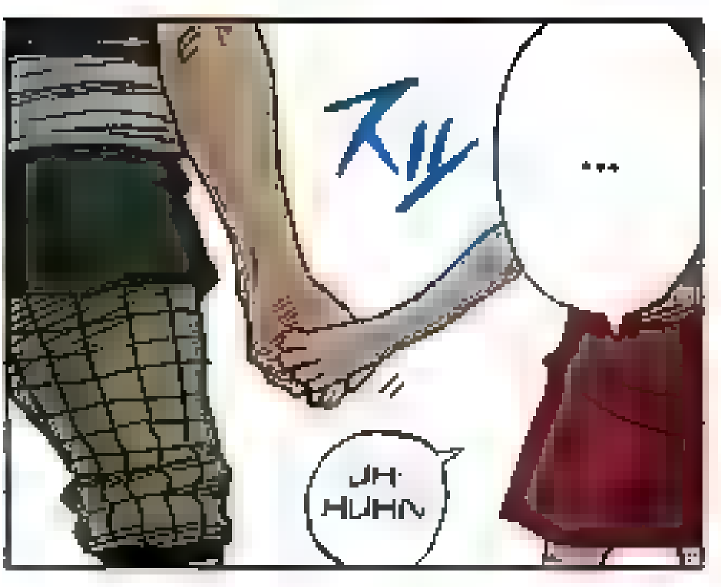


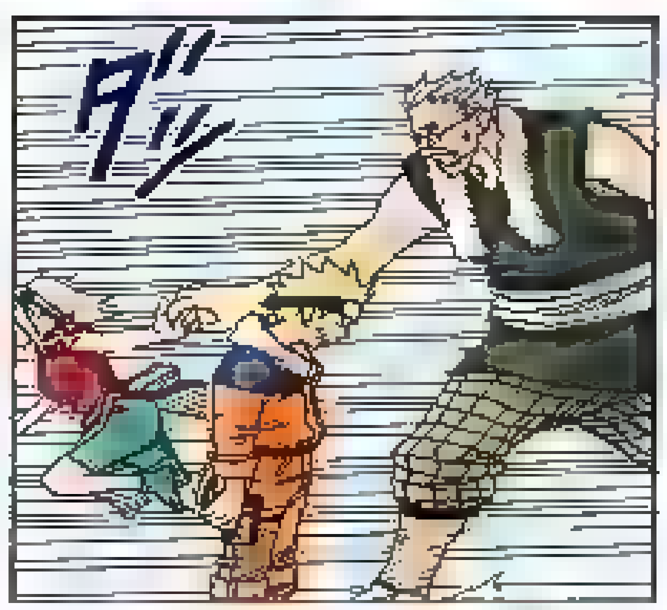

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GACK!


!


...I'LL STAY WITH YOU
SO THAT YOU WON'T BE DISOBEYING YOUR MASTER'S ORDER.


...
スッ
UH HUHN

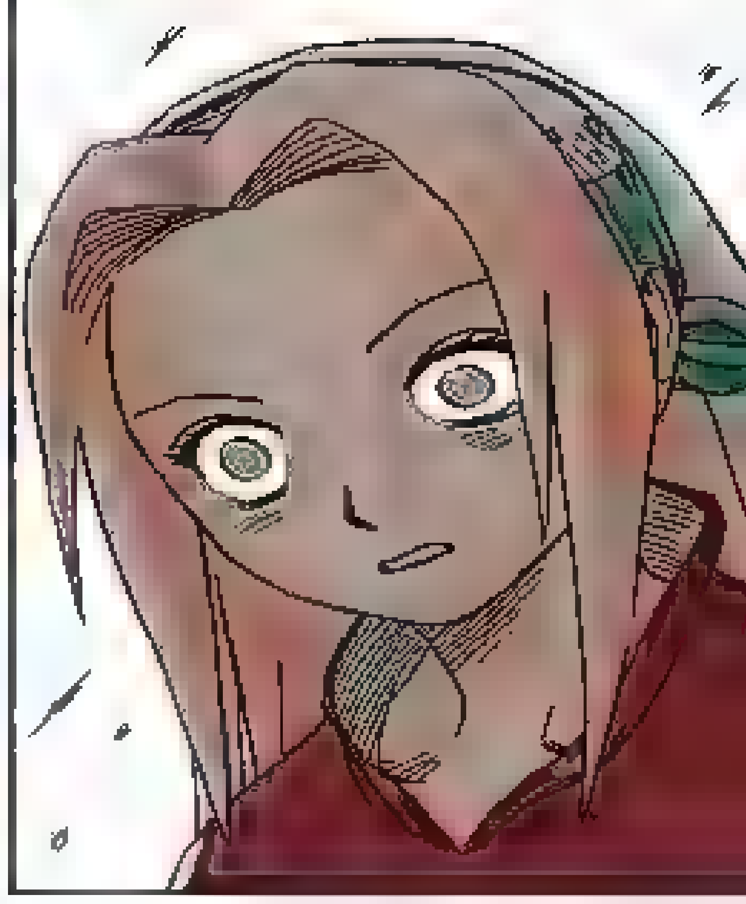

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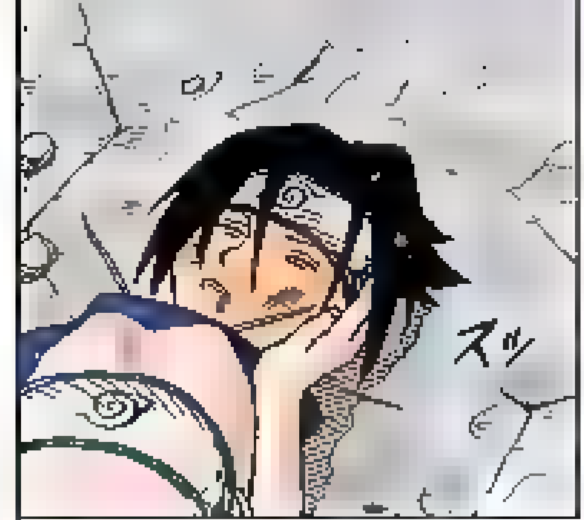

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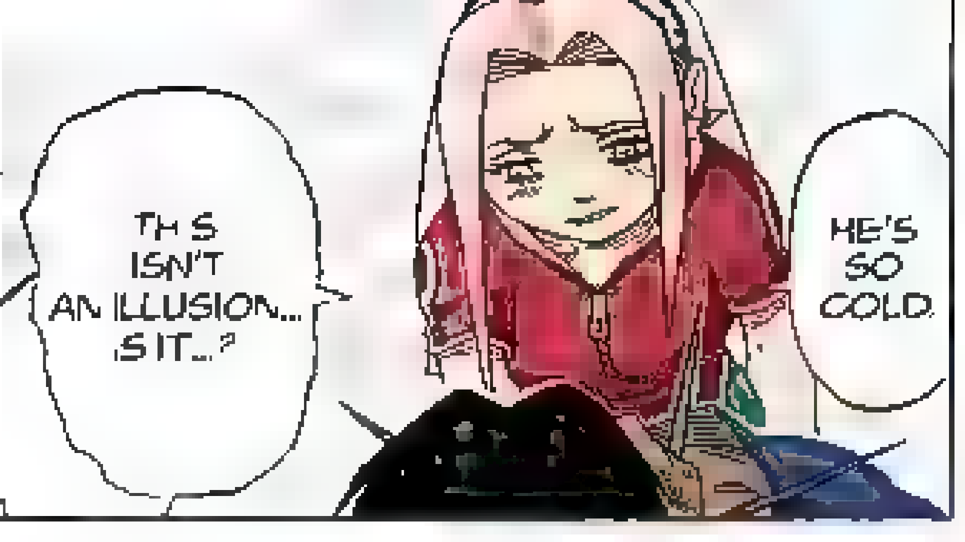


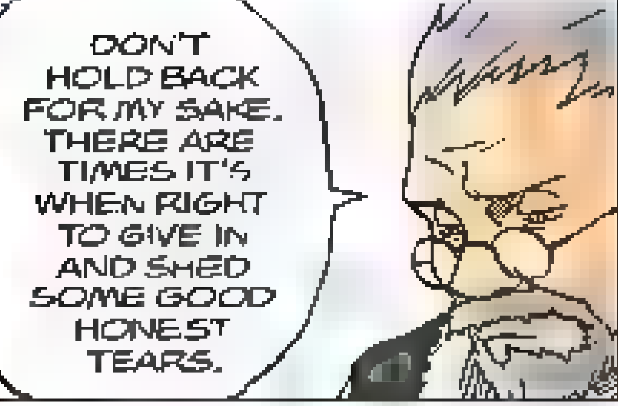






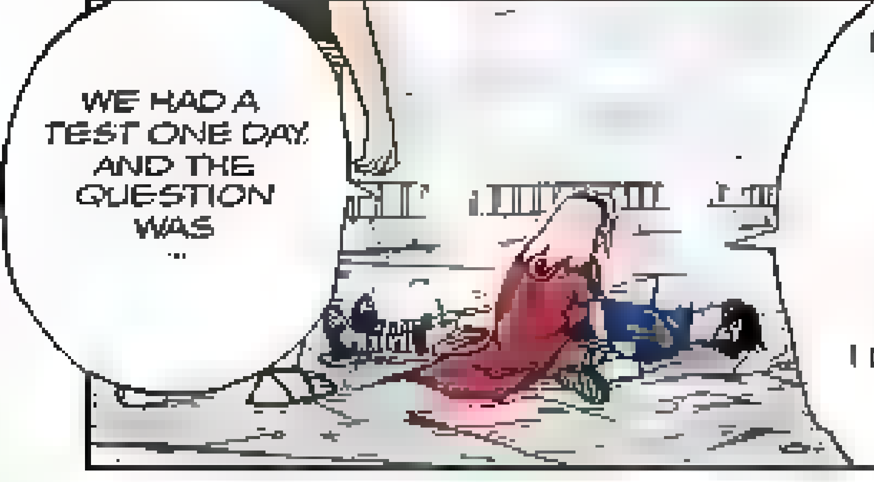

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HE'S SO COLD.
THIS ISN'T AN ILLUSION... IS IT...?


DON'T HOLD BACK FOR MY SAKE. THERE ARE TIMES IT'S WHEN RIGHT TO GIVE IN AND SHED SOME GOOD HONEST TEARS.


I...
...ALWAYS GOT PERFECT SCORES ON ALL MY TESTS IN SCHOOL.


!


I MEMORIZED EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THE ONE HUNDRED RULES OF CONDUCT FOR NINJA AND SHINOBI. I USED TO WRITE THEM OUT WITH PRIDE.
WE HAD A TEST ONE DAY. AND THE QUESTION WAS ...


...!

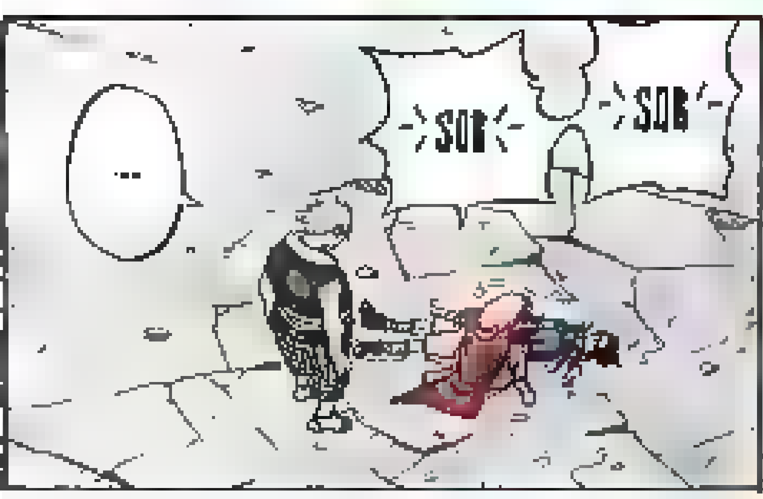

"WHAT IS THE TWENTY-FIFTH RULE OF SHINOBI CONDUCT?"
JUST LIKE ALWAYS, I WROTE IT DOWN.

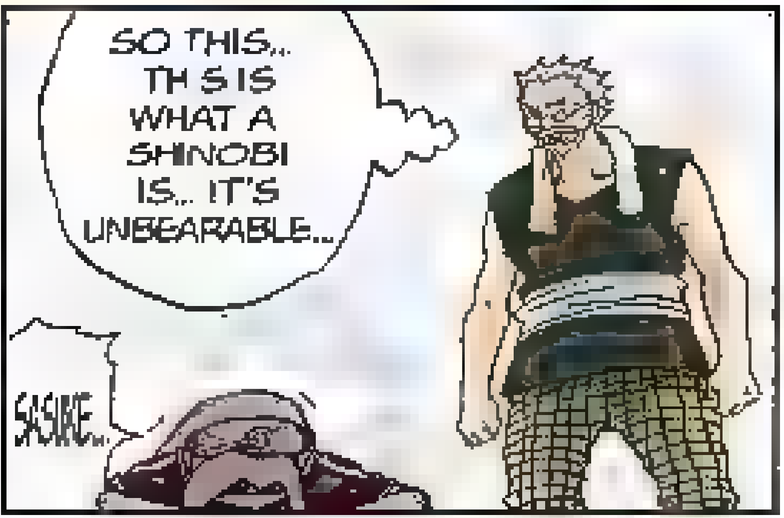

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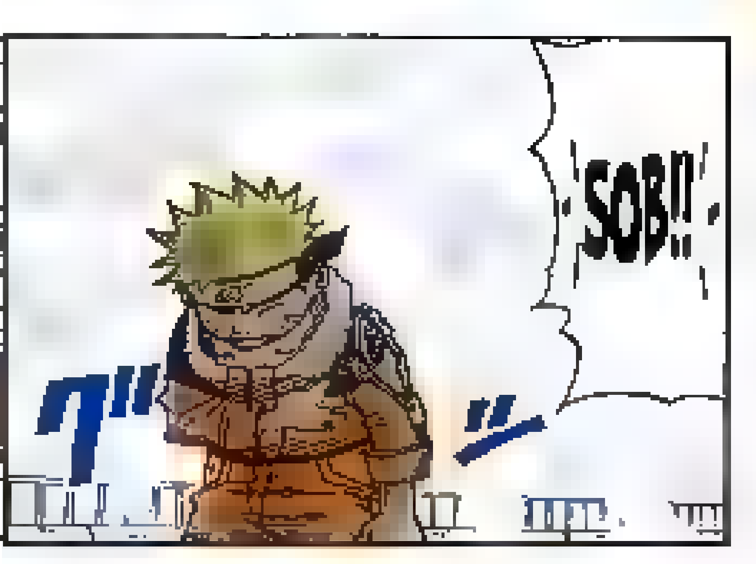
"NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, TRUE SHINOBI MUST NEVER... EVER... SHOW THEIR EMOTIONS!

"TH-THE MISSION IS THE ONLY PRIORITY. CARRY THAT IN YOUR HEART. AND NEVER, NEVER, SH-SHED A TEAR..."

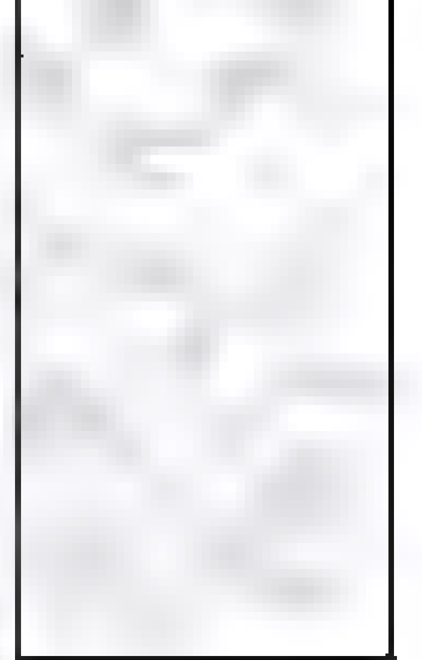
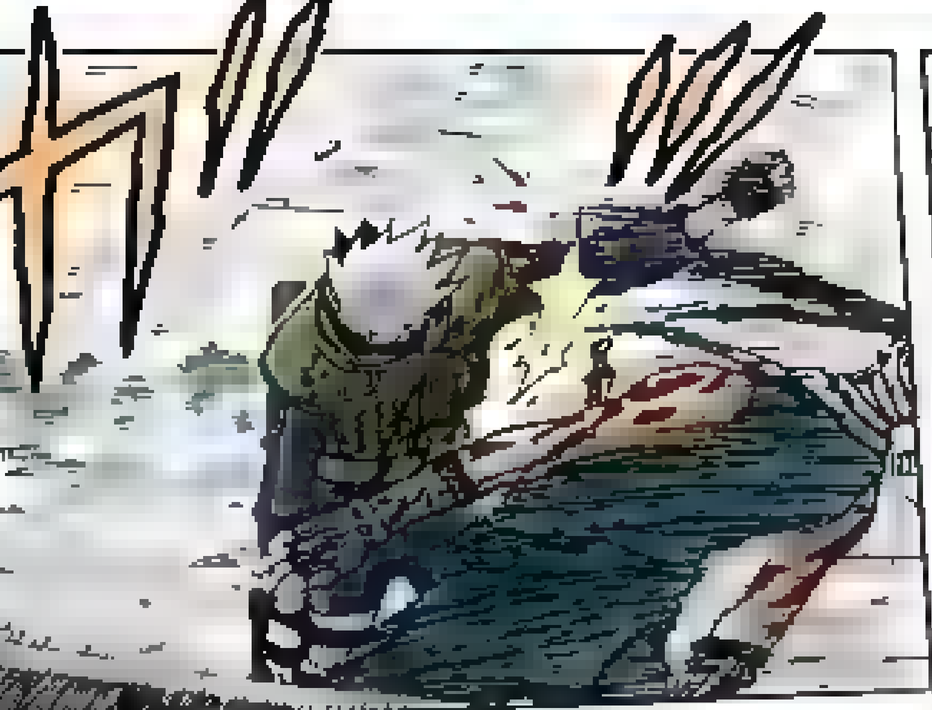
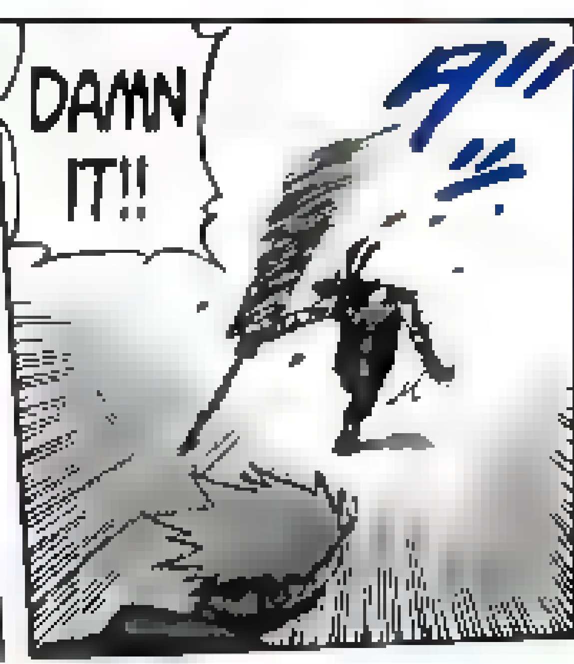


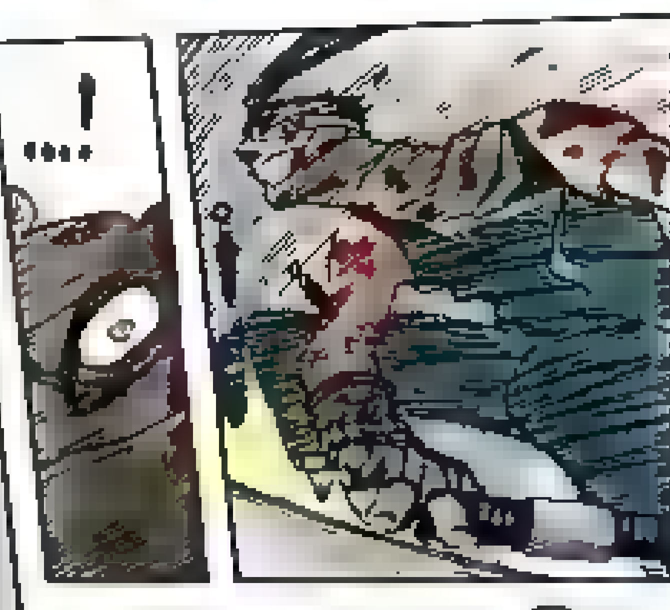


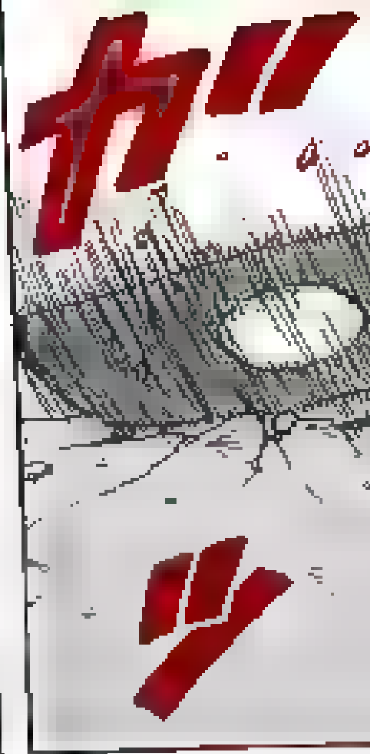


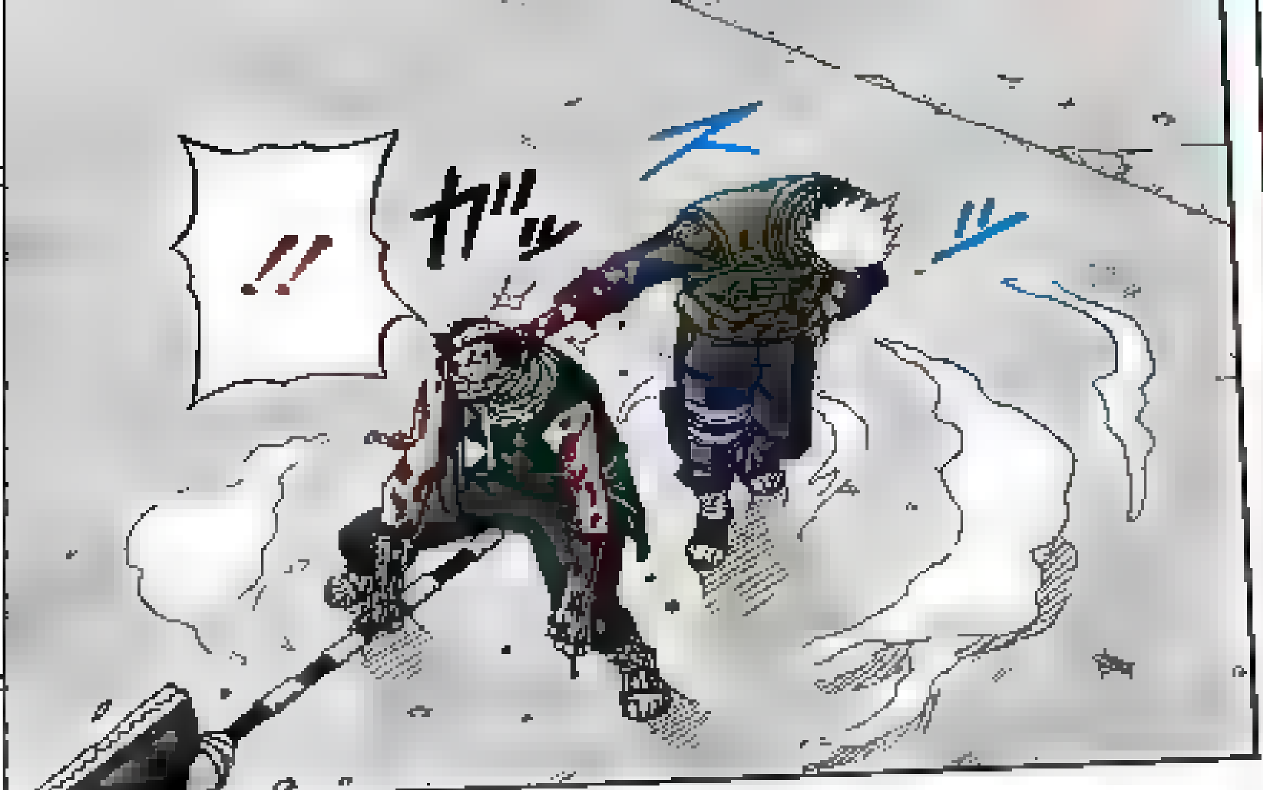





WHY
WHY...
CAN'T
I
KEEP
UP...?



DAMN
IT!!

UHN...!

!
....

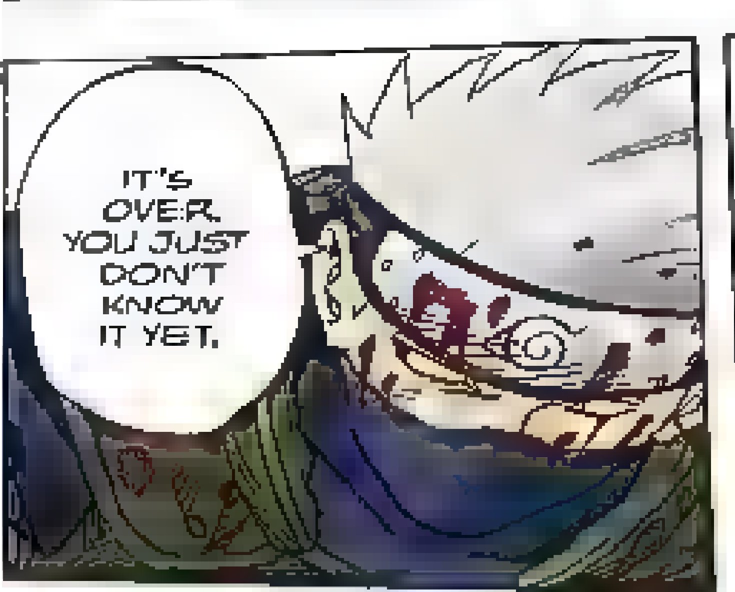





!!



WHAT?!
NOW THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN BEAT ME.

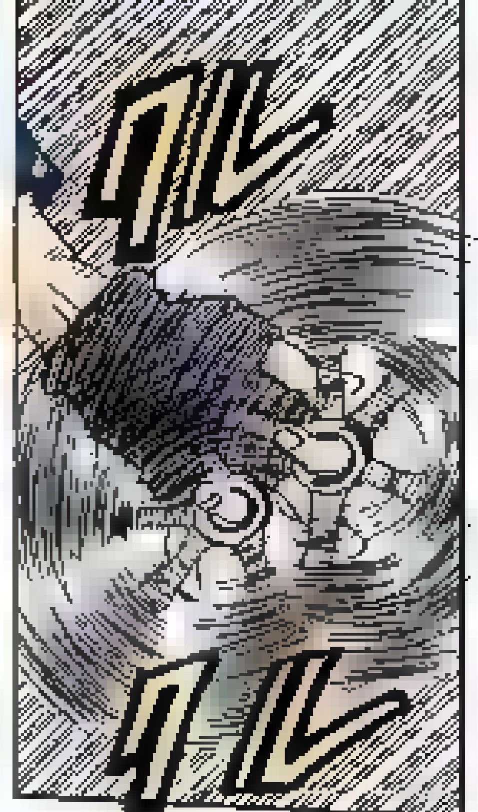


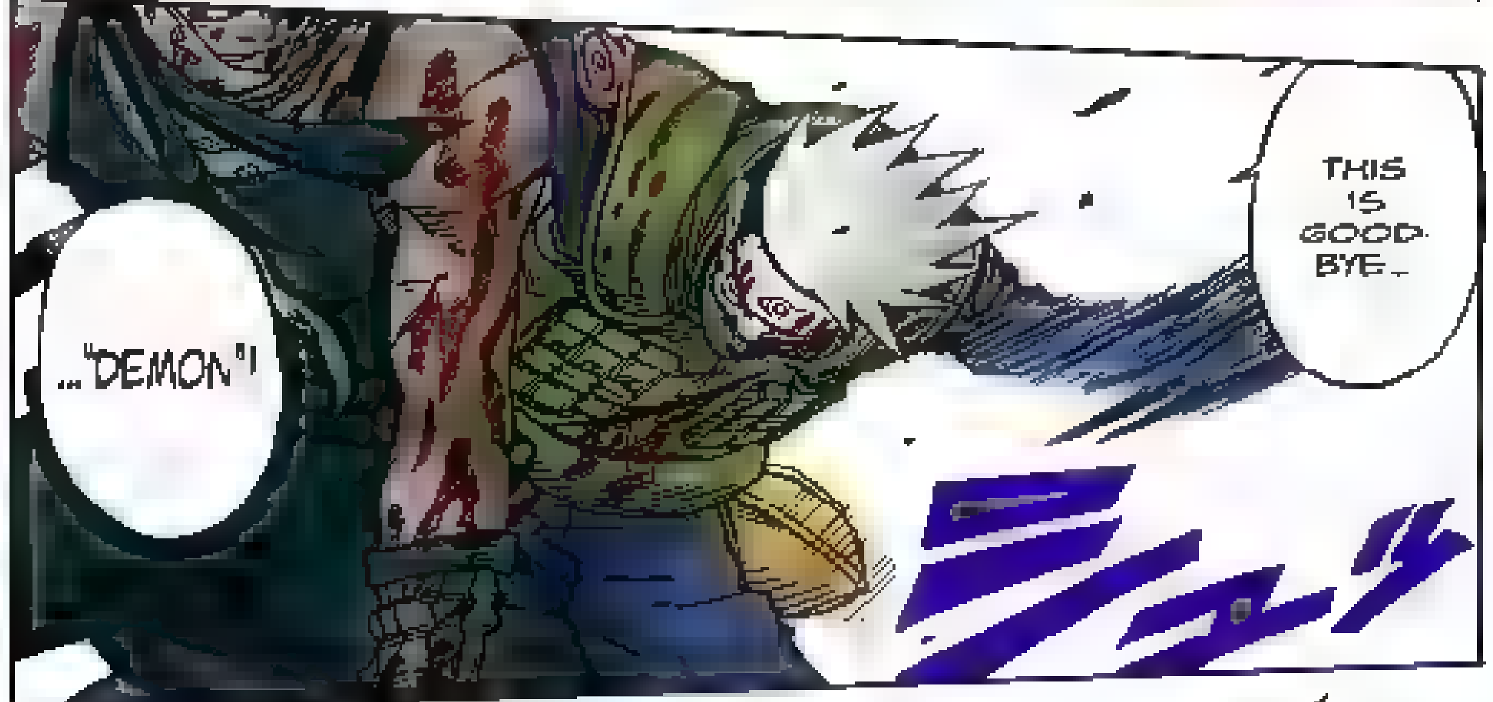
IT'S OVER. YOU JUST DON'T KNOW IT YET.

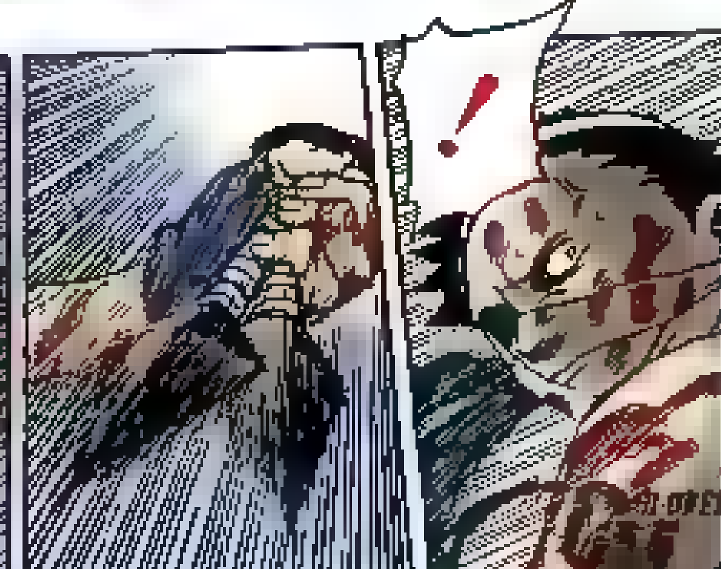


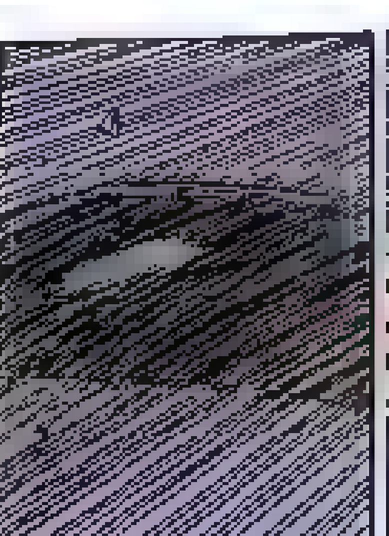
HEH-HEH! I WONDER HOW THE FIGHT'S GOING!


!!
THE TOOLS CALLED SHINOBI
32 : 忍という名の道具



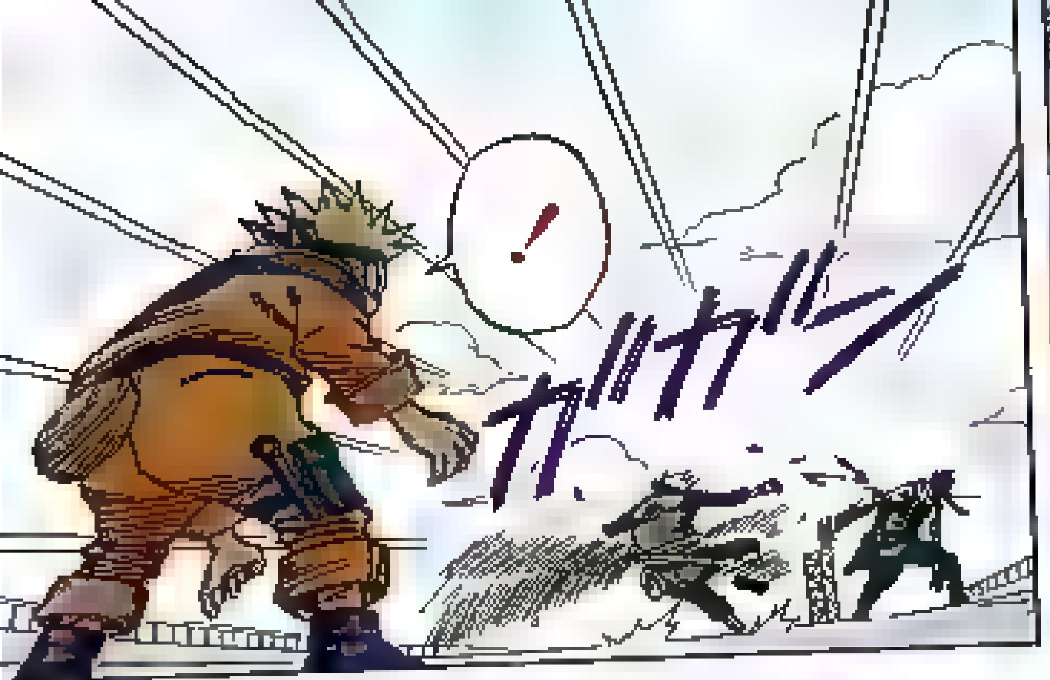
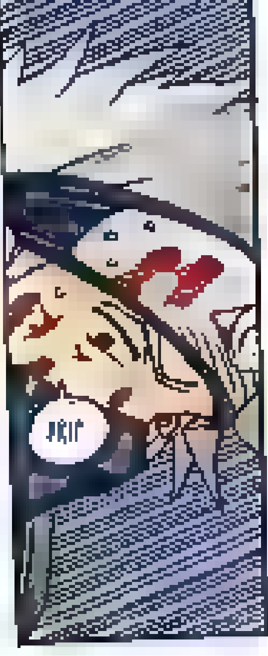
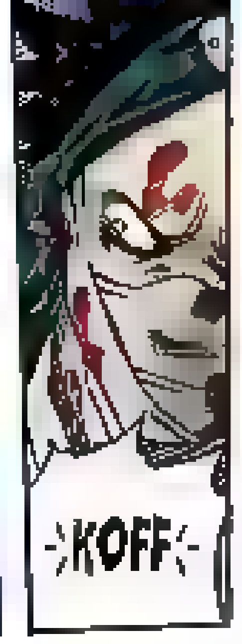

THIS IS GOODBYE...
..."DEMON"!


!



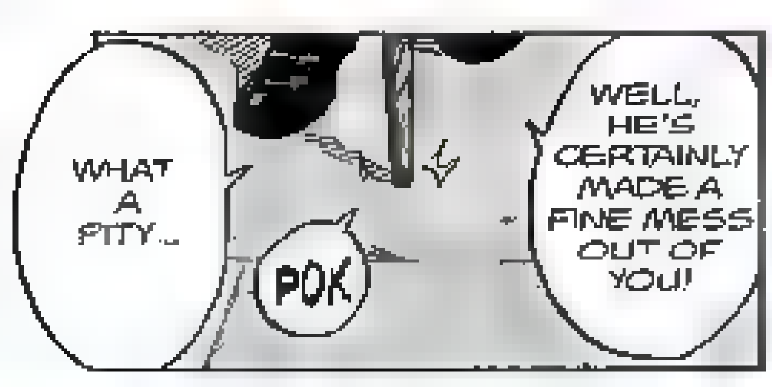


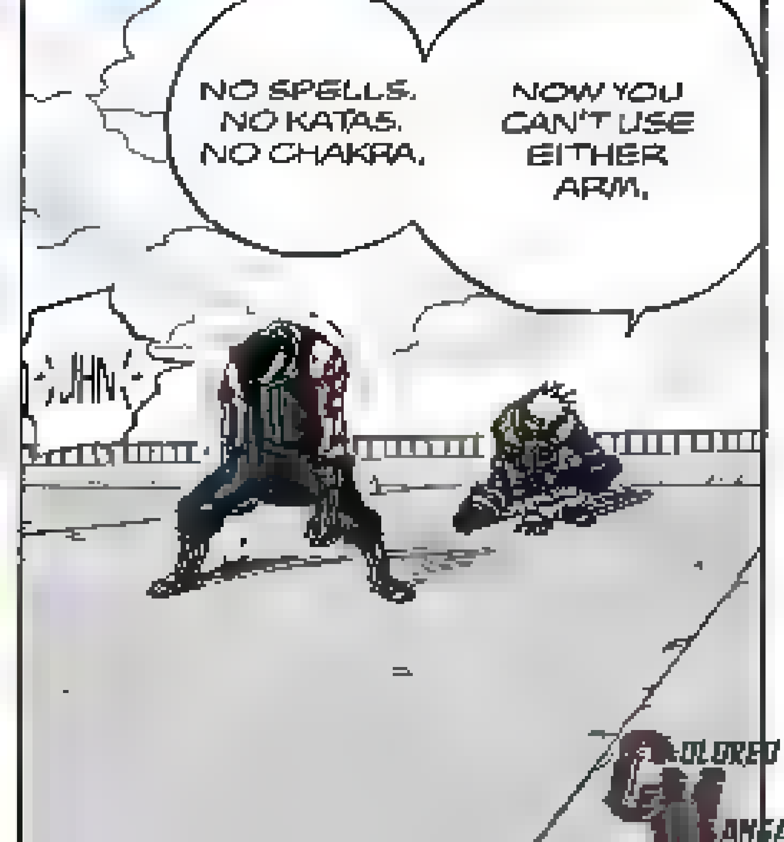

!!
ナンバー
32：
忍という名の道具
しのび な どうぐ
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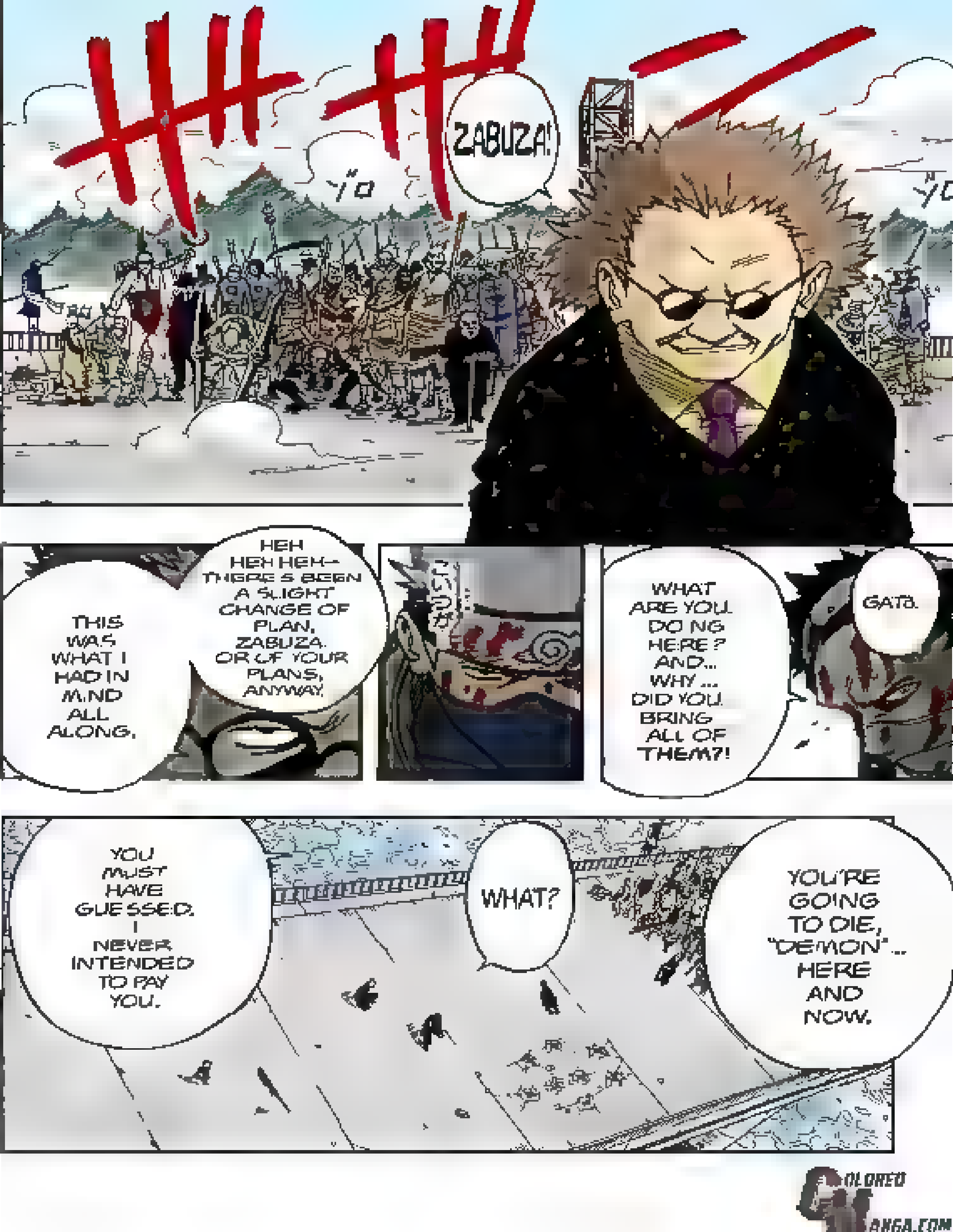

!


KOFF

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ボタ

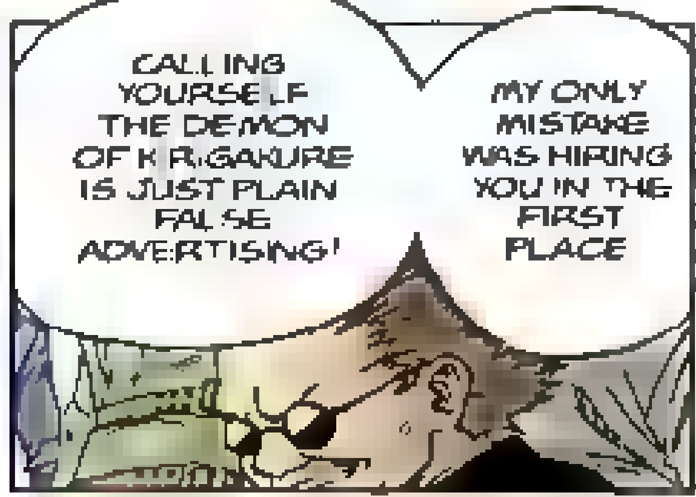
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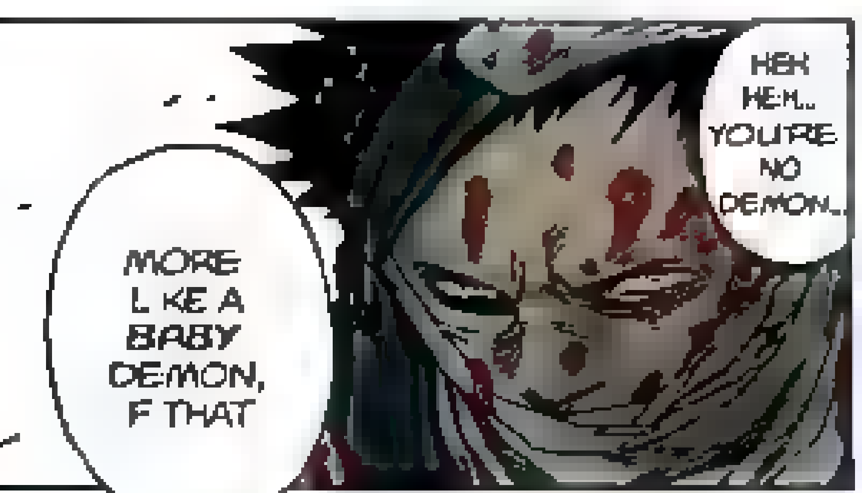

WELL, HE'S CERTAINLY MADE A FINE MESS OUT OF YOU!
POK
WHAT A PITY...

!

NOW YOU CAN'T USE EITHER ARM.
NO SPELLS. NO KATAS. NO CHAKRA.

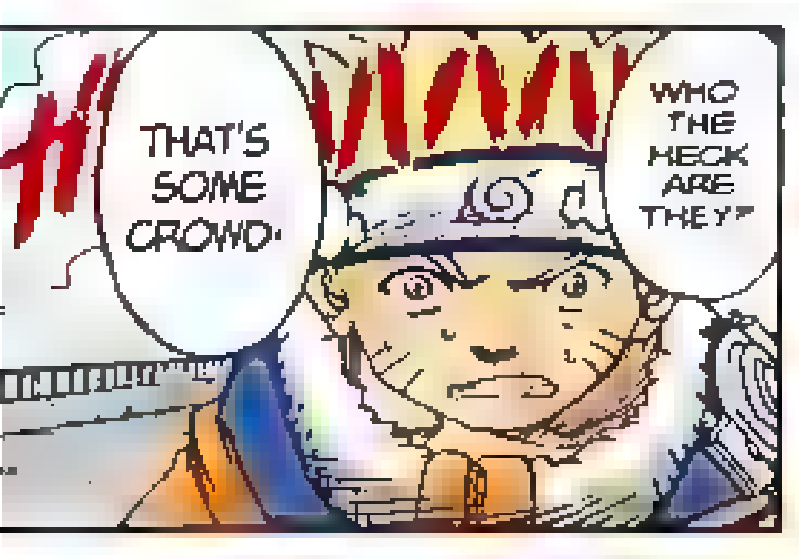

ZABUZA!
GATO.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? AND... WHY... DID YOU BRING ALL OF THEM?!
HEH HEH HEH-- THERE'S BEEN A SLIGHT CHANGE OF PLAN, ZABUZA. OR OF YOUR PLANS, ANYWAY.
THIS WAS WHAT I HAD IN MIND ALL ALONG.
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, "DEMON"... HERE AND NOW.
WHAT?
YOU MUST HAVE GUESSED. I NEVER INTENDED TO PAY YOU.

...IT'S SUCH A BOTHER HIRING A SKILLED SHINOBI AFFILIATED WITH ONE OF THE TOP VILLAGES. IT'S EXPENSIVE... AND THEY TEND TO HAVE FRIENDS WHO OBJECT WHEN I BETRAY AND KILL THEM.
IT'S SO MUCH SIMPLER TO HIRE NUKENIN—RENEGADES—LIKE YOURSELF. NO ONE CARES WHAT I DO TO YOUR KIND ONCE THE JOB IS DONE.
ALL OF YOU NINJA ARE SO EAGER TO FIGHT EACH OTHER. ONCE YOU'VE WORN EACH OTHER DOWN, COMMON THUGS CAN FINISH OFF THE REST.
IT'S A GREAT BUSINESS PLAN—EFFICIENT AND INEXPENSIVE.


MY ONLY MISTAKE WAS HIRING YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE.
CALLING YOURSELF THE DEMON OF KIRIGAKURE IS JUST PLAIN FALSE ADVERTISING!


HEH HEH... YOU'RE NO DEMON...
MORE LIKE A BABY DEMON, IF THAT.

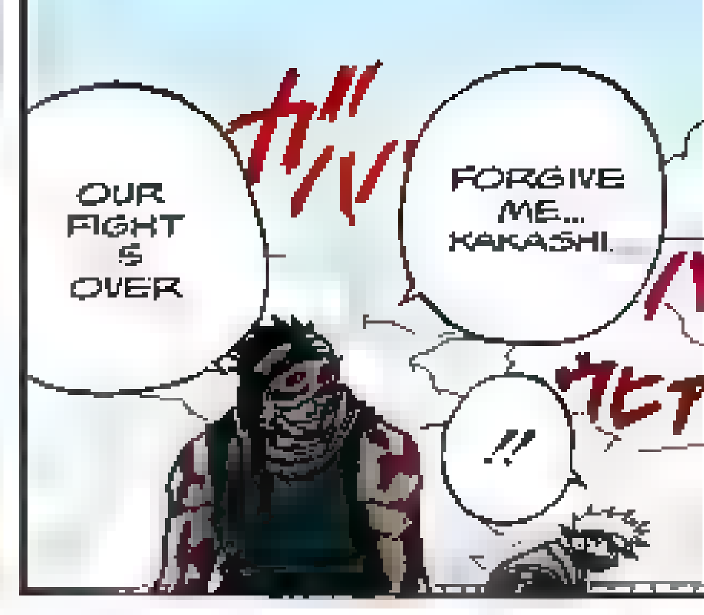

THE SHAPE YOU'RE IN, WE'LL TAKE YOU DOWN WITHOUT EVEN BREAKING A SWEAT!


WHO THE HECK ARE THEY?
THAT'S SOME CROWD!

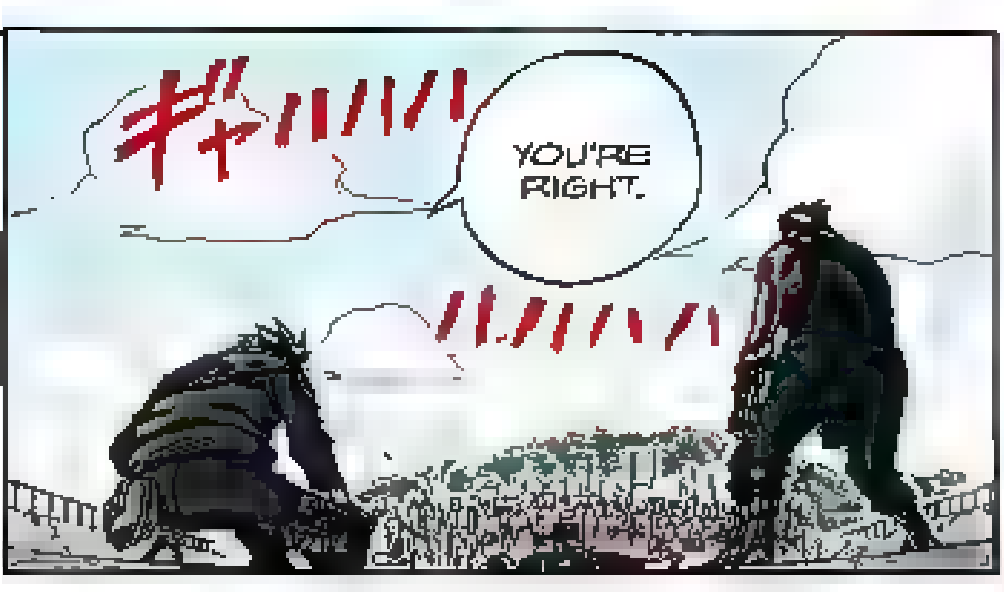




NO LONGER HAVE ANY REASON TO WANT TO ASSASSINATE TAZUNA...
...WHICH SETTLES OUR DIFFERENCES.



OUR FIGHT IS OVER
FORGIVE ME... KAKASHI...
!!



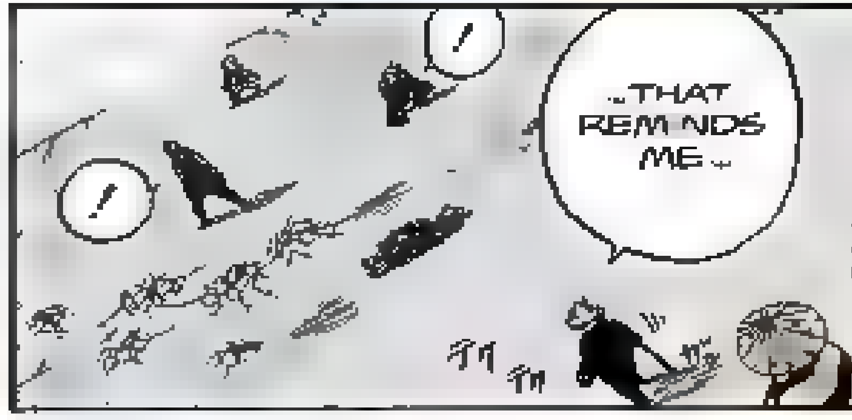
YOU'RE RIGHT.



HUH?
YEAH...

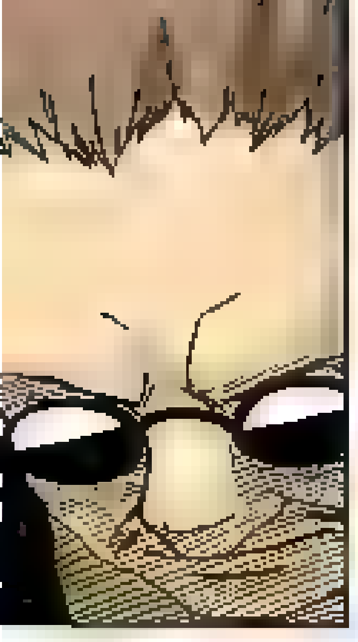
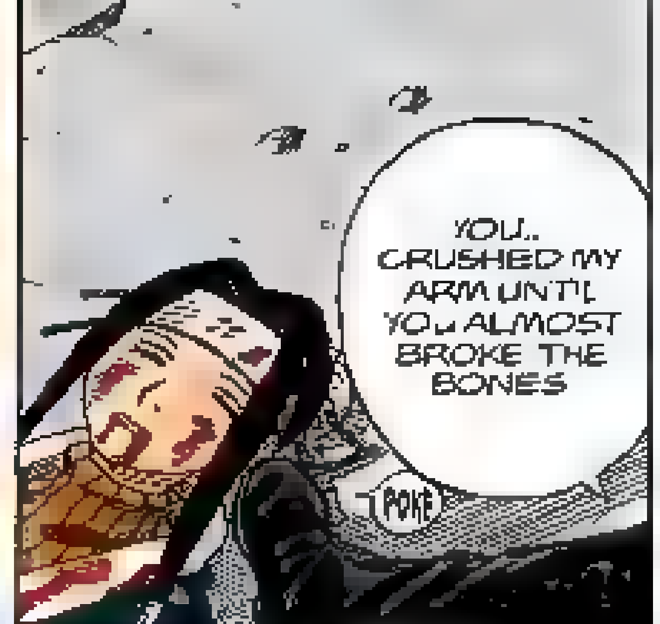
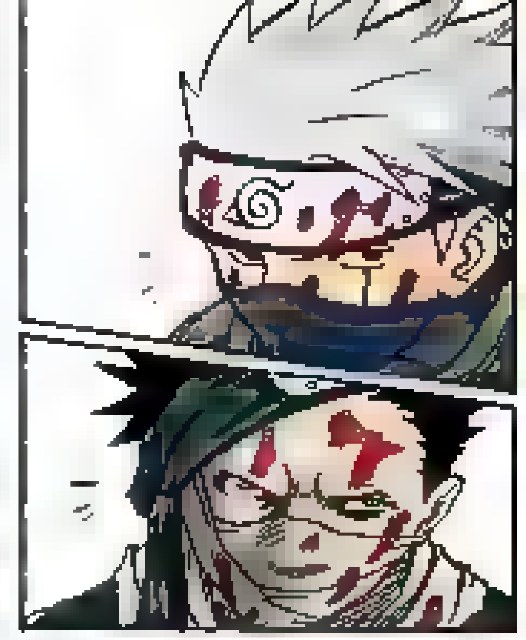


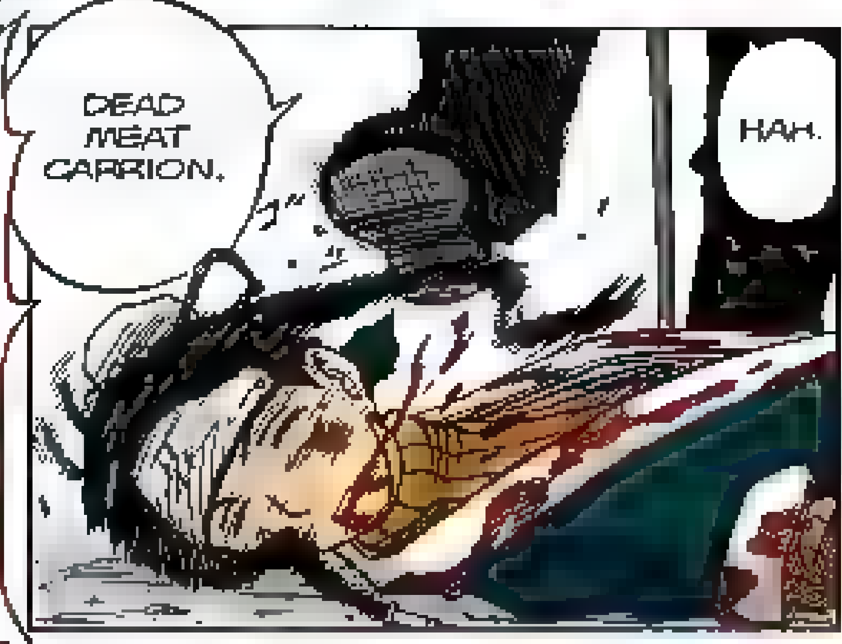
I STILL HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE.

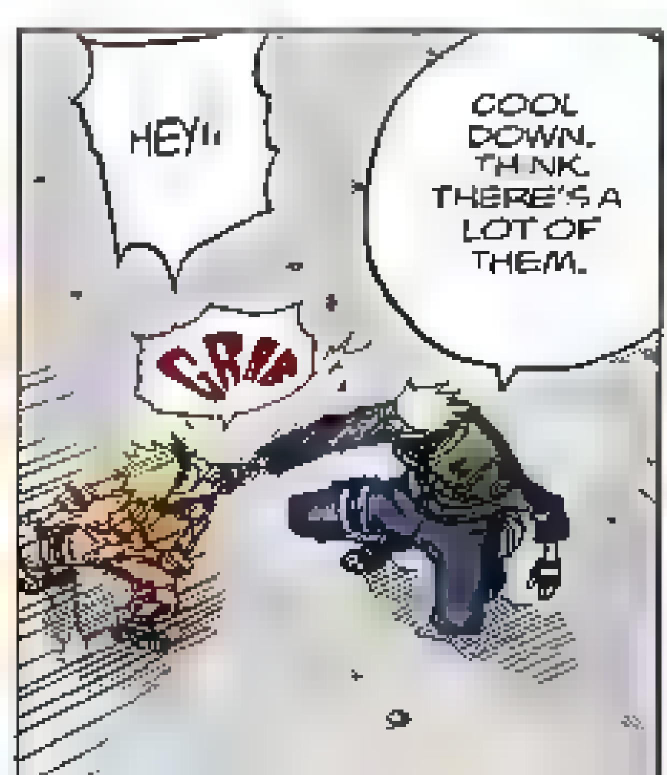


!
!
...THAT REMINDS ME...





YOU.. CRUSHED MY ARM UNTIL YOU ALMOST BROKE THE BONES
POKE


WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING, YOU CREEP?!

DEAD MEAT CARRION.
HAH.

HEY, WHY DON'T YOU DO SOMETHING?! HE WORKED FOR YOU! HE WAS PRACTICALLY YOUR SLAVE!!

HEY!!
COOL DOWN. THINK. THERE'S A LOT OF THEM.



HE WAS YOUR COMRADE.. YOUR PARTNER.. HE WORKED FOR YOU FOR YEARS!!!
BUT YOU SHOULD CARE! THAT FAT SCUMBAG IS DESECRATING HIM!!!
!!
HAKU IS DEAD.
LIKE WHAT?
BUT..
DIDN'T VALUE HAKU FOR HIMSELF... BUT FOR THE TAINT HIS BLOOD CARRIED.. AND FOR WHAT HIS TALENTS COULD DO FOR ME
...GATO'S BEEN USING ME.. AND I USED HAKU.
WEREN'T YOU LISTENING? IT'S A SHINOBI'S LOT. ALL OF US ARE EITHER USERS, OR TOOLS... OR BOTH.
I APOLOGIZE FOR NOTHING.
STOP IT, NARUTO! LEAVE HIM ALONE. OUR QUARREL IS OVER.
!
BESIDES WHICH.
YOU...
...
DO YOU REALLY MEAN THAT?

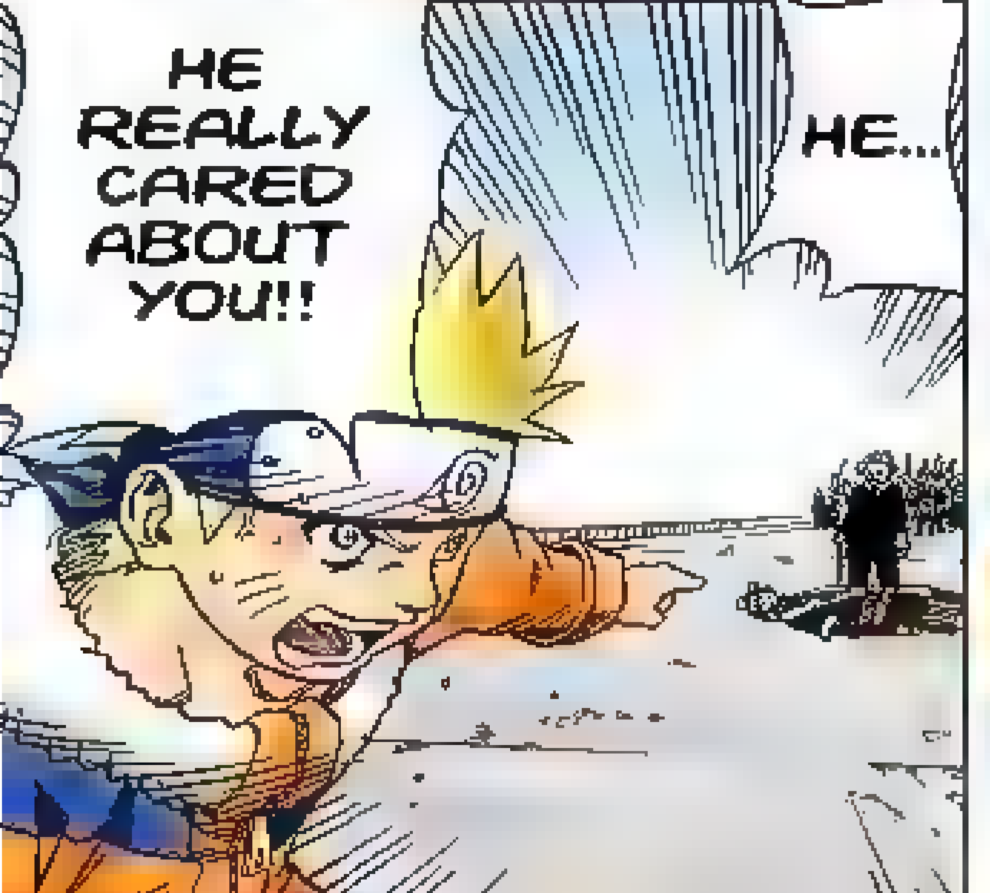
HE'S STILL MY ENEMY!!!

SHUT UP--!!

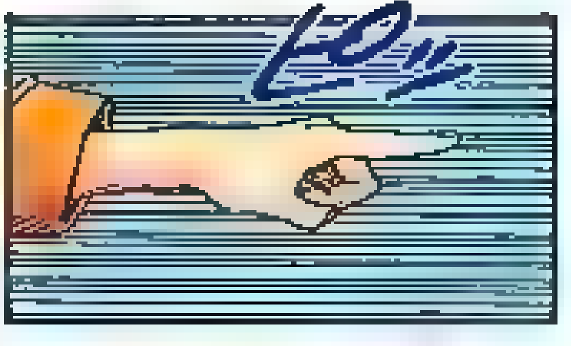




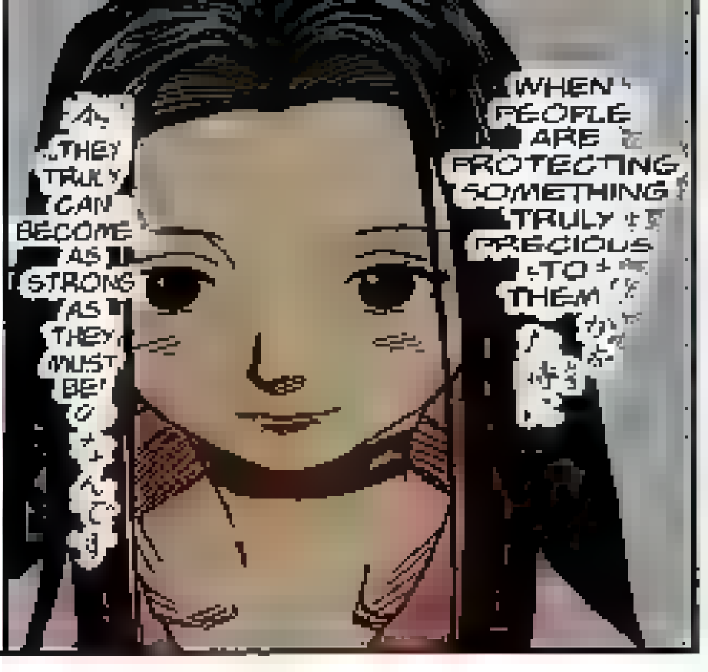


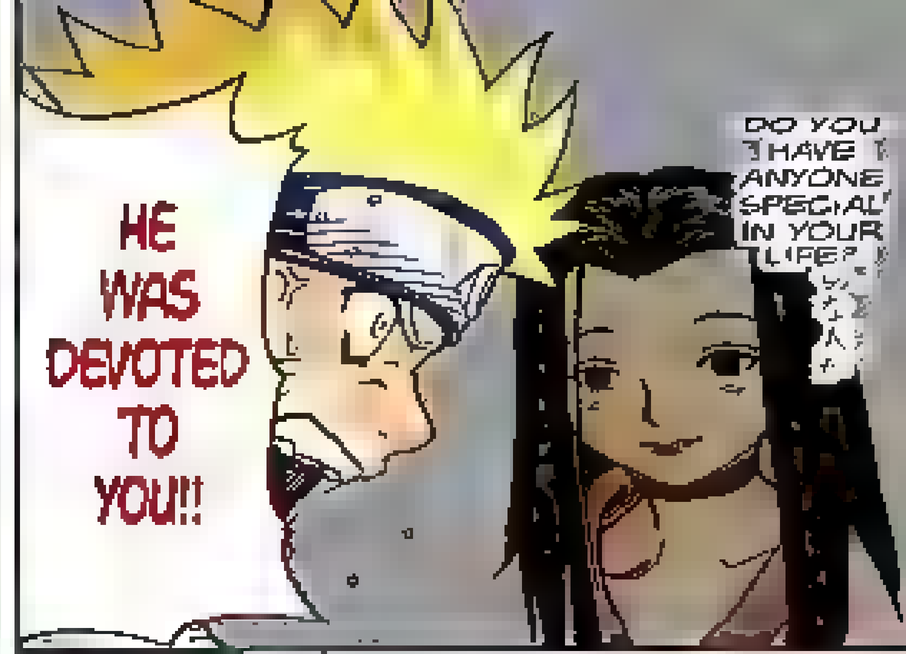




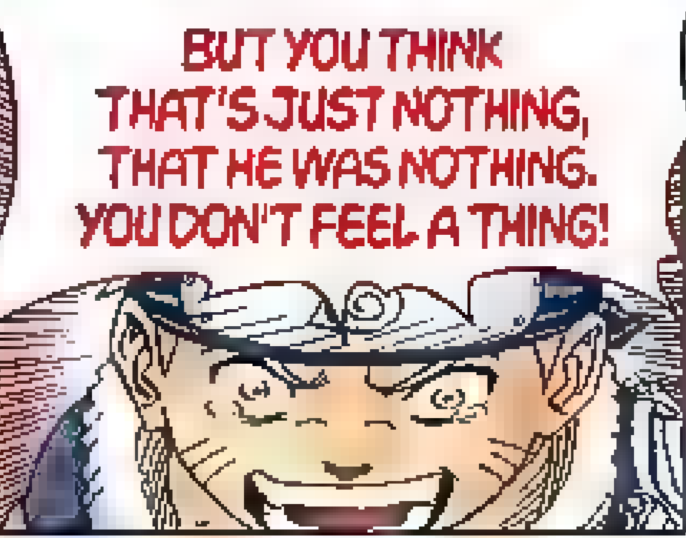





WHEN PEOPLE ARE PROTECTING SOMETHING TRULY PRECIOUS TO THEM
...THEY TRULY CAN BECOME AS STRONG AS THEY MUST BE!

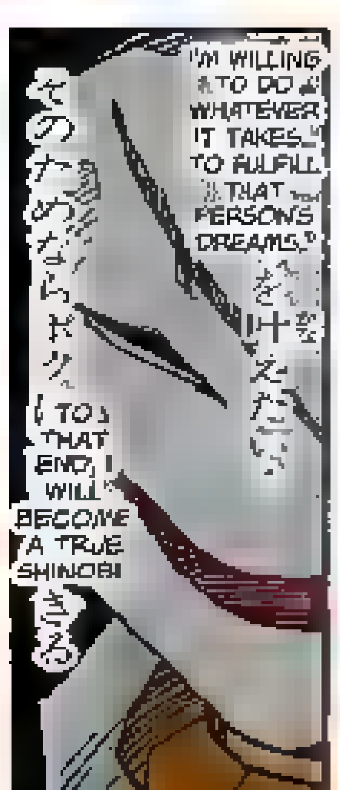

DO YOU HAVE ANYONE SPECIAL IN YOUR LIFE?
HE WAS DEVOTED TO YOU!!


...I... FIND IT DIFFICULT TO EMBRACE THE FULL SHINOBI PHILOSOPHY

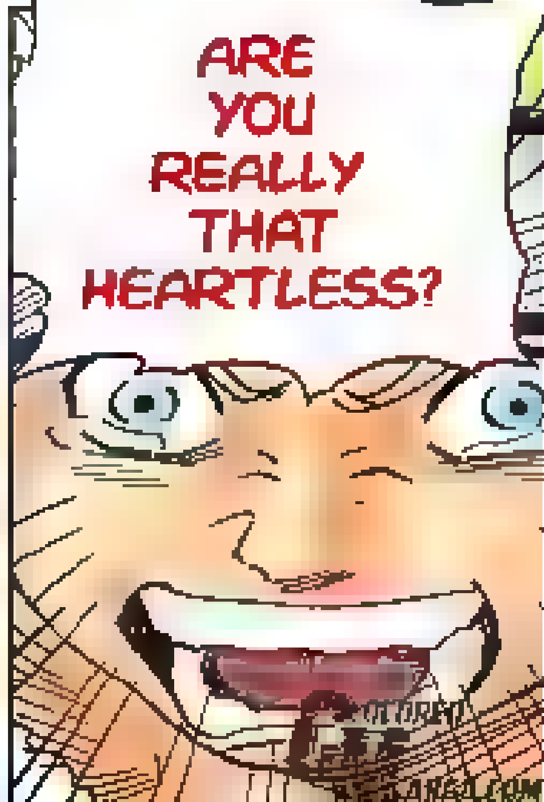

BUT YOU THINK THAT'S JUST NOTHING, THAT HE WAS NOTHING. YOU DON'T FEEL A THING!

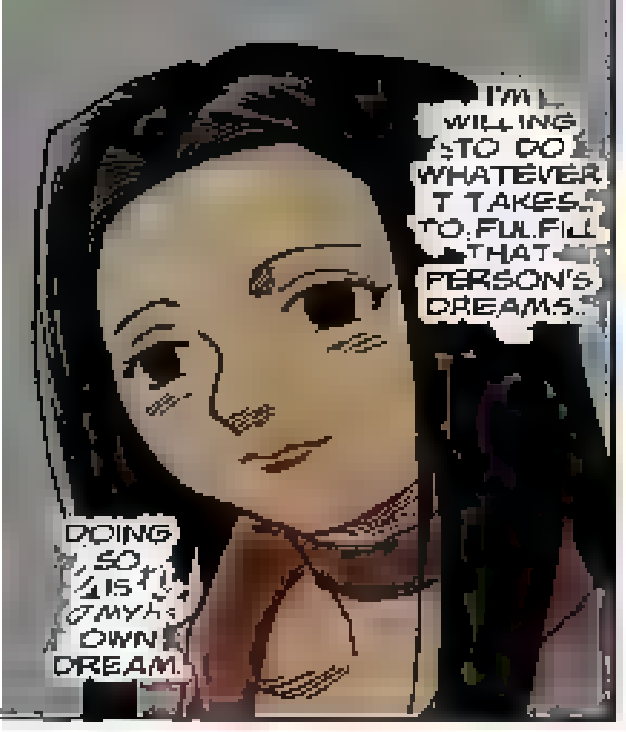
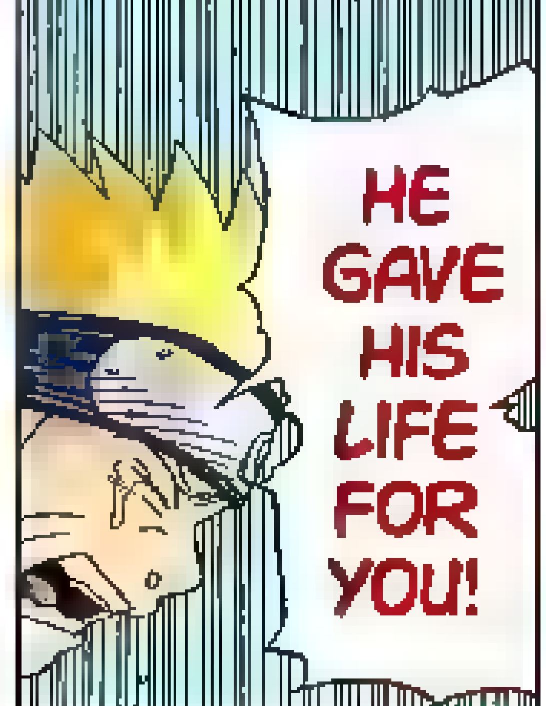

...


IS THAT HOW YOU GET... WHEN YOUR POWERS ARE AS STRONG AS YOURS ARE?


"I'M WILLING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES... TO FULFILL... THAT PERSON'S DREAMS."
TO THAT END, I WILL BECOME A TRUE SHINOBI




ARE YOU REALLY THAT HEARTLESS?

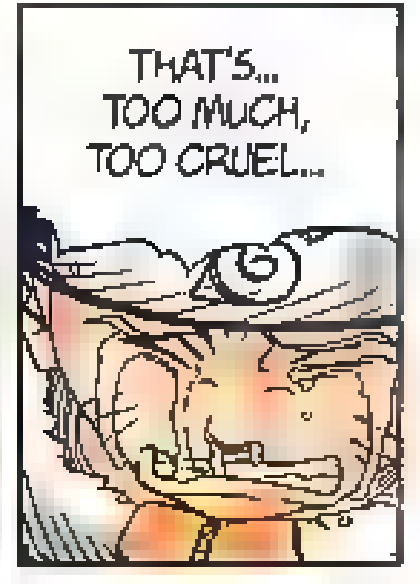

I'M WILLING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO FULFILL THAT PERSON'S DREAMS.
DOING SO IS MY OWN DREAM.

HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR YOU!


TO DIE AS HIS TOOL...

WAS SO HAPPY...

HE DIED... WITHOUT ANY OF HIS DREAMS EVER COMING TRUE,



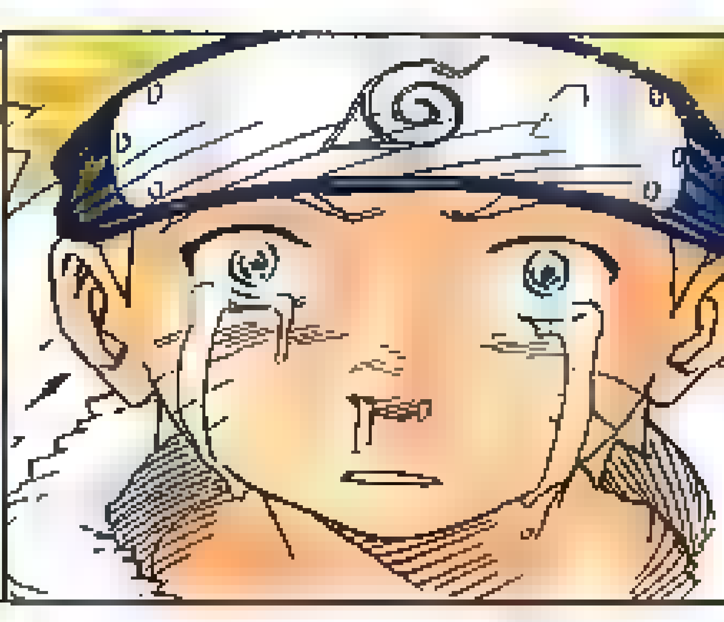

...
K.D.

THAT'S... TOO MUCH, TOO CRUEL...


...NOT...

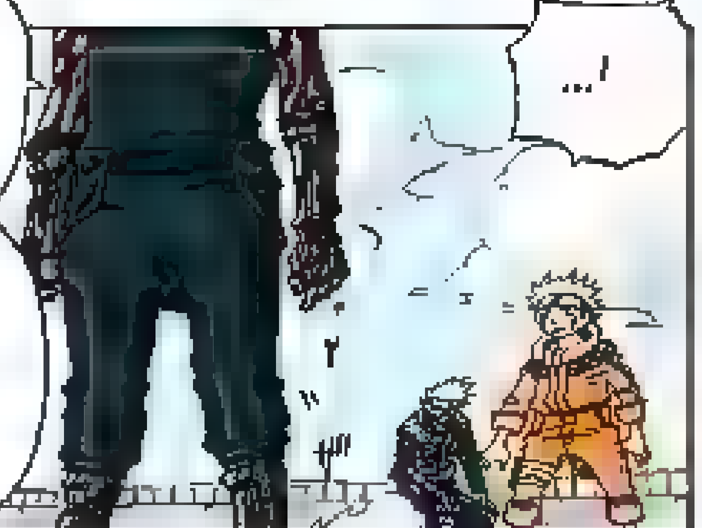
...ANOTHER WORD.

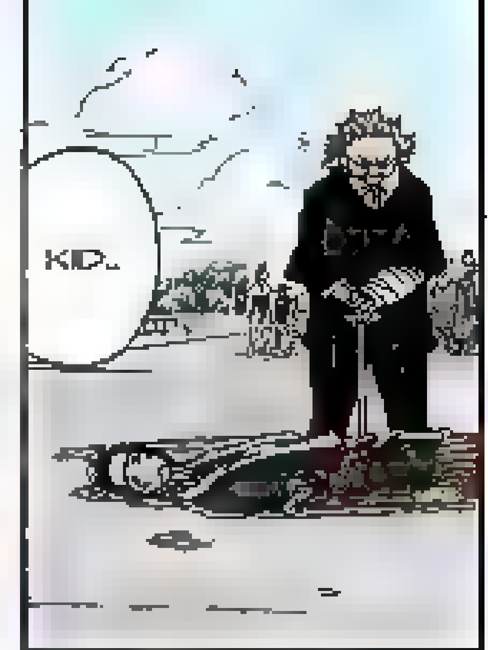




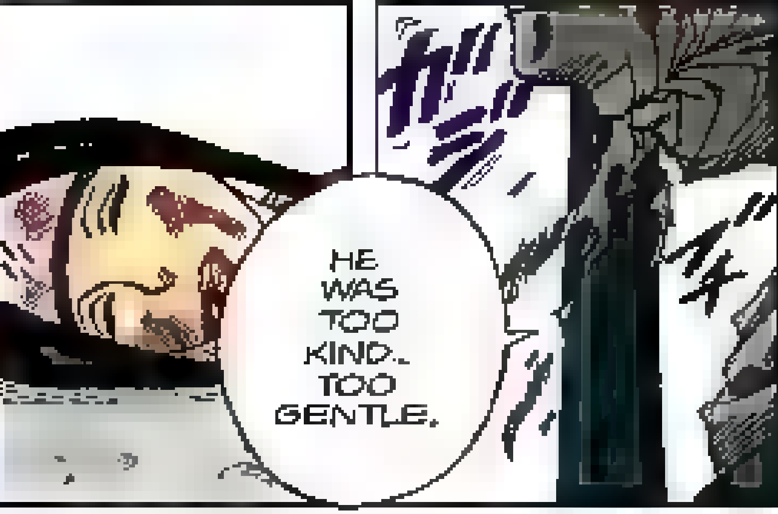




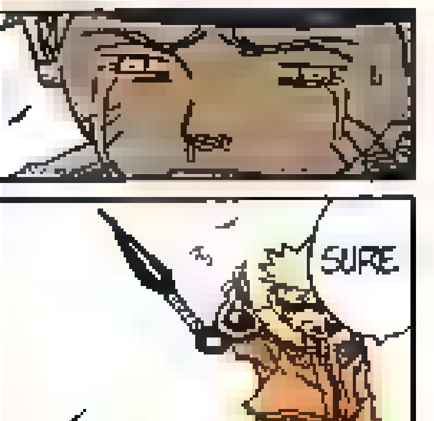

WHAT HAKU DID... WAS NOT JUST FOR ME
WHILE WE FOUGHT, HE BROKE HIS HEART .. OVER YOU... AND YOUR FRIENDS. THAT'S THE TRUTH.
...!


KID..

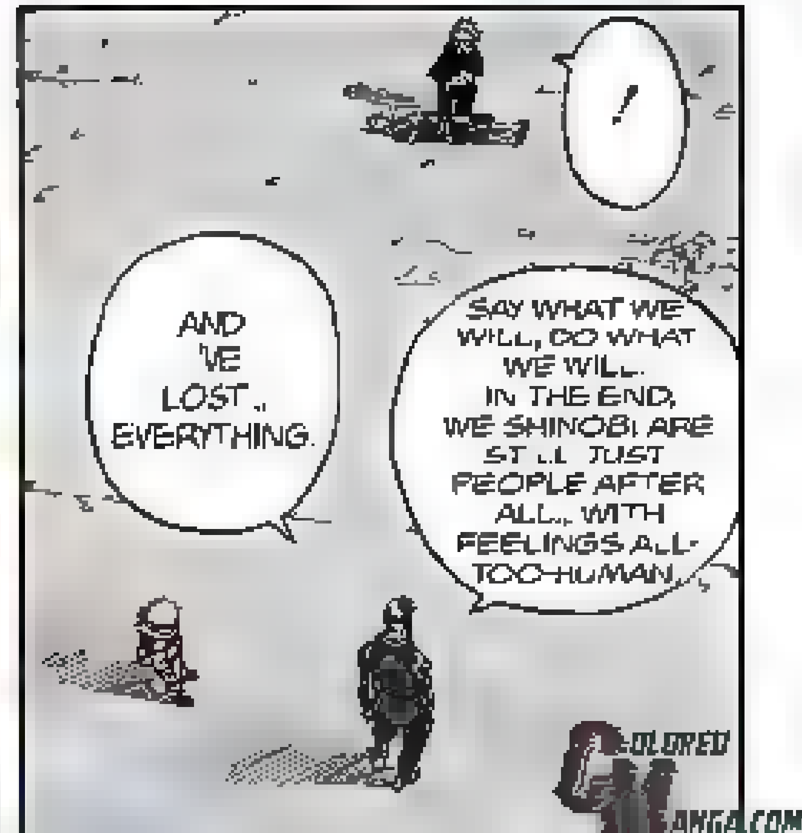

YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU KNOW.
..I'M GLAD MY LAST BATTLE.. WAS AGAINST YOU...BOY
!?
..HUH?


HE WAS TOO KIND.. TOO GENTLE.

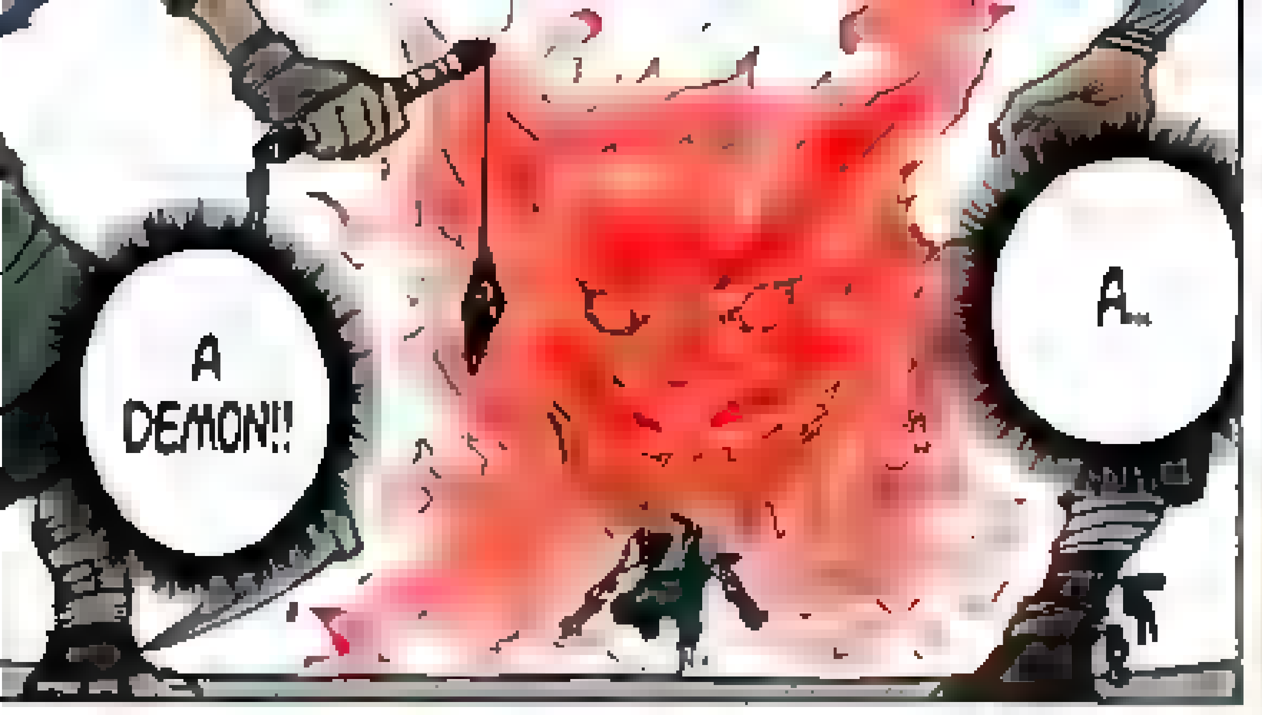

WOULD YOU LEND ME YOUR KUNAI KN FE?
...


SURE.


HUNH? UH.
!!

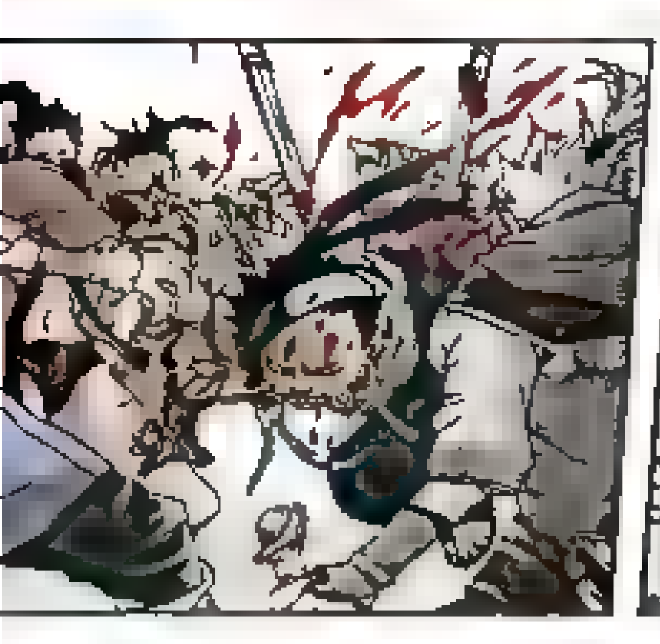

!
SAY WHAT WE WILL, DO WHAT WE WILL.. IN THE END, WE SHINOBI ARE ST..L JUST PEOPLE AFTER ALL... WITH FEELINGS ALL-TOO-HUMAN.
AND 'VE LOST.. EVERYTHING.
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WHAT?!
THAT'S ENOUGH! WHAT ARE YOU WA TING FOR! KILL ALL OF THEM!
YEAH!!
LET'S GO!
EVEN IF YOU'RE A NINJA, YOU'RE HALF DEAD, AGAINST ALL OF US!
YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE!


A...
A DEMON!!

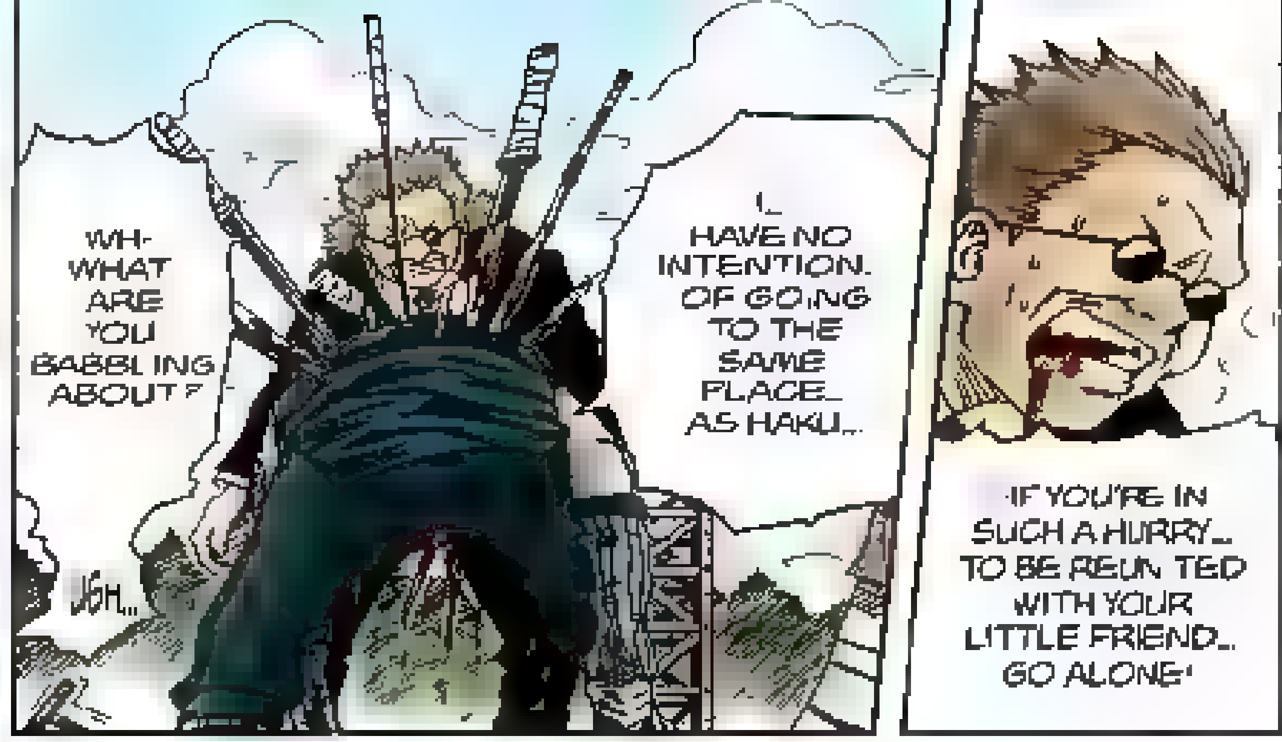
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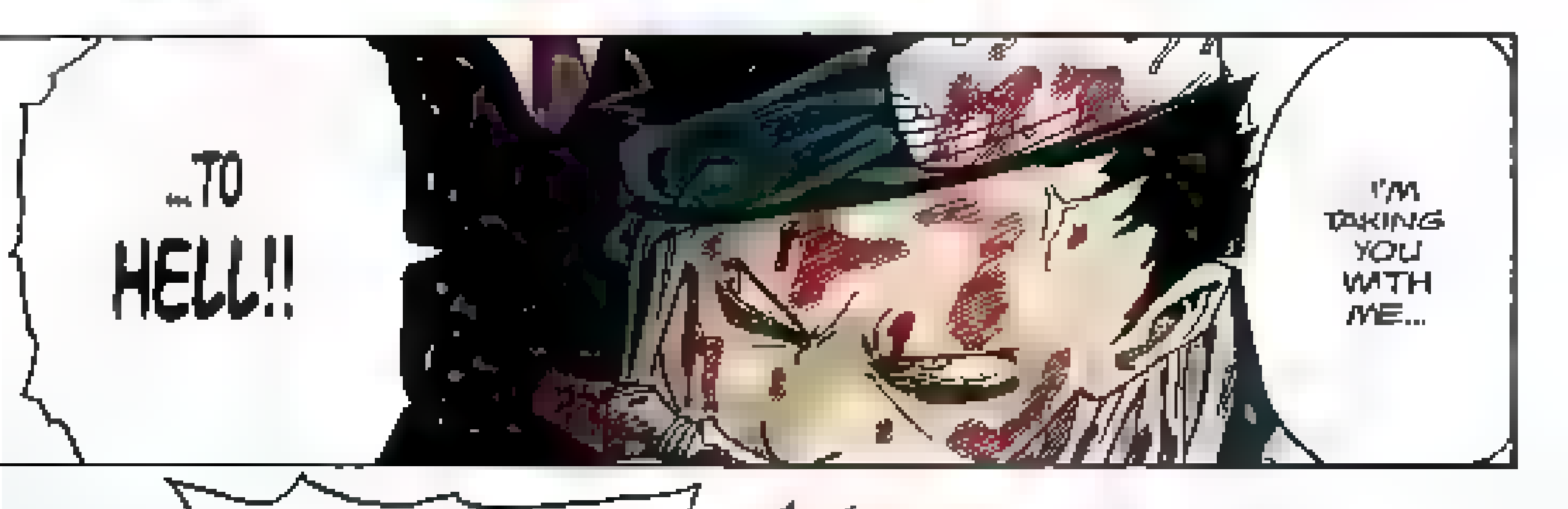



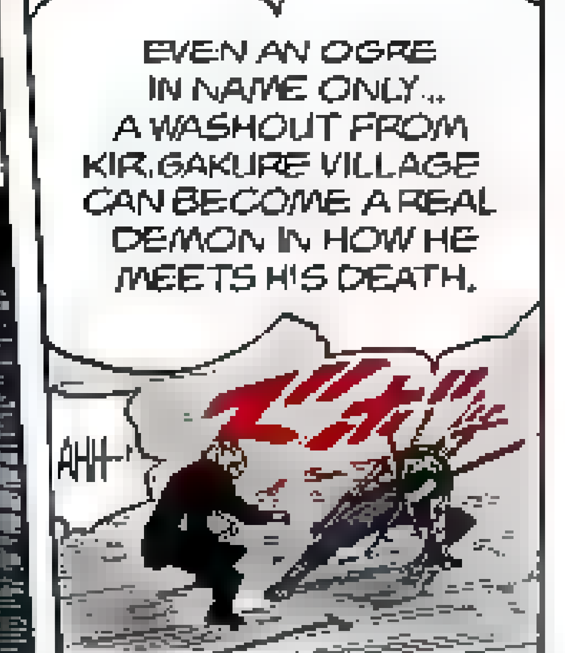

WHY WON'T YOU DIE?!

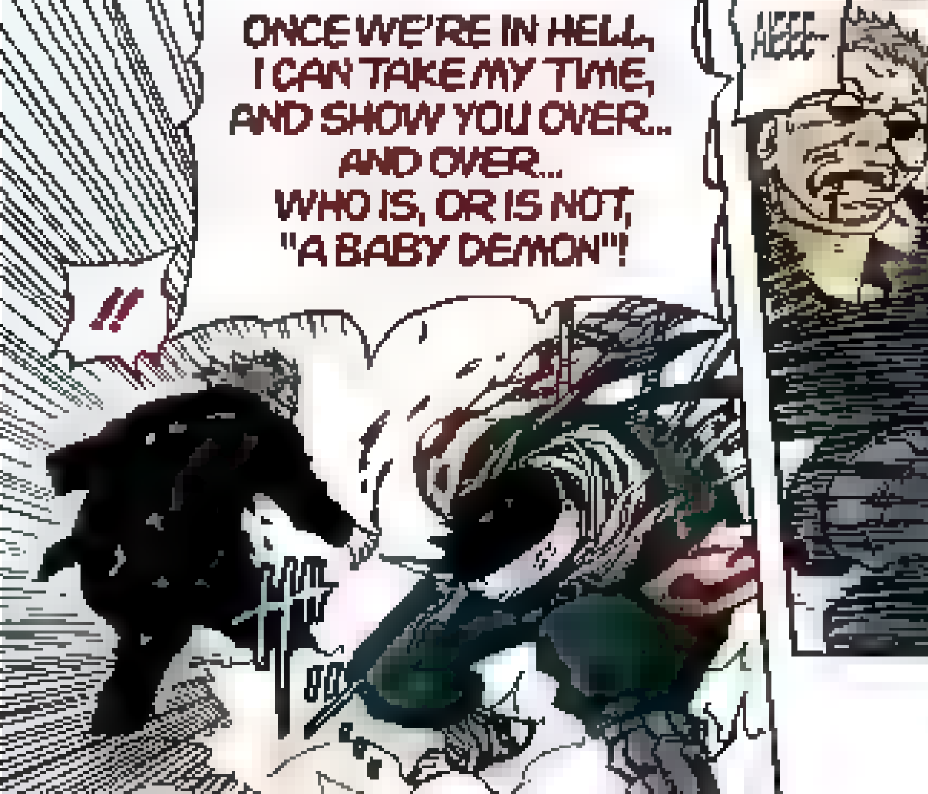
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IF YOU'RE IN SUCH A HURRY... TO BE REUNITED WITH YOUR LITTLE FRIEND... GO ALONE!
I... HAVE NO INTENTION OF GOING TO THE SAME PLACE... AS HAKU...
WH-WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?
UGH...


HEH...


I'M TAKING YOU WITH ME...
...TO HELL!!


EVEN AN OGRE IN NAME ONLY... A WASHOUT FROM KIRIGAKURE VILLAGE CAN BECOME A REAL DEMON IN HOW HE MEETS HIS DEATH.
AHH

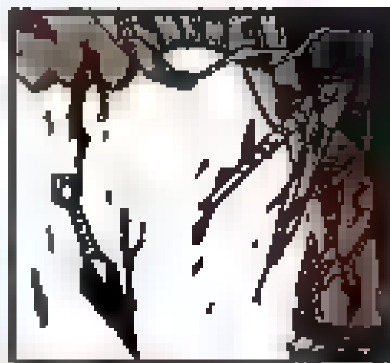

AIEEE
ONCE WE'RE IN HELL, I CAN TAKE MY TIME, AND SHOW YOU OVER... AND OVER... WHO IS, OR IS NOT, "A BABY DEMON"!
!!

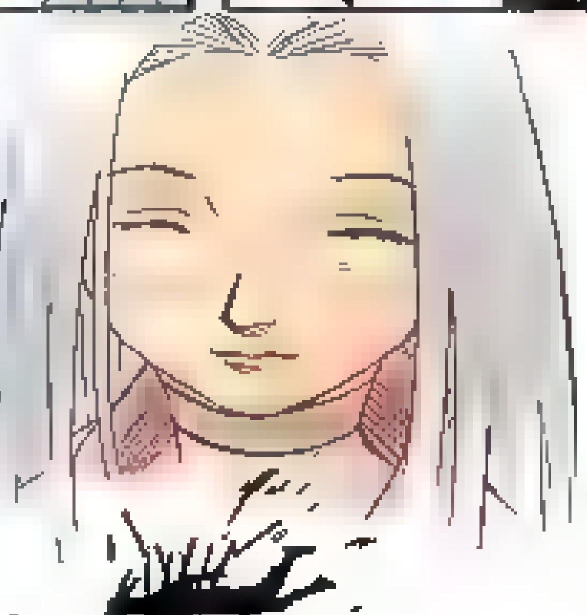


AUUGH!!
...




EEEEK!!


PLEASE, KEEP ME BESIDE YOU.



IT'S... GOODBYE NOW, HAKU
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING...
AND I'M SORRY...

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KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S THIRD MANGA REJECT SPECIAL!



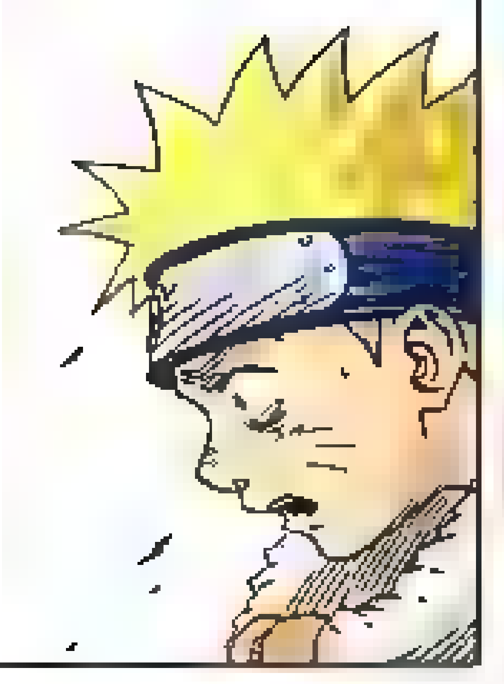
ONCE AGAIN, THE ROUGH SKETCH TO THE LEFT IS FROM ANOTHER REJECTED MANGA. IT WAS A BASEBALL MANGA, TITLED SIMPLY "BASEBALL KING." I PLAYED BASEBALL MYSELF, BACK IN MY STUDENT DAYS, SO I (MAYBE FOOLISHLY) THOUGHT I WOULD TRY MY HAND AT A BASEBALL STORY.

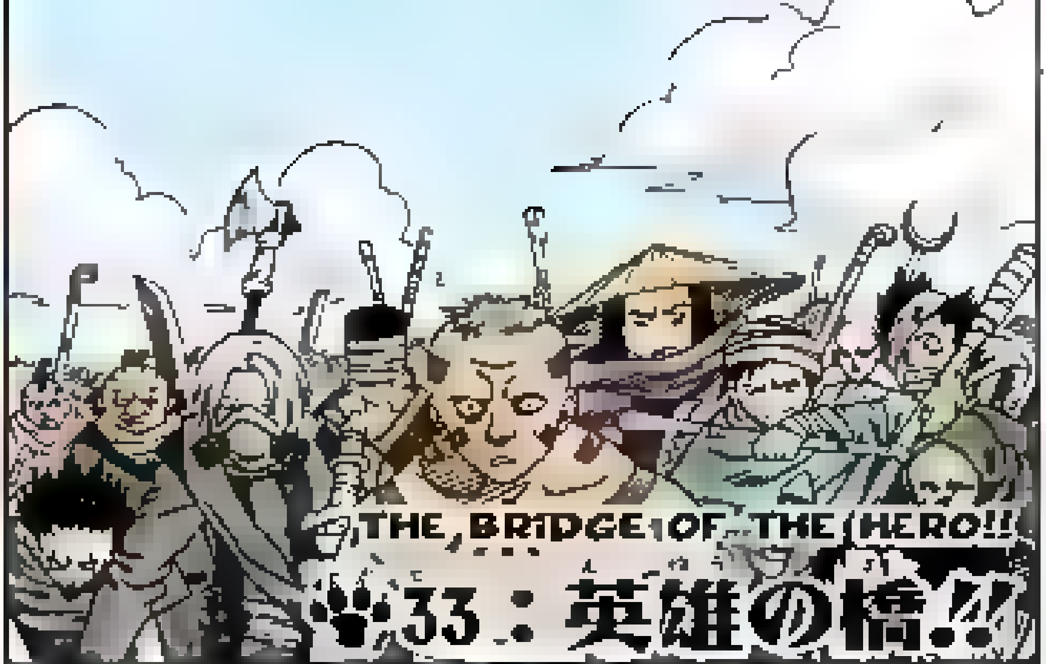
DURING THIS PERIOD, I WAS IN A SITUATION WHERE, NO MATTER HOW MANY CONCEPTS FOR ADVENTURE MANGA I SKETCHED OUT, I DIDN'T GET ANY GREEN LIGHTS, SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD GO FOR A SPORTS THEME.

BUT WHEN I ACTUALLY TRIED TO DRAW ONE, PERHAPS BECAUSE I WAS WRITING FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, IT BECAME A MORE REALISTIC WORK THAN I HAD INTENDED.

THE REASON IT FAILED WAS THAT IT WAS TOO SERIOUS FOR A SHONEN PUBLICATION. IT WASN'T ENTERTAINMENT

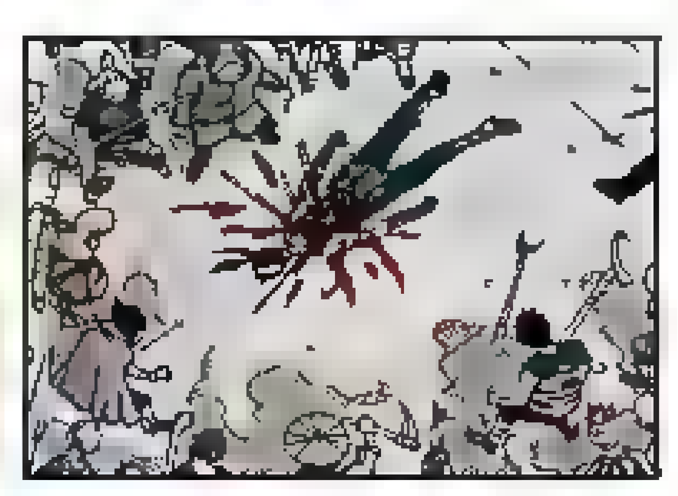
HOWEVER, "BASEBALL KING" ACTUALLY STILL HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART. I SOMETIMES FIND MYSELF THINKING, "THAT WAS SO FUNNY I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S A RE[illegible] DARN IT..!"

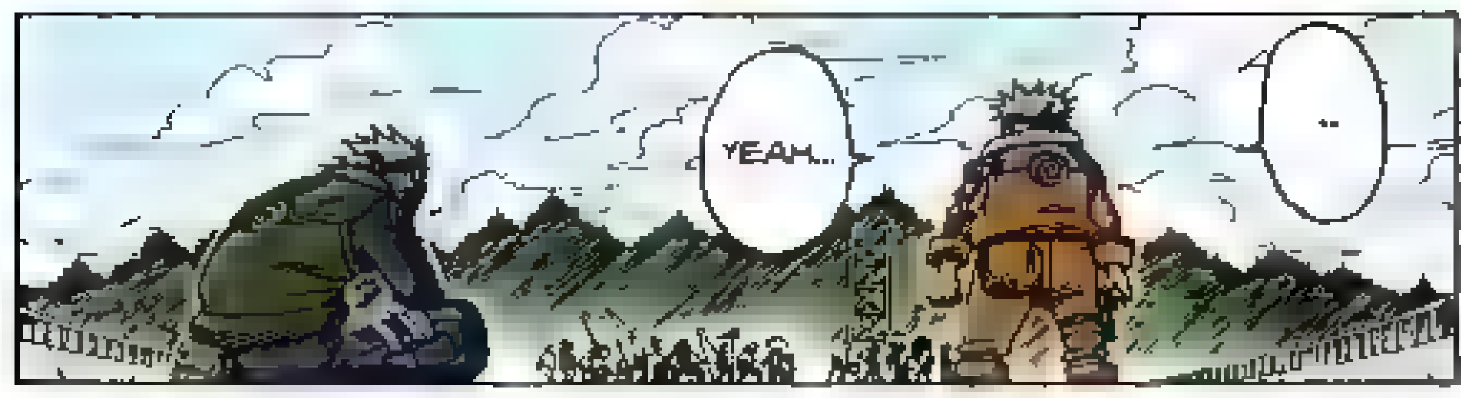



THE BRIDGE OF THE HERO!!
33：英雄の橋!!

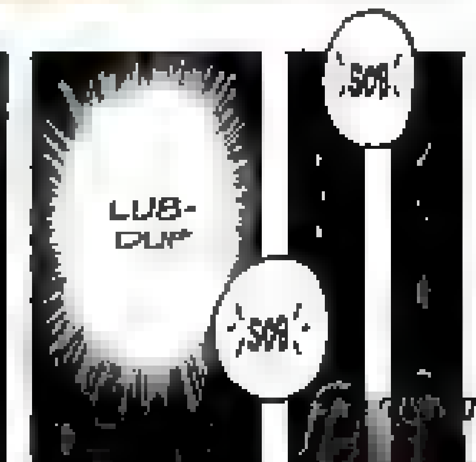

THIS WAS THE END OF A MAN WHO LIVED FULL OUT.

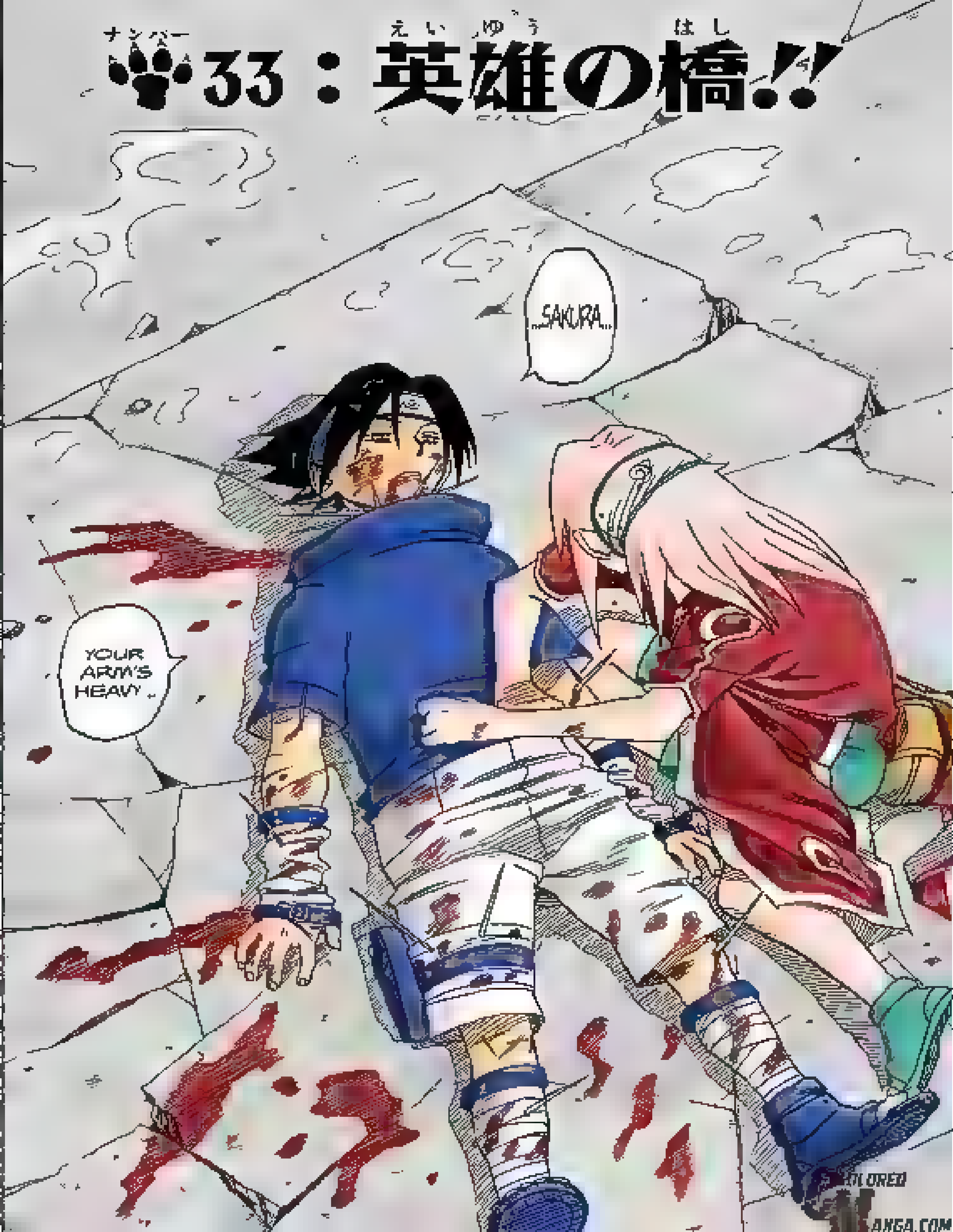

DON'T LOOK AWAY.



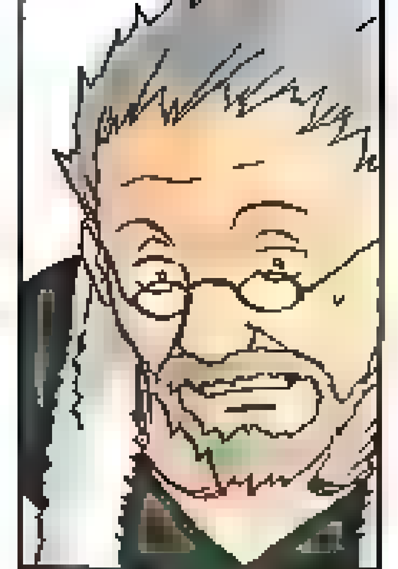

YEAH...
..

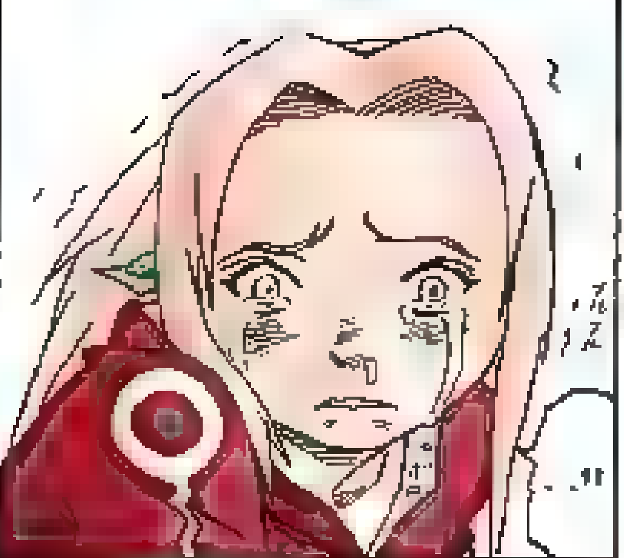

SOB
AM I... AM I...?!
SOB
SAKURA...?!
SOB
SASUKE...
AM I... DEAD...?


SOB
LUB-DUP
SOB



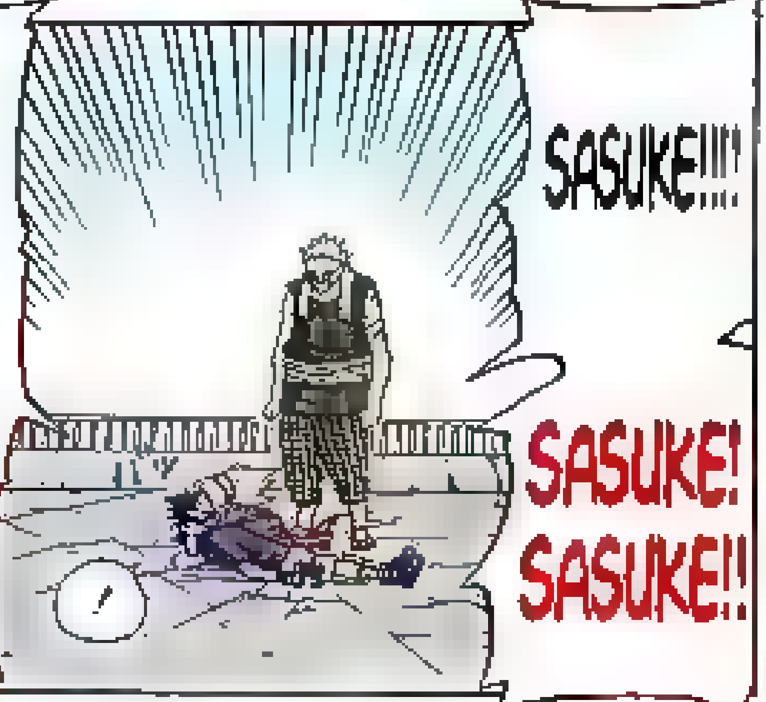
33：英雄の橋!!
...SAKURA...
YOUR ARM'S HEAVY...




...!!

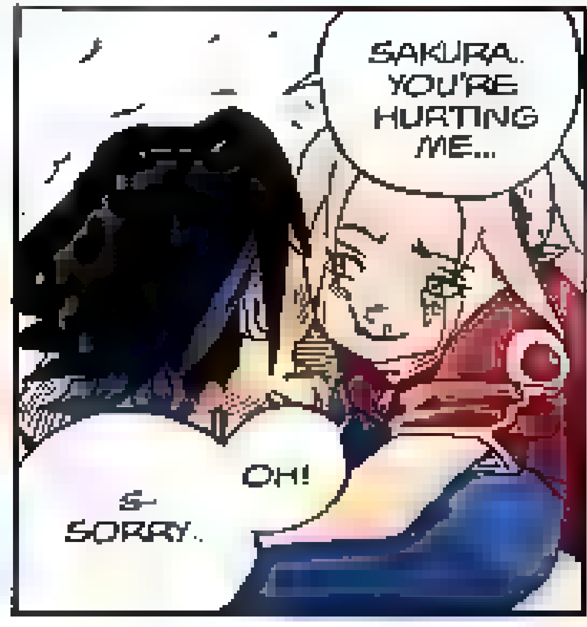

...?

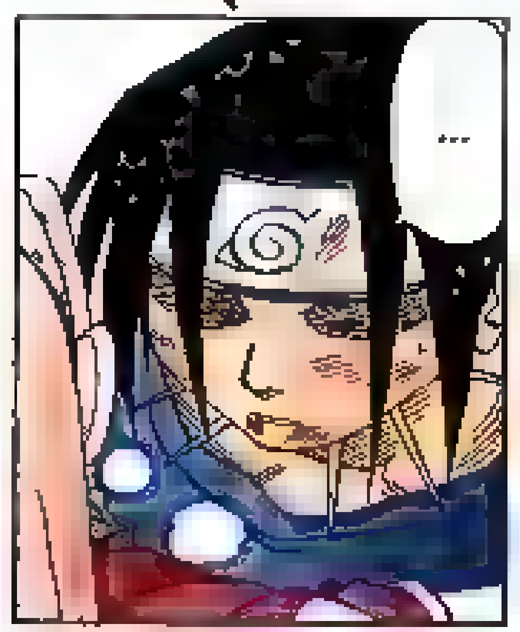

ぶわあ


SASUKE!!!!
SASUKE! SASUKE!!
!

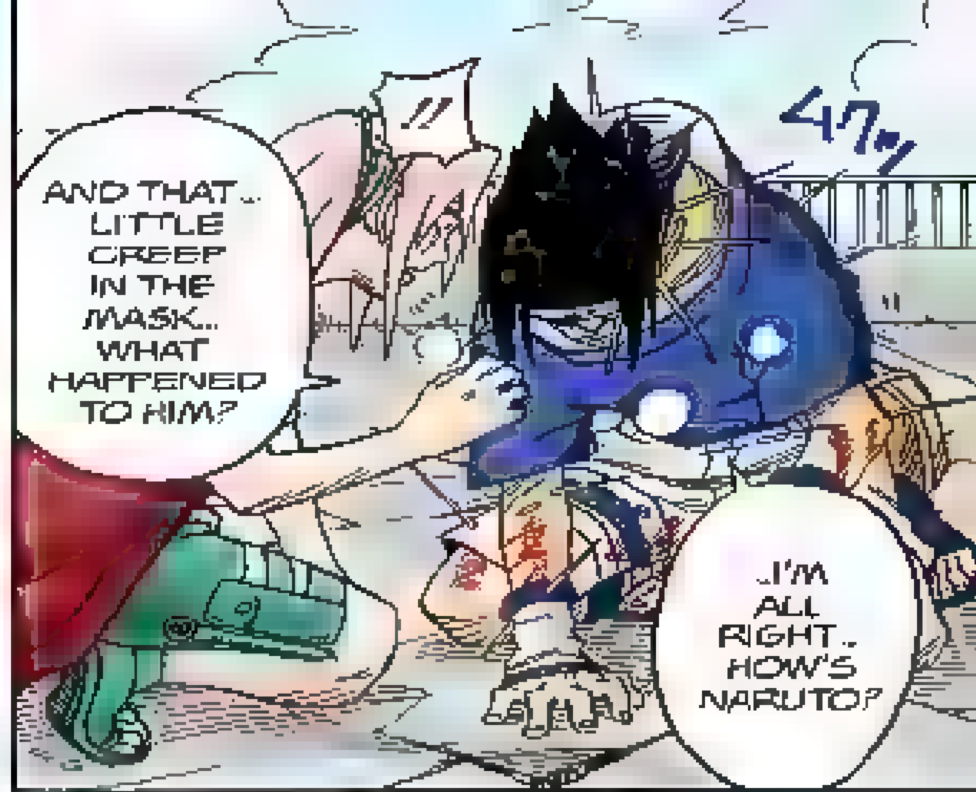

OHHHH!!

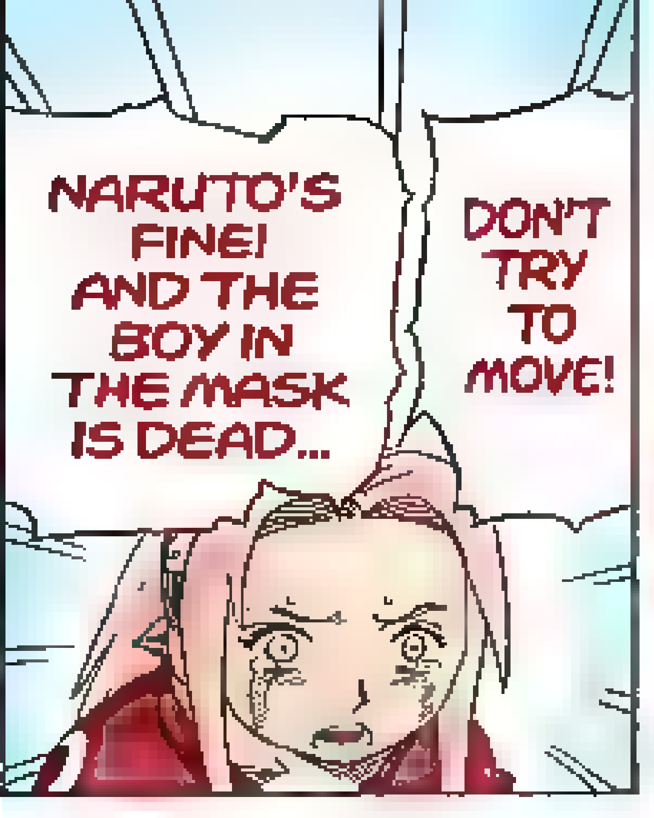

I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU, SAKURA.


SAKURA. YOU'RE HURTING ME...
OH!
S-SORRY..

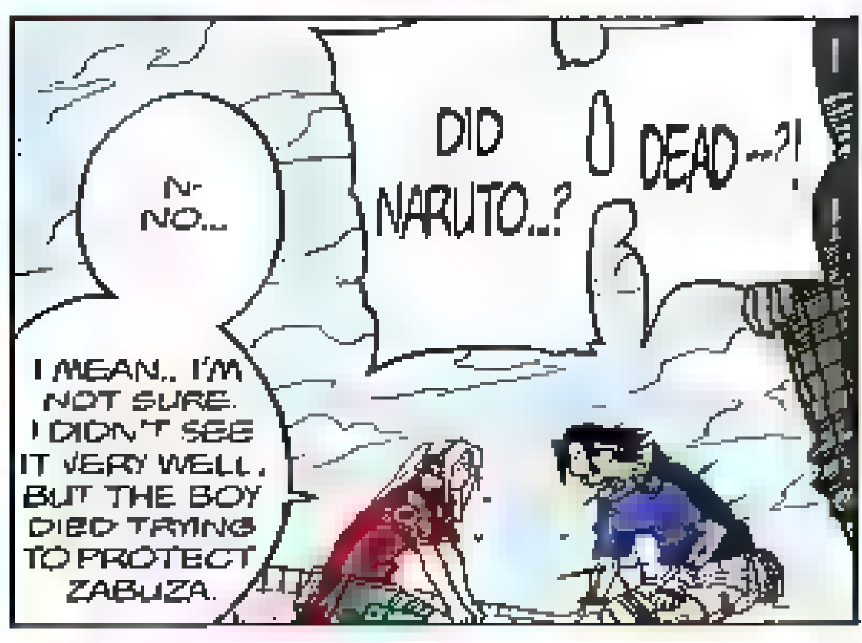

...


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!!
I'M ALL RIGHT.. HOW'S NARUTO?
AND THAT... LITTLE CREEP IN THE MASK.. WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

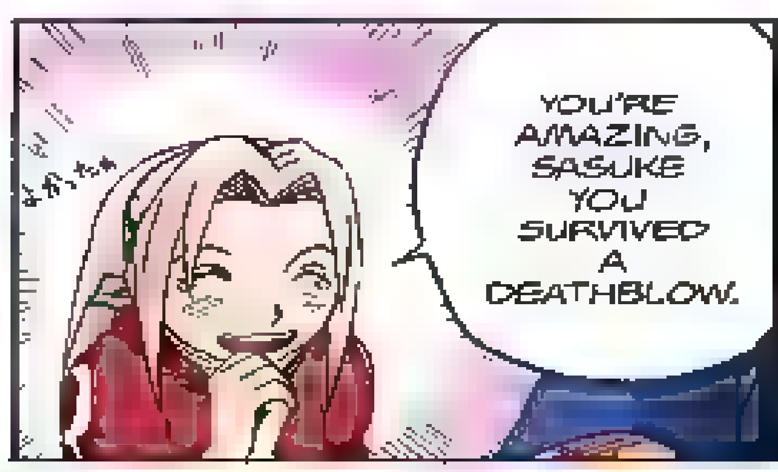

DON'T TRY TO MOVE!
NARUTO'S FINE! AND THE BOY IN THE MASK IS DEAD...


!!


DID NARUTO..?
DEAD...?!
N-NO...
I MEAN.. I'M NOT SURE. I DIDN'T SEE IT VERY WELL. BUT THE BOY DIED TRYING TO PROTECT ZABUZA.


....
HMM.


I... WAS AFRAID.... I THOUGHT..

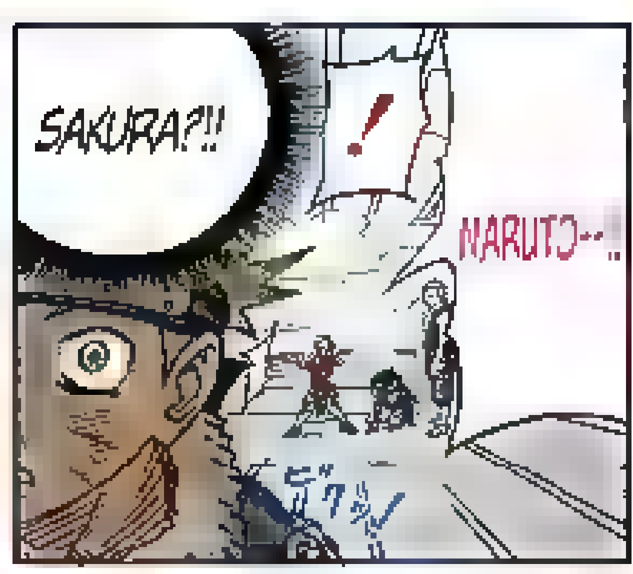

YOU'RE AMAZING, SASUKE YOU SURVIVED A DEATHBLOW.

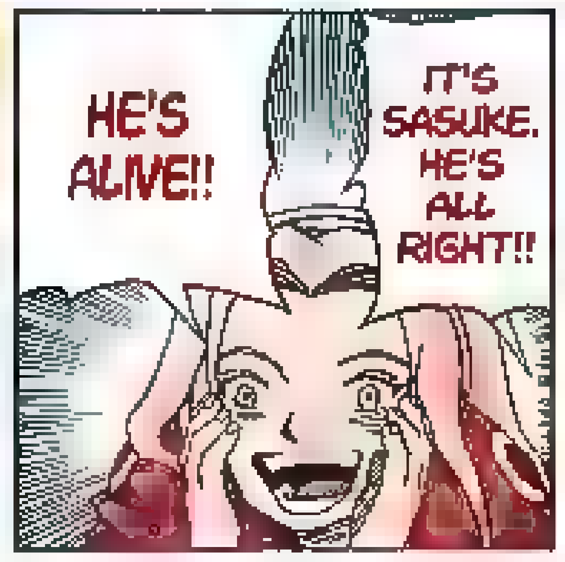

...
NO...


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NOT ME HIM...?

...HE NEVER PLANNED TO... FROM THE START



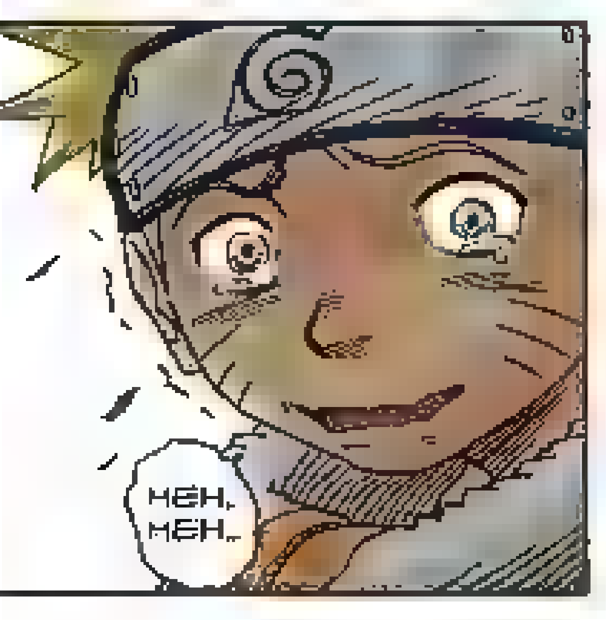


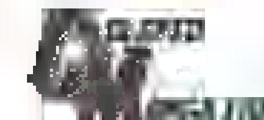




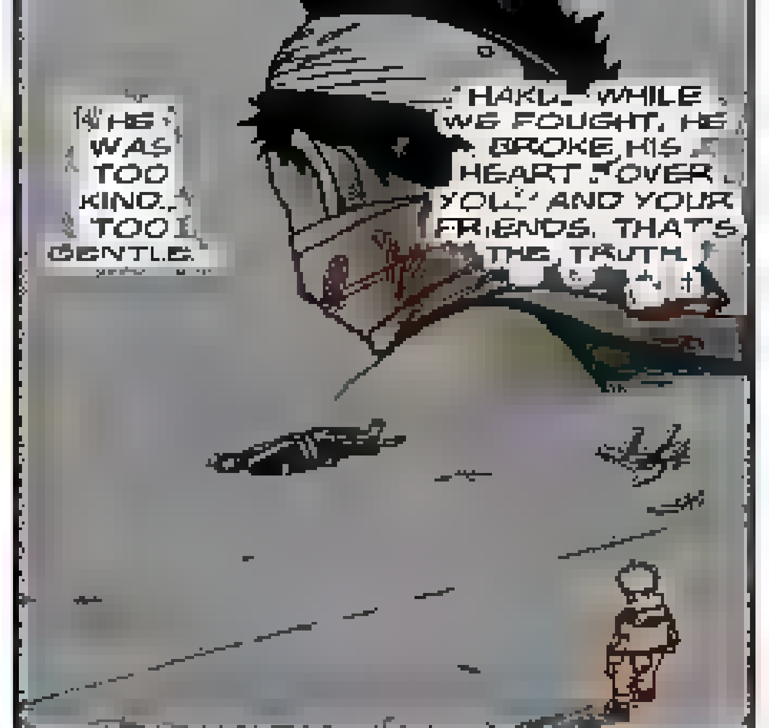






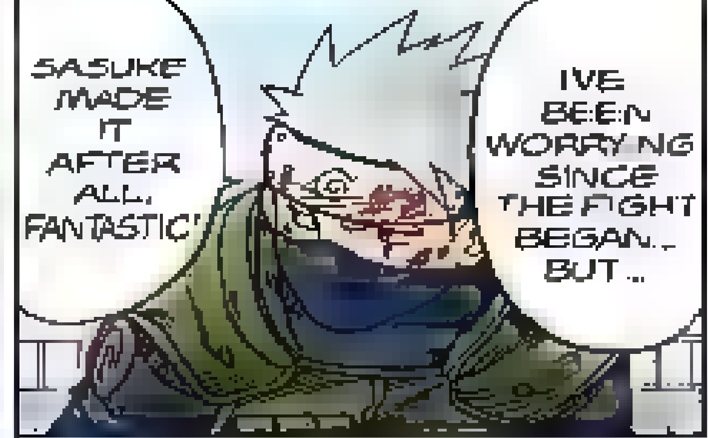



I GET IT... HE...


HAKU... WHILE WE FOUGHT, HE BROKE HIS HEART OVER YOU... AND YOUR FRIENDS. THAT'S THE TRUTH.
HE WAS TOO KIND... TOO GENTLE.






I'VE BEEN WORRYING SINCE THE FIGHT BEGAN... BUT...
SASUKE MADE IT AFTER ALL. FANTASTIC!


!!
!


HEY!
AREN'T YOU SWEETHEARTS FORGETTING SOMETHING?!
THOP



YOU NINJA KILLED OUR MEAL TICKET!
AND NOW YOU'RE GONNA DIE!!
THE ONLY WAY WE CAN EVEN BREAK EVEN NOW
...IS TO OVERRUN THE CITY AND LOOT EVERY BUSINESS AND HOME!!
OH YEAH!

LET'S GO!
UHHH THIS ISN'T GOOD.
MASTER KAKASHI- ISN'T THERE SOME TECHNIQUE WE CAN USE TO TAKE THEM ALL DOWN AT ONCE?
I'M AFRAID... WITH THE LIGHTNING BLADE, THE ILLUSIONS AND CONJURATIONS... FOR THE MOMENT, I'VE EXHAUSTED MY CHAKRA.



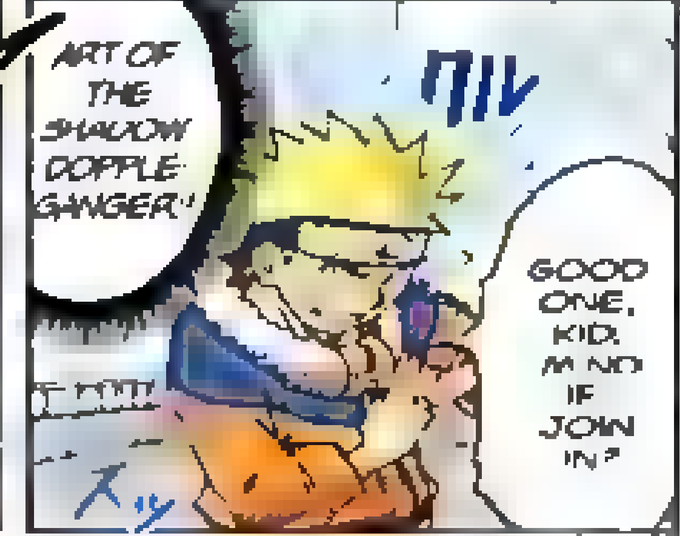




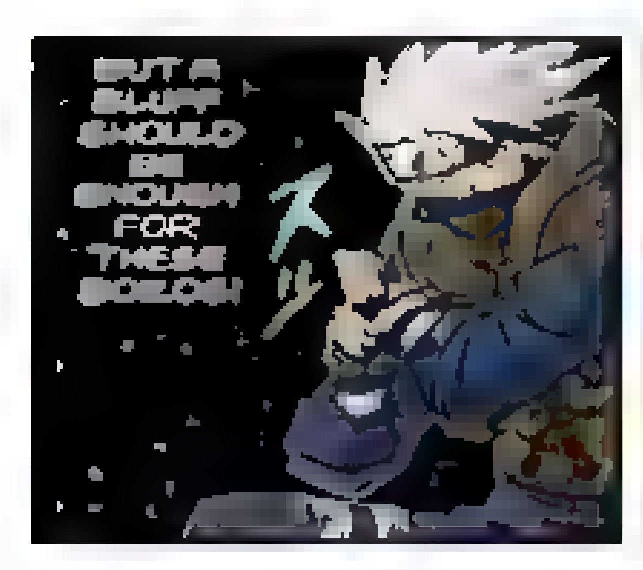



STOP WHERE YOU ARE.
THIS ISLAND IS OUR HOME. ONE STEP FURTHER..
YOU'LL DIE WHERE YOU STAND!
ALL OF YOU...
...
INARI.
HEH HEH.
IT'S BEING A HERO, YOU KNOW? ALL THAT NICK OF TIME STUFF!
INARI!!





ART OF THE SHADOW DOPPLEGANGER!
GOOD ONE, KID. MIND IF I JOIN IN?



BUT A BLUFF SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR THESE BOZOS!



I CAN'T MANAGE ANYTHING SOLID WITH MY CHAKRA SO LOW

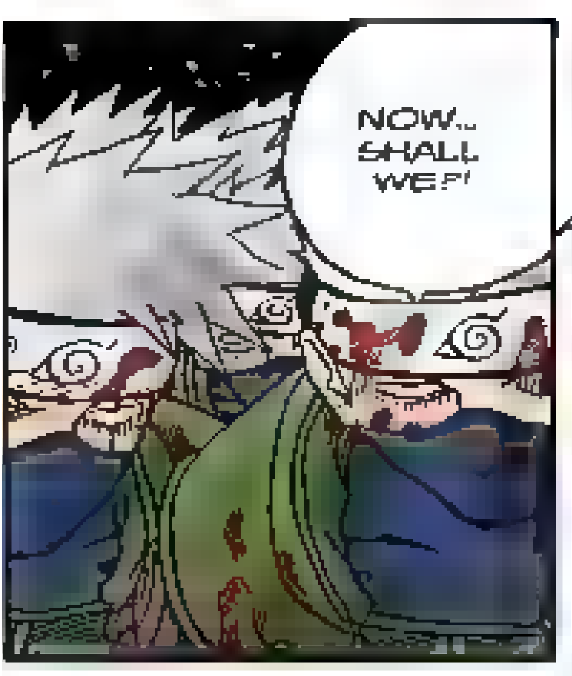


YIPE!



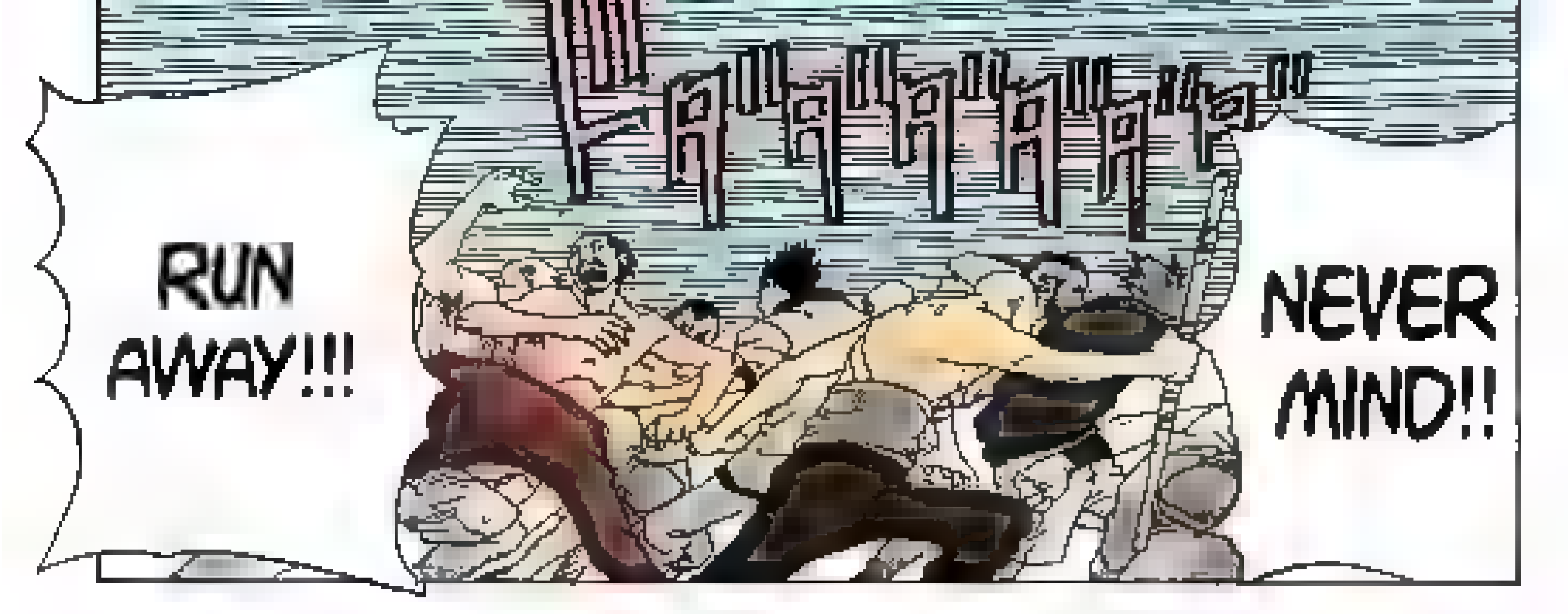
ART OF THE SHADOW DOPPLE-GANGER!!

KAKASHI STYLE

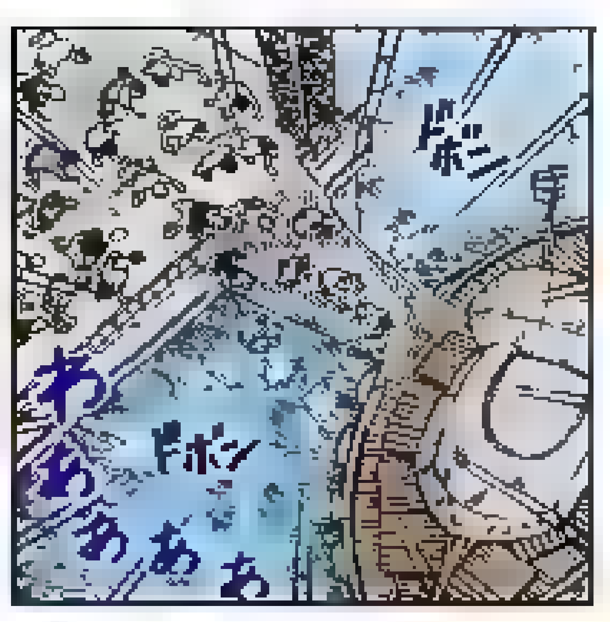


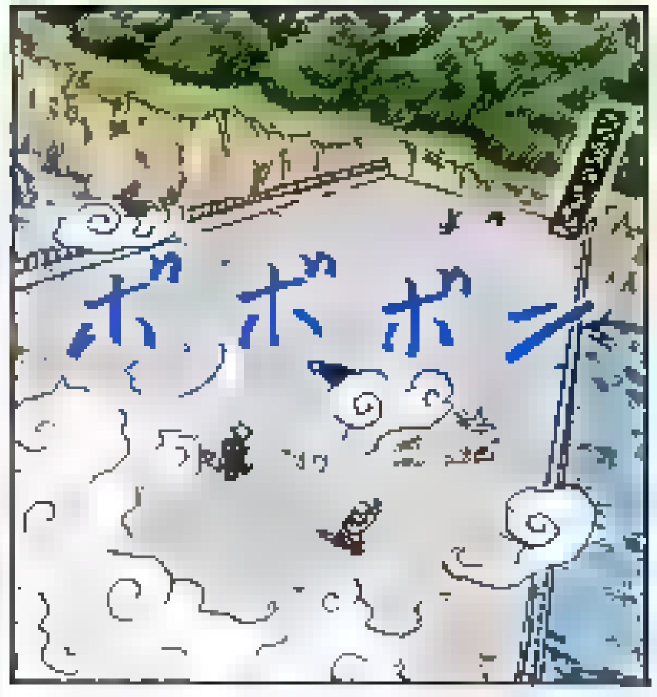
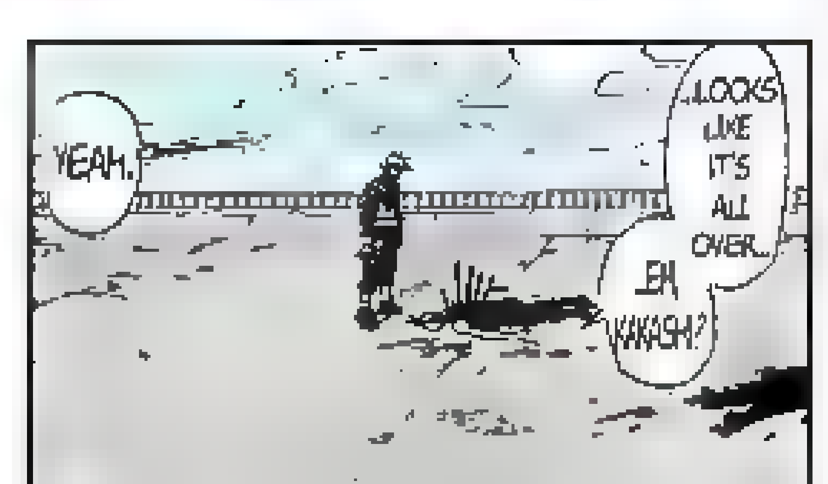





NEVER MIND!!
RUN AWAY!!!

YAY..!!
うオオオオオ


ドボン
ドボン
わあああ


ボボボン

...LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALL OVER...
...EH, KAKASHI?
YEAH.

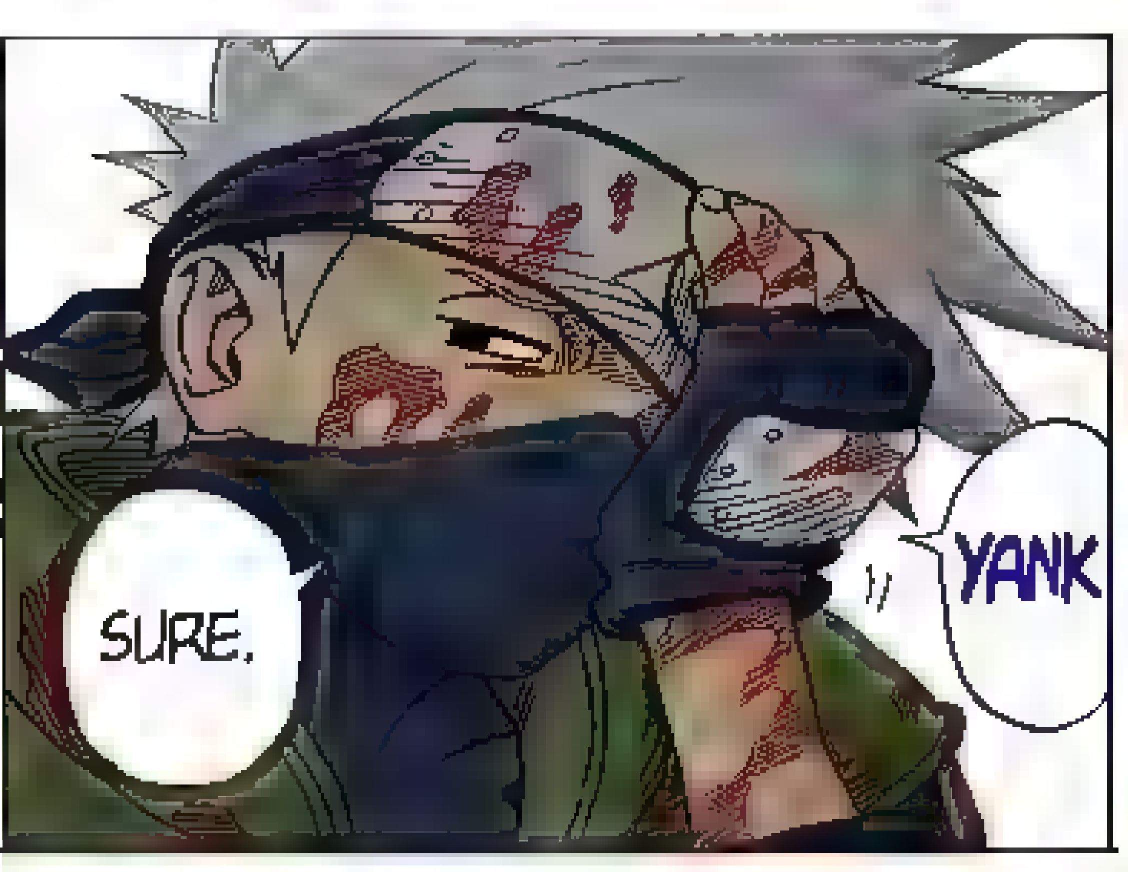


KAKASHI, DO ME A FAVOR?


WHAT IS IT?

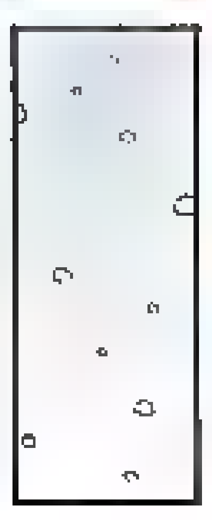

I WANT TO..
see HIS FACE.


...


YANK
SURE.

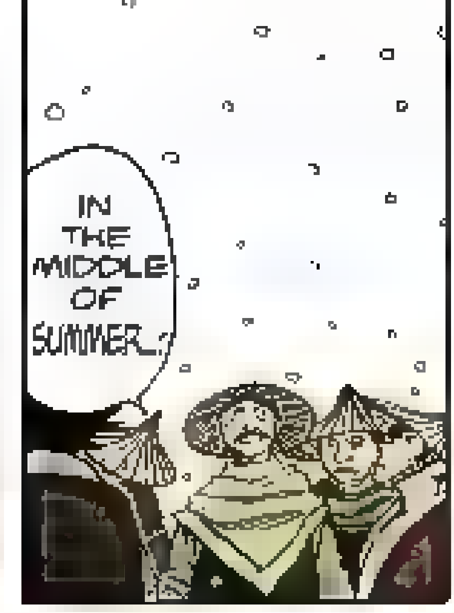



HUH?

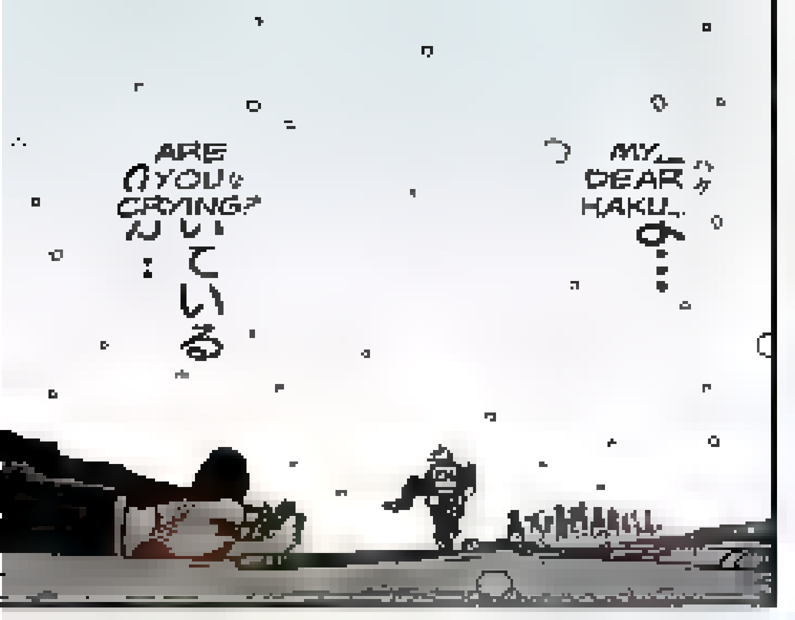


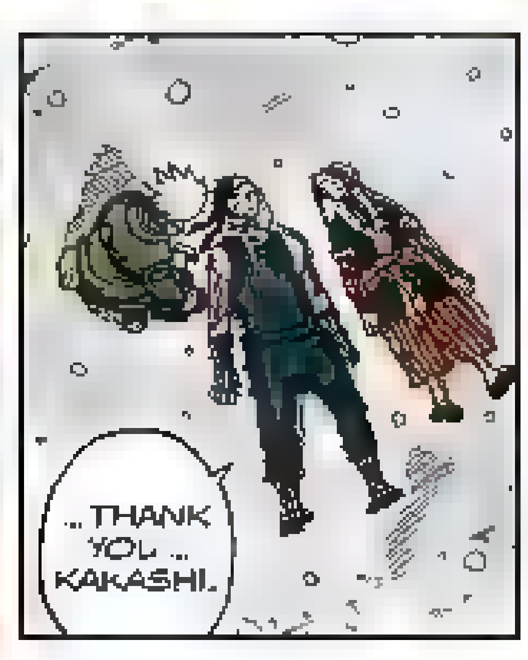

...
IT'S SNOWING.


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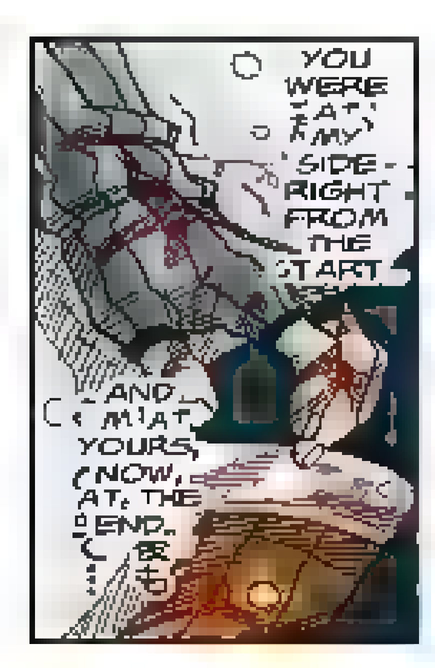

IN THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER...?




MY... DEAR HAKU...
ARE YOU CRYING?


...THANK YOU... KAKASHI.



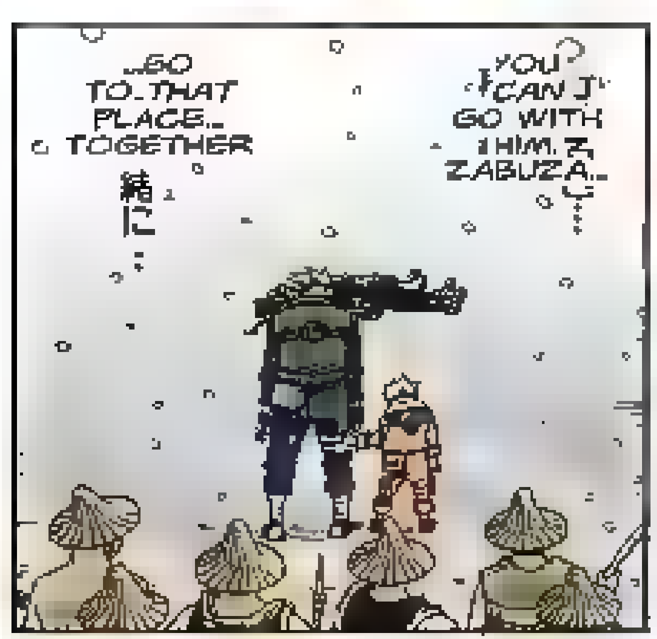

YOU WERE AT MY SIDE RIGHT FROM THE START
AND I'M AT YOURS, NOW, AT THE END.


...IF I COULD... ...IF I WERE ABLE... I WOULD WANT TO GO... TO THE SAME PLACE... ON THE OTHER SIDE...
...AS YOU.


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...HE...WAS BORN IN A VILLAGE WHERE IT SNOWS A LOT...

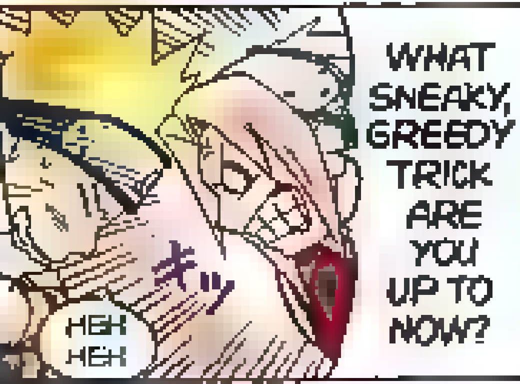

I SEE...
HE WAS A PURE SPIRIT - AS TRUE AND CLEAN AS A NEWLY FALLEN SNOW.

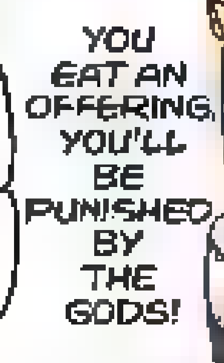

YOU CAN'T GO WITH HIM. Z, ZABUZA...
...GO TO THAT PLACE... TOGETHER
緒に




スゥ….


パチィ
OWW!


WHAT SNEAKY, GREEDY TRICK ARE YOU UP TO NOW?
キッ
HEH HEH

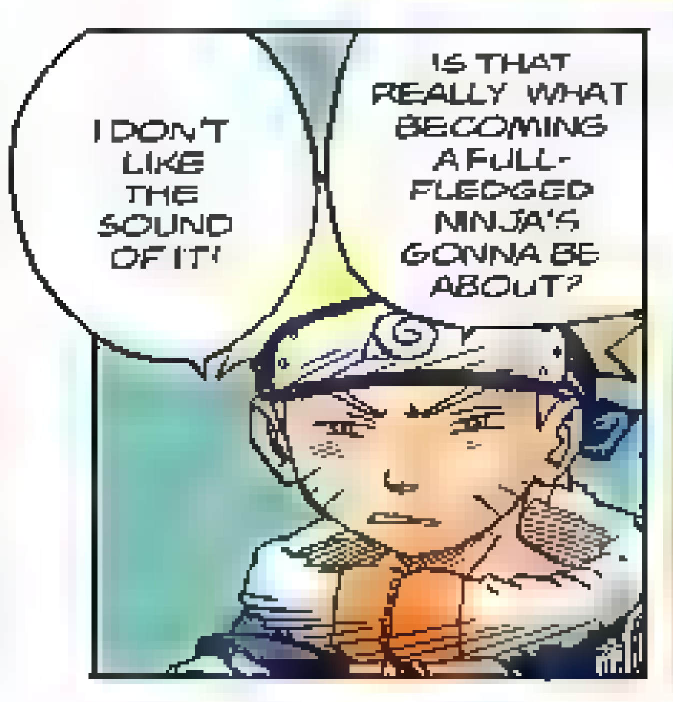

YOU EAT AN OFFERING, YOU'LL BE PUNISHED BY THE GODS!


TWO WEEKS LATER
2週間


MASTER KAKASHI...
...
BUT STILL...

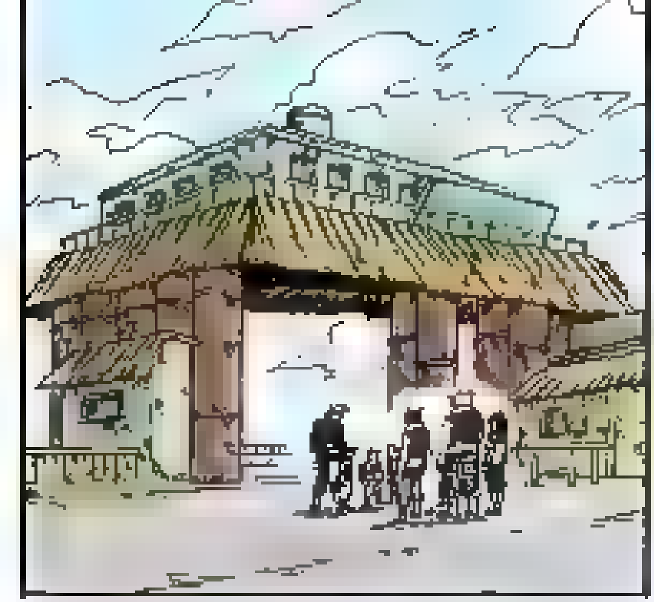

HMM~?
...I CAN'T HELP WONDERING. WERE THOSE TWO RIGHT ABOUT WHAT A NINJA SHOULD BE?

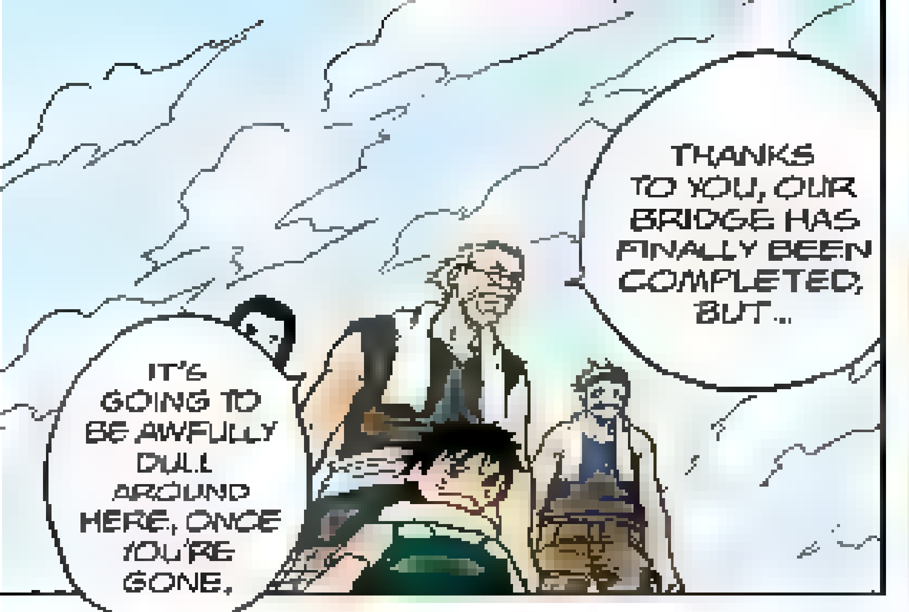

A SHINOBI SHOULDN'T BE CONCERNED WITH A REASON FOR HER OWN EXISTENCE
IT IS IMPORTANT MERELY THAT WE EXIST AS A TOOL FOR OUR HOMELAND TO USE IN WHATEVER WAY THEY NEED.
THAT'S AS TRUE FOR US IN KONOHAGAKURE AS IT FOR NINJA ANYWHERE ELSE.
!

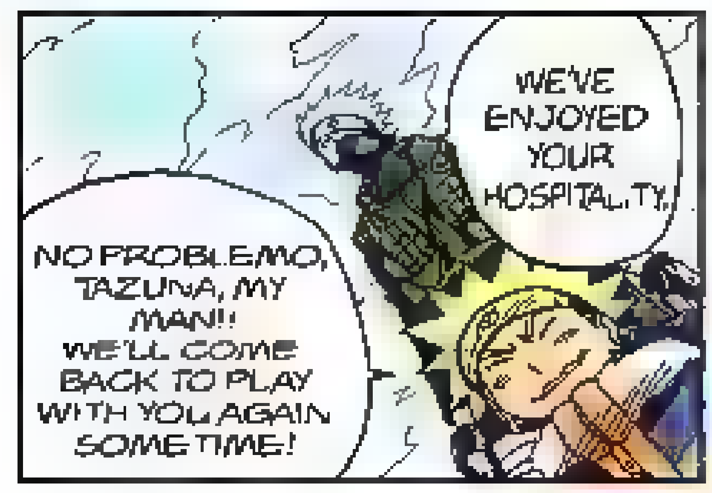

IS THAT REALLY WHAT BECOMING A FULL-FLEDGED NINJA'S GONNA BE ABOUT?
I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF IT!


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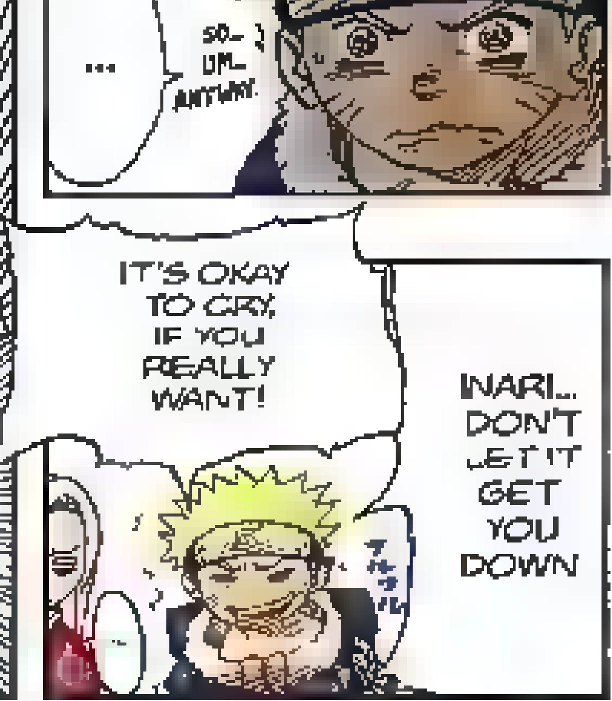

AND THAT'S WHY ALL WE NINJA LIVE OUR LIVES WITH THAT IDEAL ALWAYS BUBBLING BENEATH THE SURFACE OF OUR MINDS, DISTURBING US.
...LIKE IT DID ZABUZA...
DO YOU REALLY FEEL THAT WAY, MASTER KAKASHI?
WELL... NO.
...
AND THE BOY...
THAT'S IT. I'VE MADE UP MY MIND!
I AM GOING TO CREATE MY OWN NINDO— MY OWN NINJA PATH. MY OWN DESTINY!
!




THANKS TO YOU, OUR BRIDGE HAS FINALLY BEEN COMPLETED, BUT...
IT'S GOING TO BE AWFULLY DULL AROUND HERE, ONCE YOU'RE GONE.


WE'VE ENJOYED YOUR HOSPITALITY.
NO PROBLEMO, TAZUNA, MY MAN!! WE'LL COME BACK TO PLAY WITH YOU AGAIN SOMETIME!


YOU BETTER...
...AW...

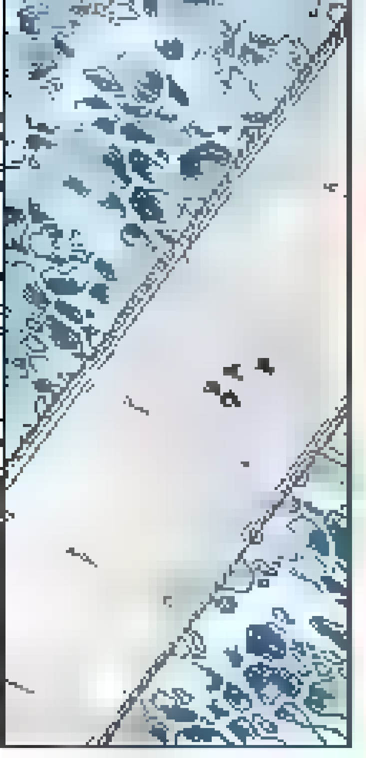

...
IT'S OKAY TO CRY, IF YOU REALLY WANT!
INARI... DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN


I'M NOT GONNA CRY!!
B-BUT NARUTO.. HEY, 'BIG BROTHER' ...Y-YOU CAN CRY! GO AHEAD!


ME? NO WAY.
SEE YOU.


OH!





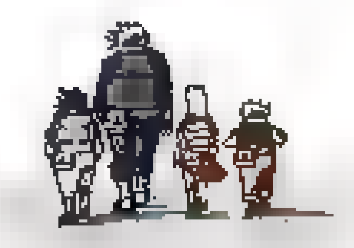


THAT BOY TOUCHED LITTLE INARI'S HEART.. AND INARI TOUCHED THE HEARTS OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN OUR CITY..

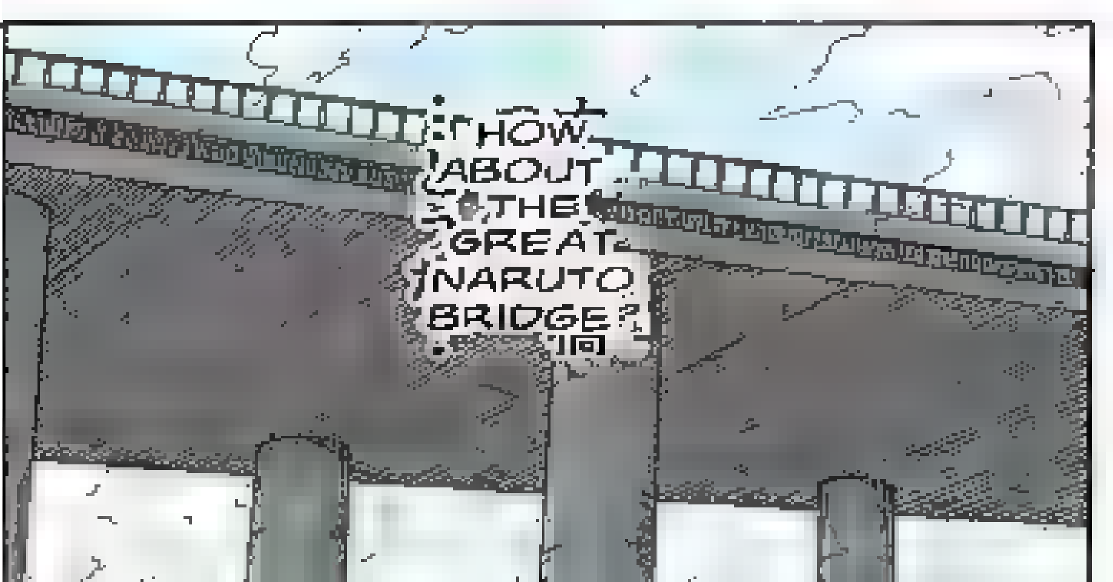
NARUTO BUILT THE BRIDGE THAT EVENTUALLY CARRIED US ALL TO HOPE AND COURAGE!

AND SPEAKING OF BRIDGES, WE STILL HAVE TO OFFICIALLY DEDICATE THIS ONE

AND THERE'S ONLY NAME THAT WILL TRULY FIT



WHAT ARE GOING TO CALL IT?





HEE HEE IT'S A NICE NAME, DAD.

ALL RIGHT--! LET'S GET HOME MASTER IRUKA'S GONNA TAKE ME OUT FOR RAMEN NOODLES TO CELEBRATE US ACCOMPLISHING OUR MISSION!

AND THEN... AND THEN, YOU KNOW, I HAVE TO TELL LITTLE KONOHAMARU MY EPIC TALE OF MARTIAL ARTS BRAVERY--!!

OH... UH... OKAY. BY THE WAY, SASUKE WHEN WE DO GET HOME... WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO OUT WITH ME?

UH, NO, THANKS.

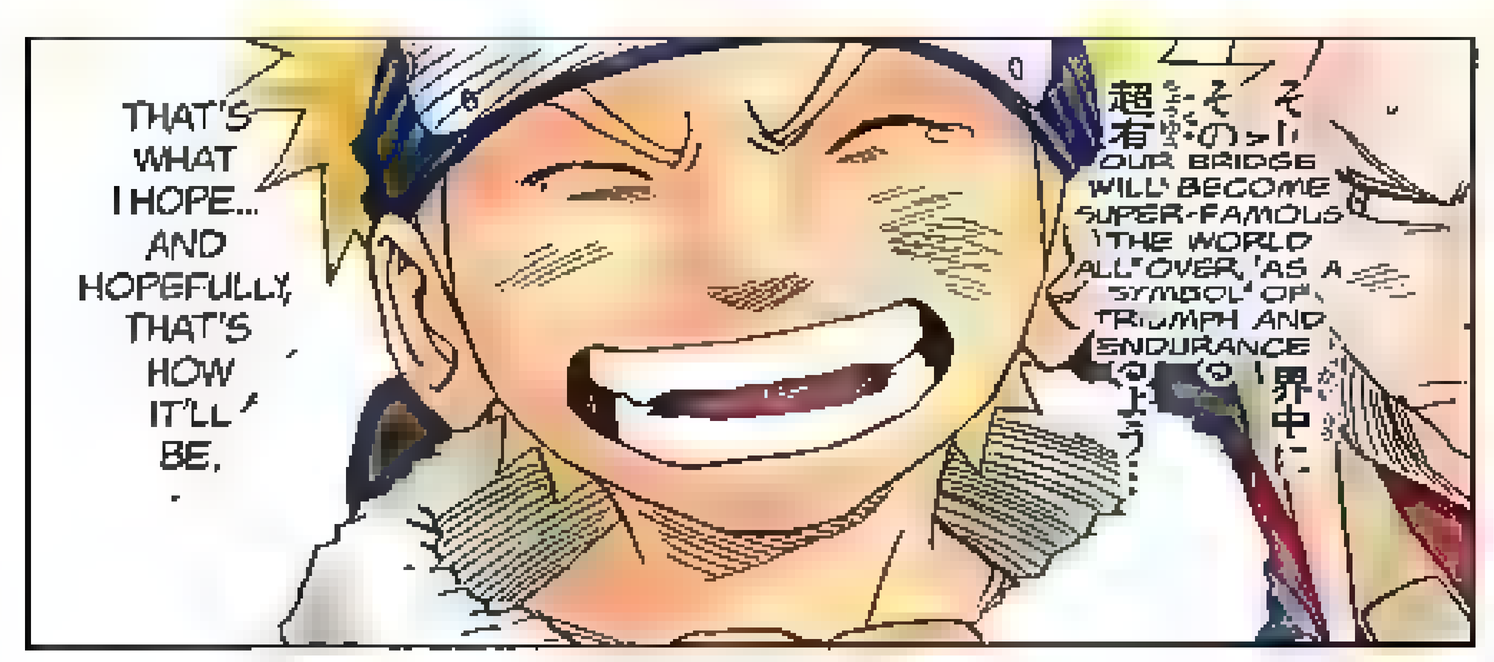
HEY! I'LL GO OUT WITH YOU!

NARUTO! NO! KNOCK IT OFF!

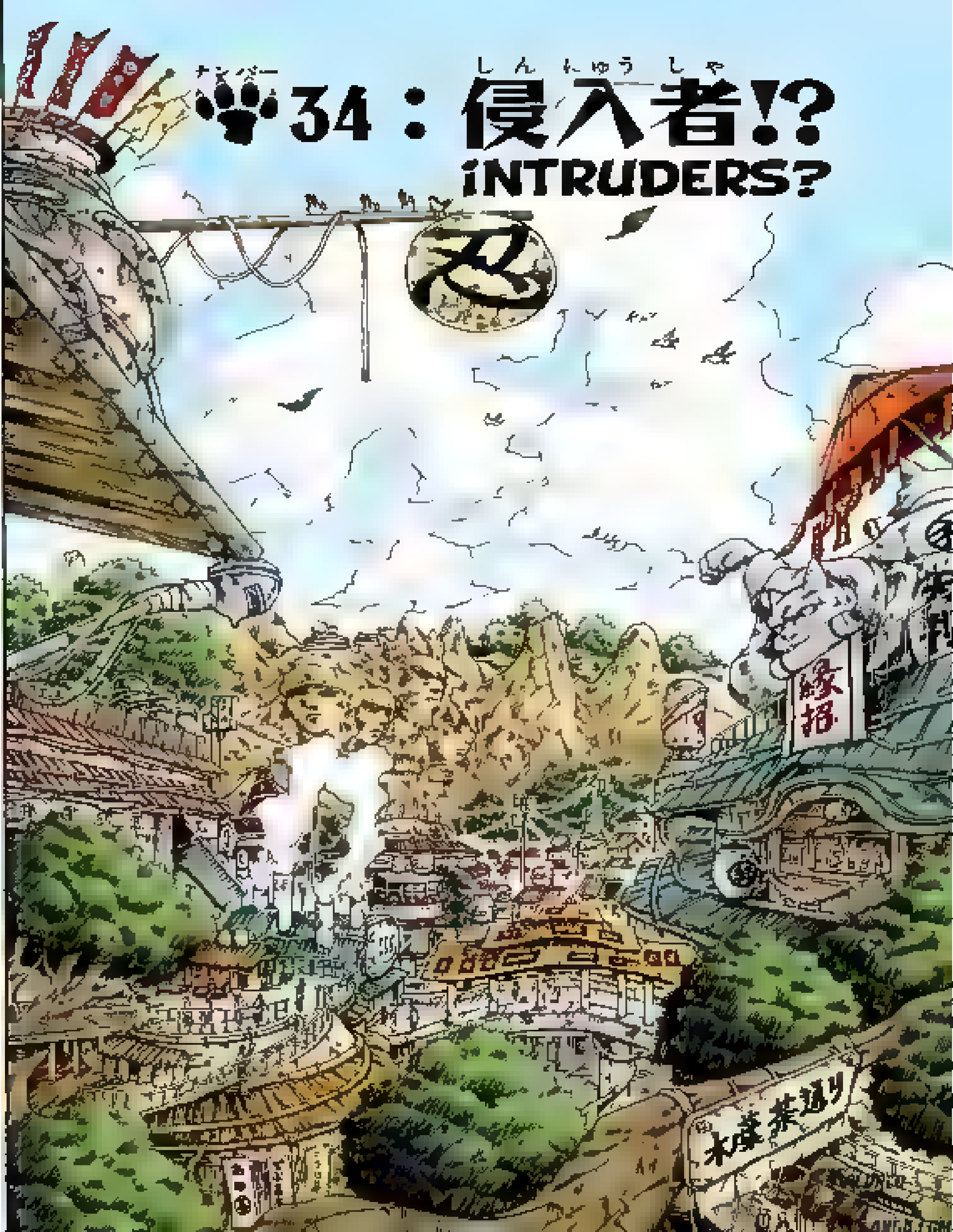
N-NO...?...



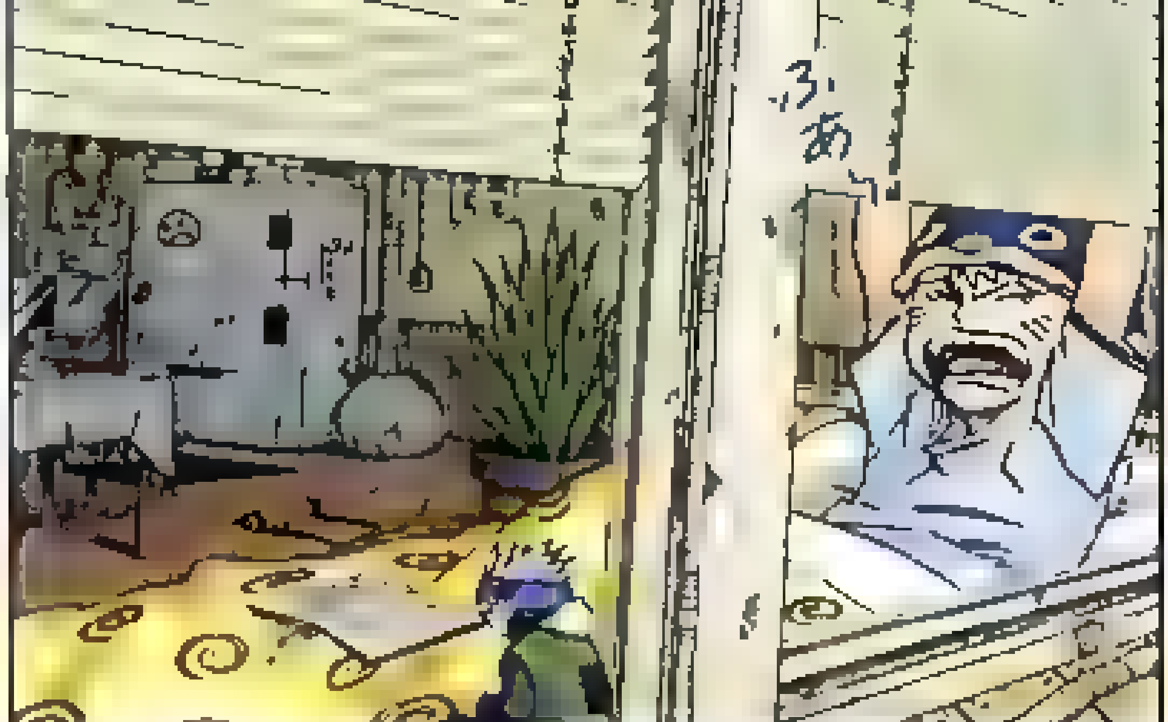


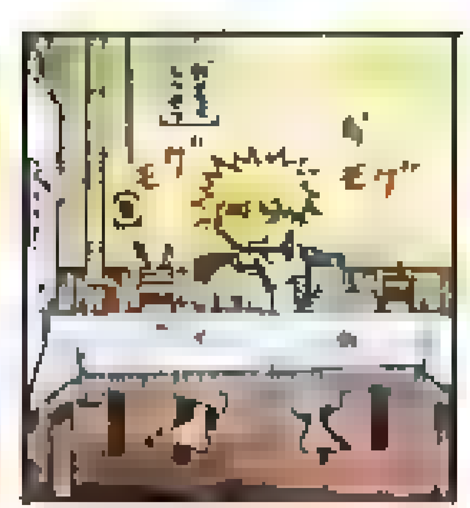




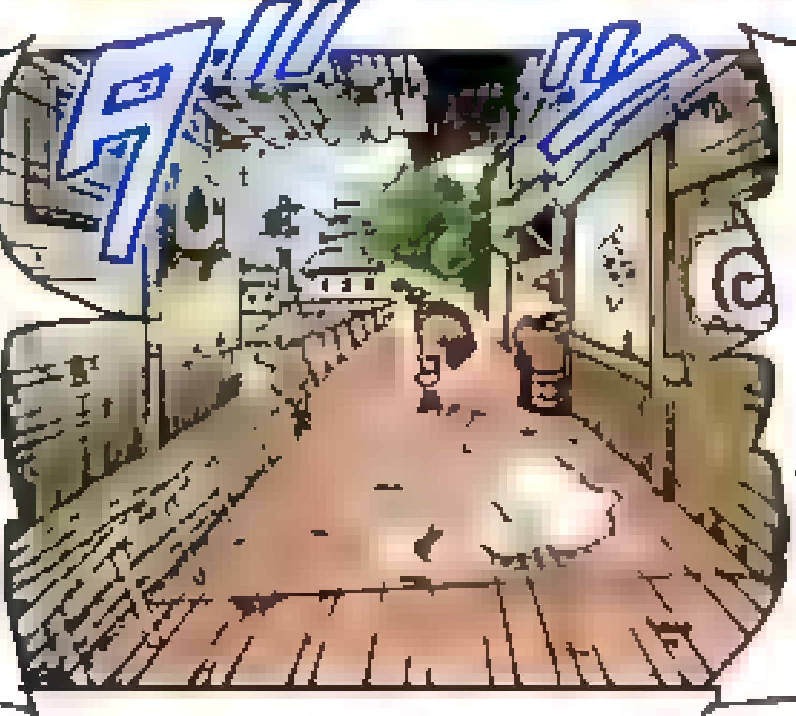


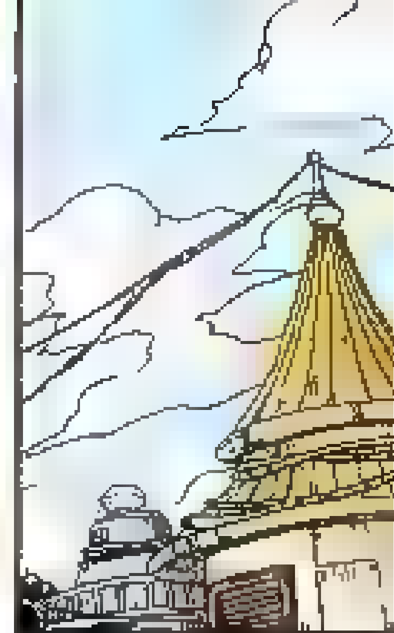
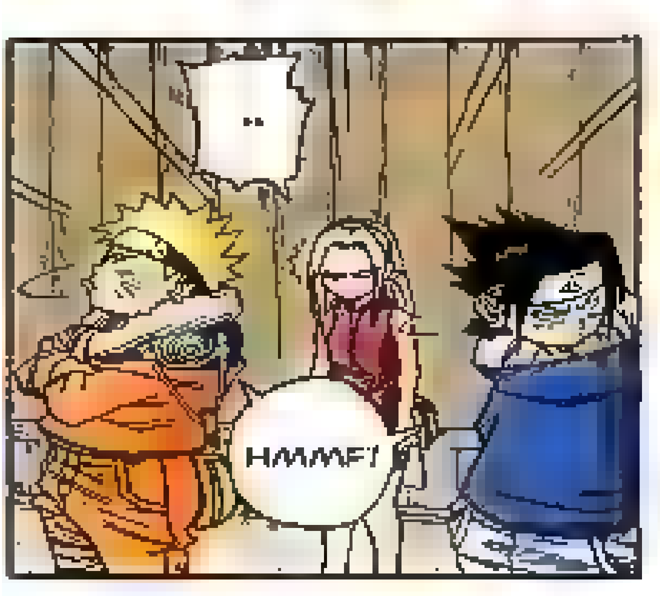
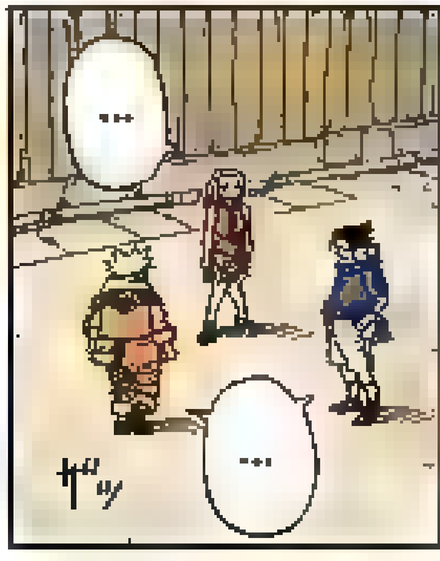
ナンバー
34：侵入者!?
しんにゅうしゃ
INTRUDERS?
招縁



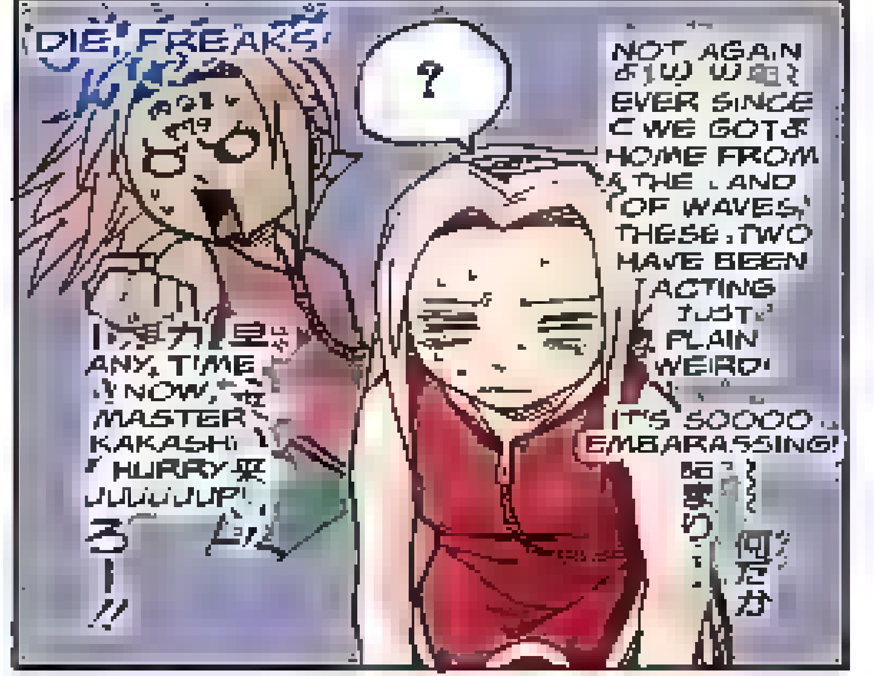

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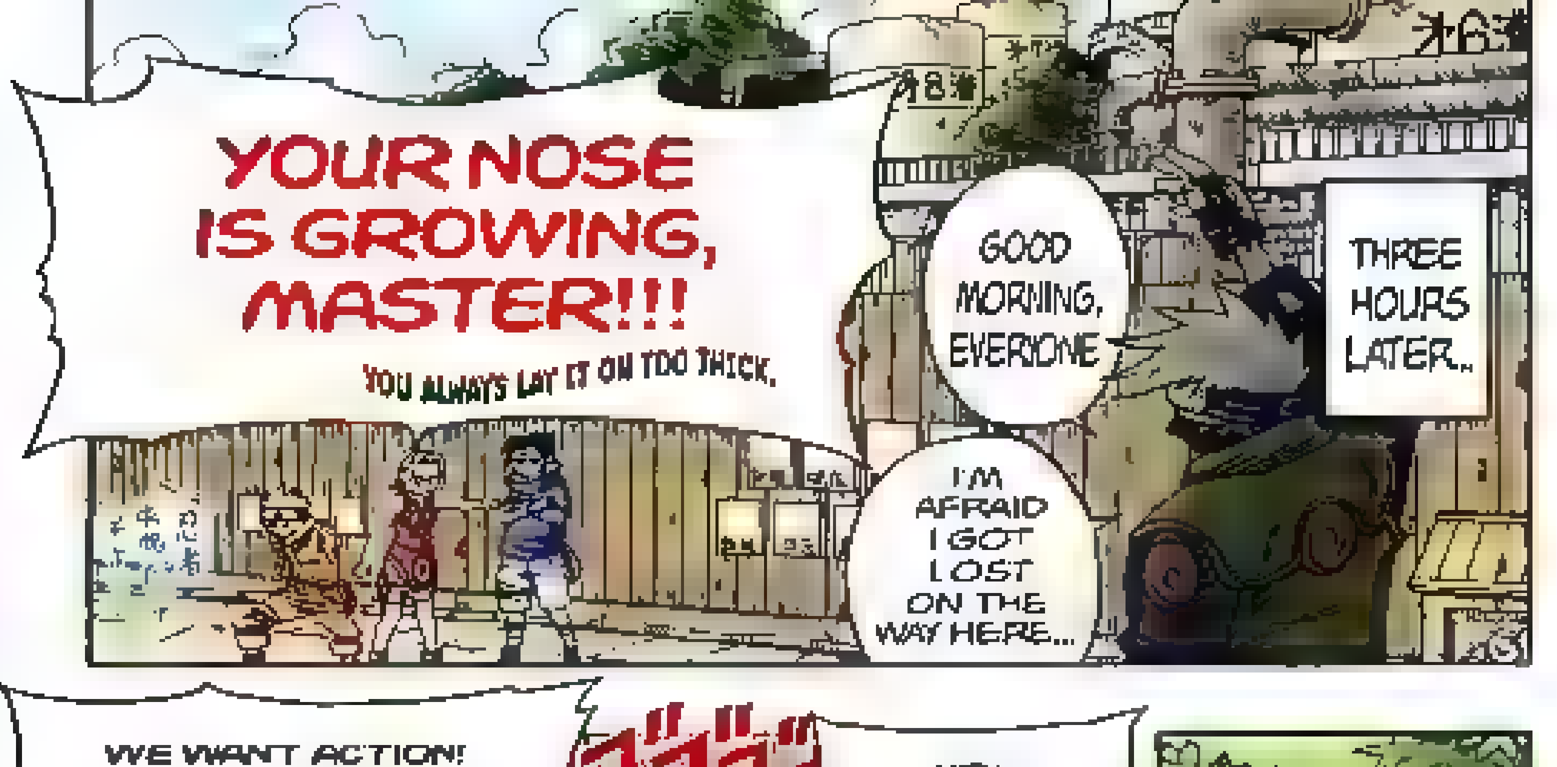
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WOO-HOO! NO MATTER WHAT TODAY'S MISSION IS, I'LL HAVE THE ENERGY TO FACE IT NOW!
START YOUR ENGINES!! MACH 5!!

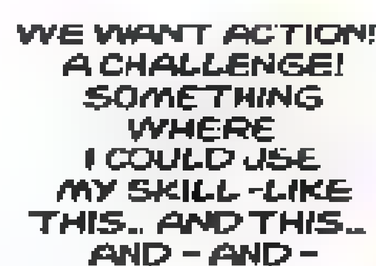

OH!
GOOD MORNING, SAKURAAAA!!


..
HMMF!

...
...

!
!

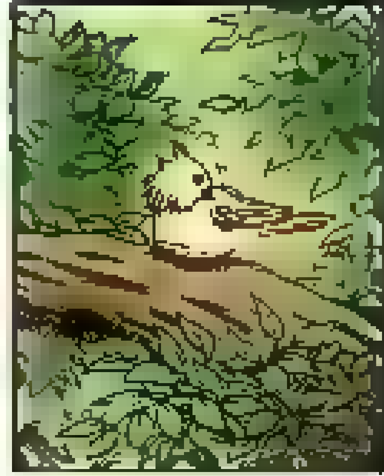

...

NOT AGAIN
EVER SINCE WE GOT HOME FROM THE LAND OF WAVES, THESE TWO HAVE BEEN ACTING JUST PLAIN WEIRD!
?
DIE, FREAKS!
IT'S SOOOO EMBARASSING!
ANY TIME NOW, MASTER KAKASHI HURRY UUUUUUP!

THREE HOURS LATER..
GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE
I'M AFRAID I GOT LOST ON THE WAY HERE...
YOUR NOSE IS GROWING, MASTER!!!
YOU ALWAYS LAY IT ON TOO THICK.

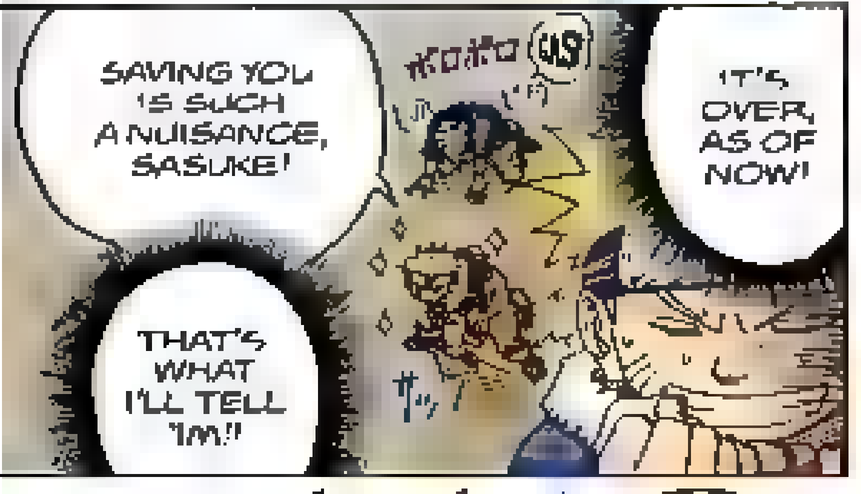


HEY, MASTER KAKASHI! ANY HOT NEW MISSIONS FOR THE 7TH CELL? WE'VE HAD NOTHING BUT GIMMES! BORRRRING!
WE WANT ACTION! A CHALLENGE! SOMETHING WHERE I COULD USE MY SKILL -LIKE THIS.. AND THIS.. AND - AND -
OH, REALLY?
I SEE WHERE YOU'RE GOING WITH THIS





GRR. THOSE TWO...
EVERY TIME WE GO ON A MISSION, THEY END UP SHOWING ME UP AND SAVING ME BUT NOT THIS TIME!



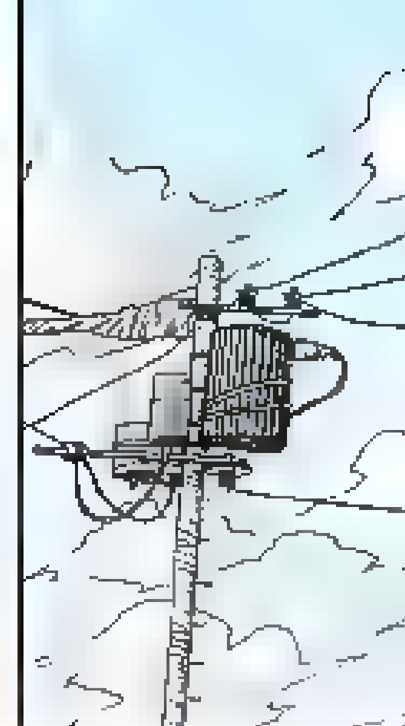
IT'S OVER, AS OF NOW!
SAVING YOU IS SUCH A NUISANCE, SASUKE!
THAT'S WHAT I'LL TELL 'IM!



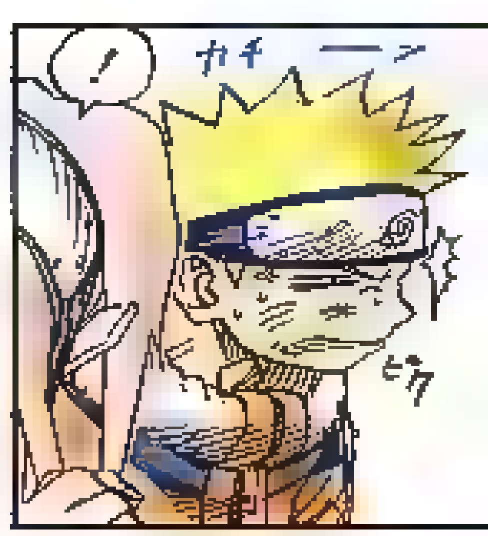
HEY, NARUTO! WAKE UP! WE'RE HEADING OUT ON OUR MISSION!
YESSIR!
WOULD YOU CHILL?!



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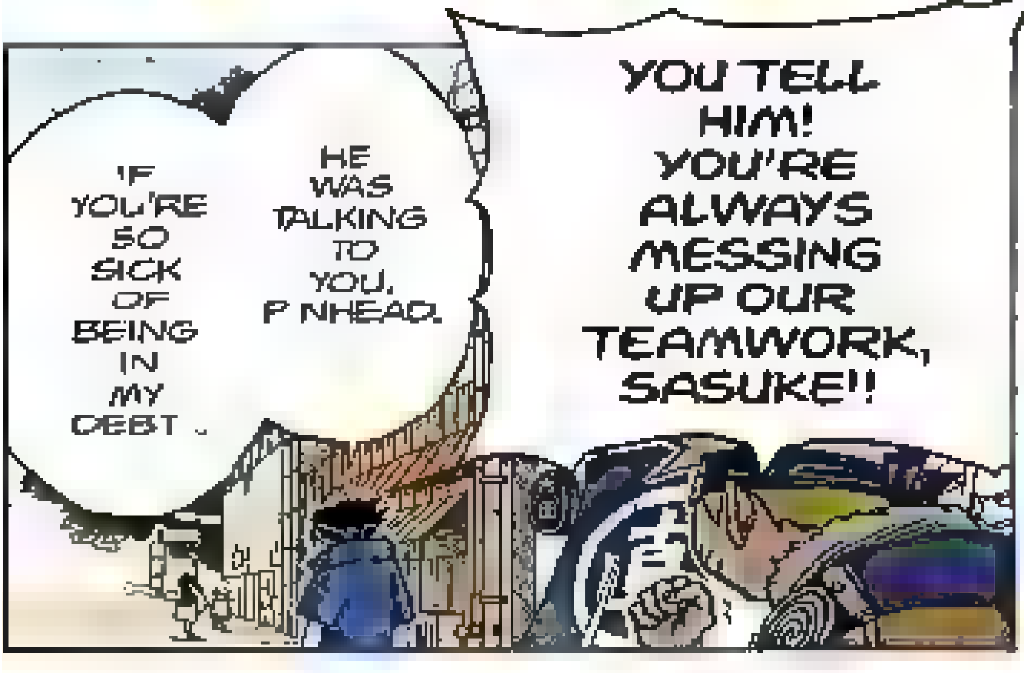



AND AT THE MISSION'S END...
SIGH.
YOU'D HAVE BEEN FINE IF YOU HADN'T OVERDONE IT
YOU'RE A REAL NUISANCE.


!

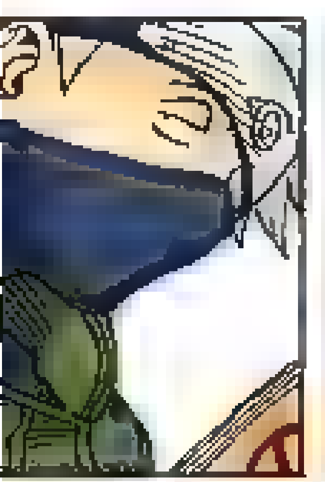

THAT DOES IT!! SASUKE
IF YOU START ANYTHING MORE, I'LL BURY YOU!
...
HAH!

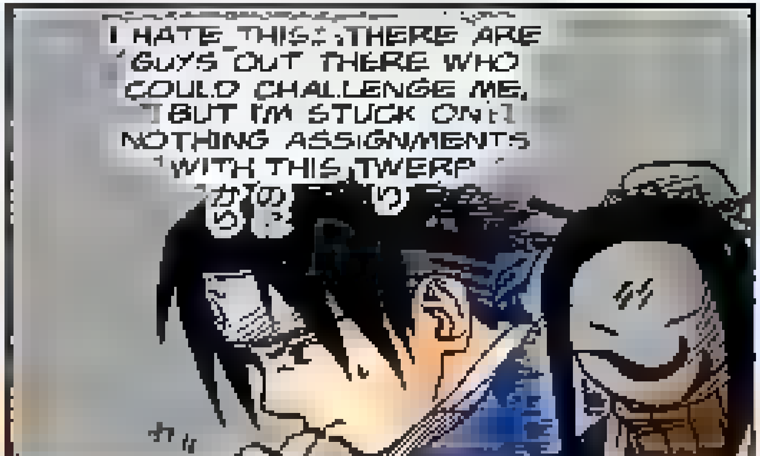

HMM...
LATELY... YOUR TEAMWORK HAS BEEN ALMOST NON-EXISTENT.


YOU TELL HIM! YOU'RE ALWAYS MESSING UP OUR TEAMWORK, SASUKE!!
HE WAS TALKING TO YOU, PINHEAD.
IF YOU'RE SO SICK OF BEING IN MY DEBT...

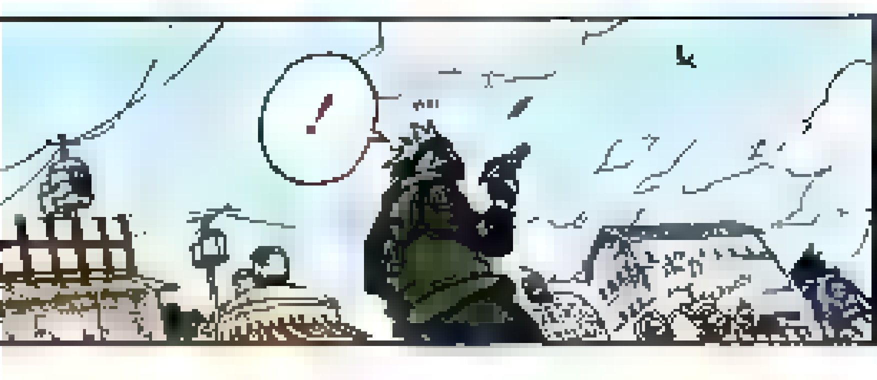

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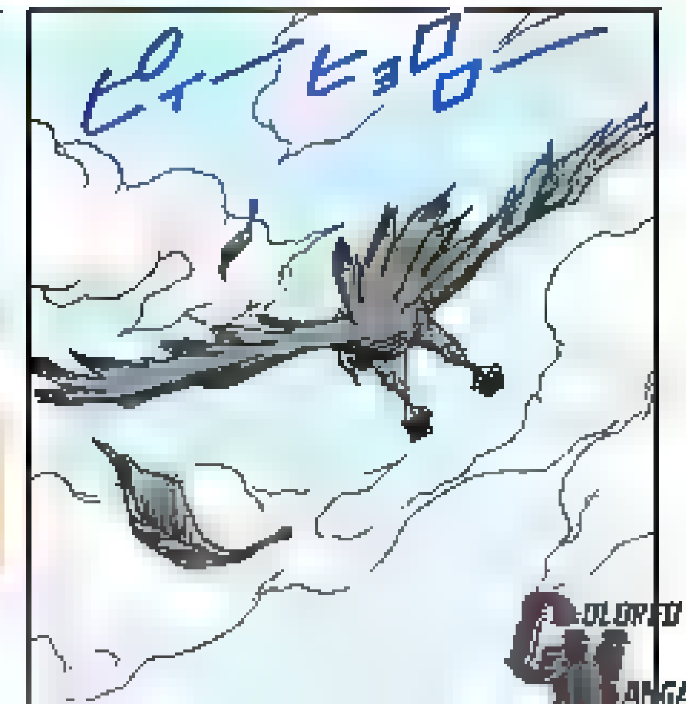

WHY DON'T YOU...
GET BETTER THAN ME?



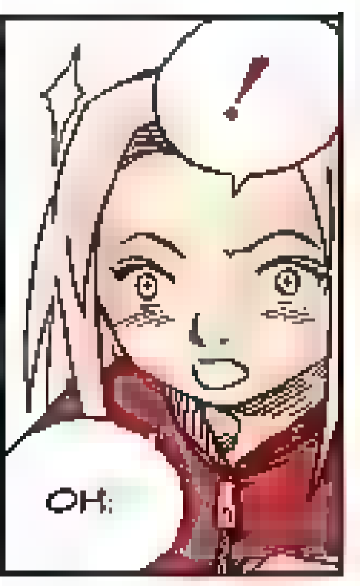
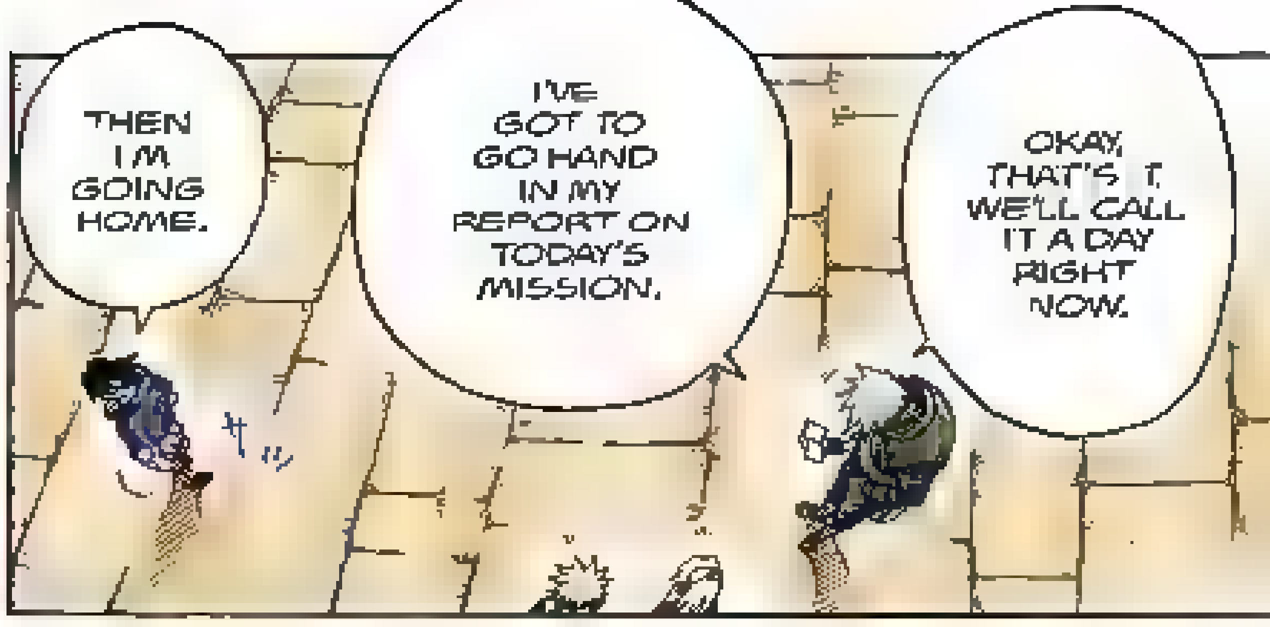
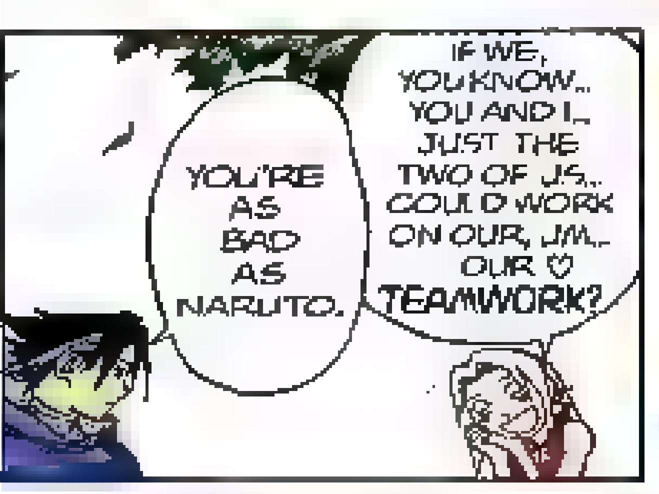

I HATE THIS! THERE ARE GUYS OUT THERE WHO COULD CHALLENGE ME, BUT I'M STUCK ON NOTHING ASSIGNMENTS WITH THIS TWERP

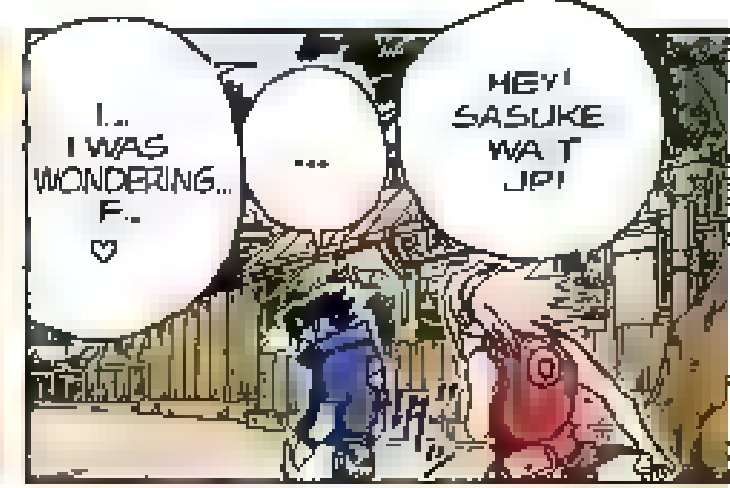
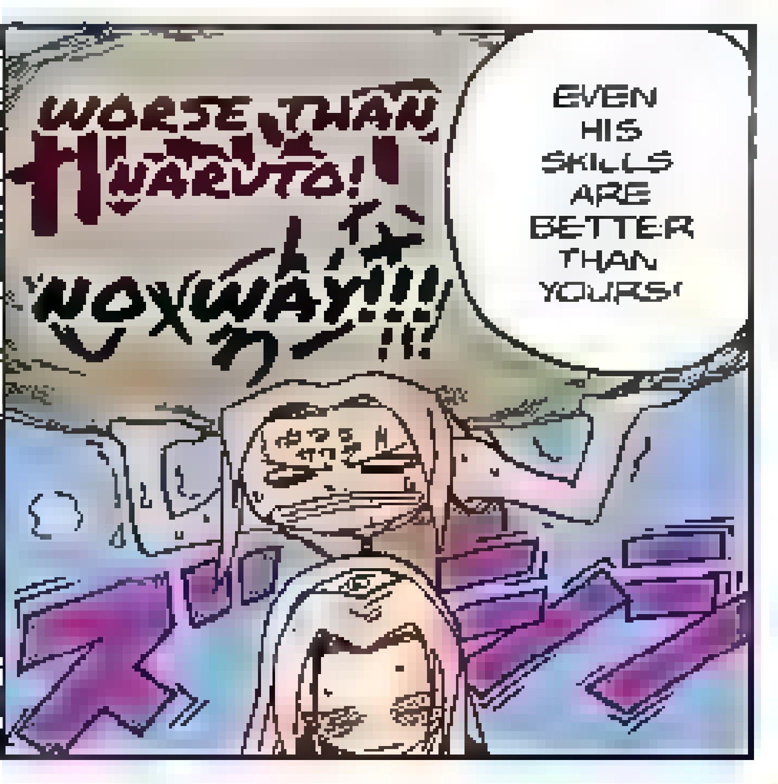
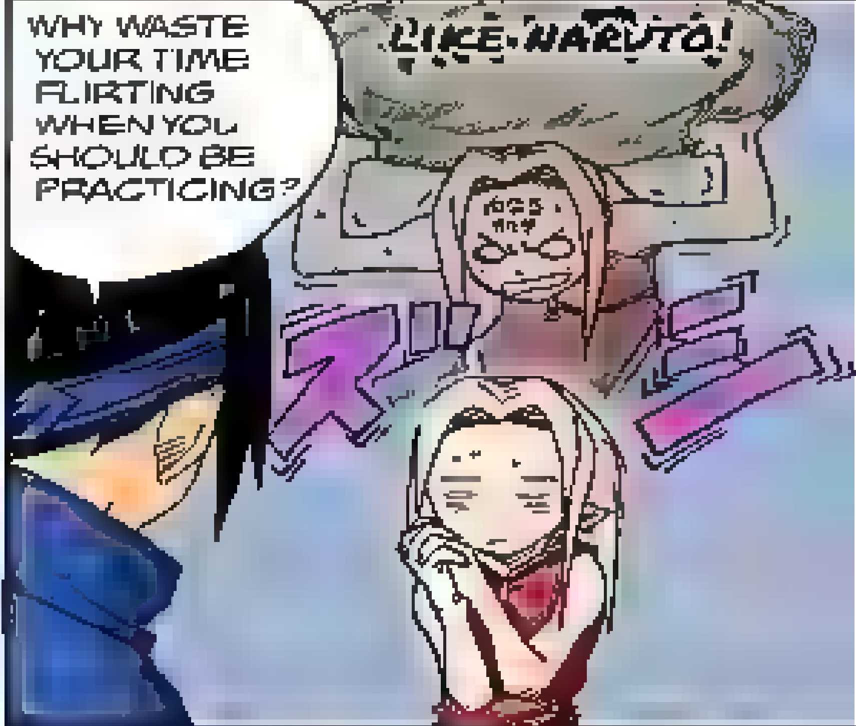

DON'T KNOW HOW THEY MANAGED IT, BUT THEY'RE ON EVEN WORSE TERMS NOW THAN THEY WERE BEFORE.


!

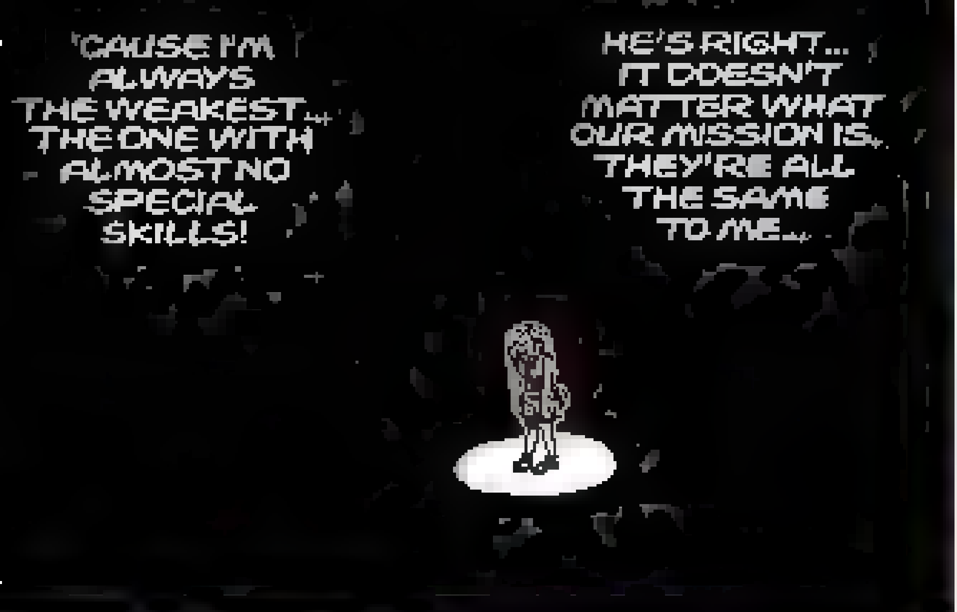

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!
OH!

OKAY, THAT'S IT. WE'LL CALL IT A DAY RIGHT NOW.
I'VE GOT TO GO HAND IN MY REPORT ON TODAY'S MISSION.
THEN I'M GOING HOME.

IF WE, YOU KNOW... YOU AND I... JUST THE TWO OF US... COULD WORK ON OUR, UM... OUR ♡ TEAMWORK?
YOU'RE AS BAD AS NARUTO.

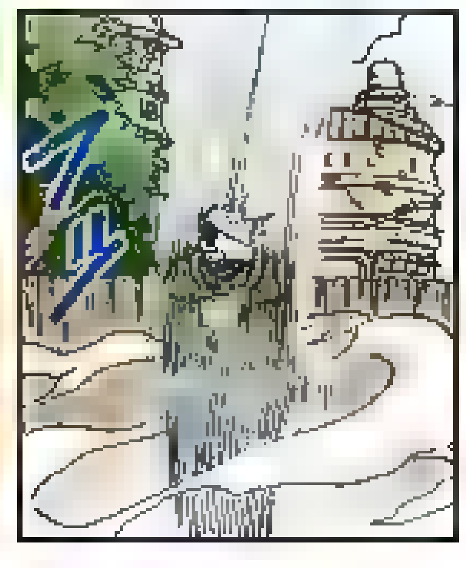

HEY! SASUKE WAIT UP!
...
I... I WAS WONDERING... IF... ♡

EVEN HIS SKILLS ARE BETTER THAN YOURS!
WORSE THAN NARUTO!
NO WAY!!!

WHY WASTE YOUR TIME FLIRTING WHEN YOU SHOULD BE PRACTICING?
LIKE NARUTO!

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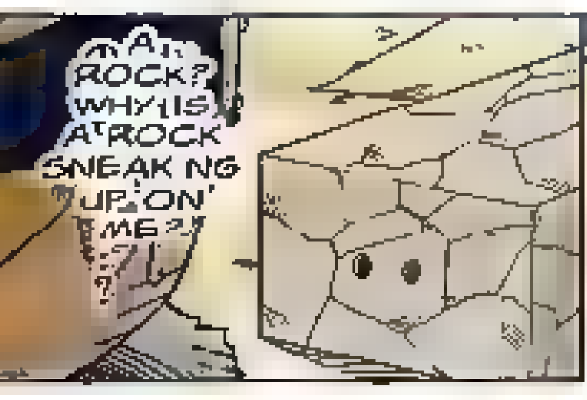

'CAUSE I'M ALWAYS THE WEAKEST... THE ONE WITH ALMOST NO SPECIAL SKILLS!
HE'S RIGHT... IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT OUR MISSION IS. THEY'RE ALL THE SAME TO ME...




HUH?
WHERE'D MASTER KAKASHI GO? IS HE GIVING US SOME ALONE TIME?

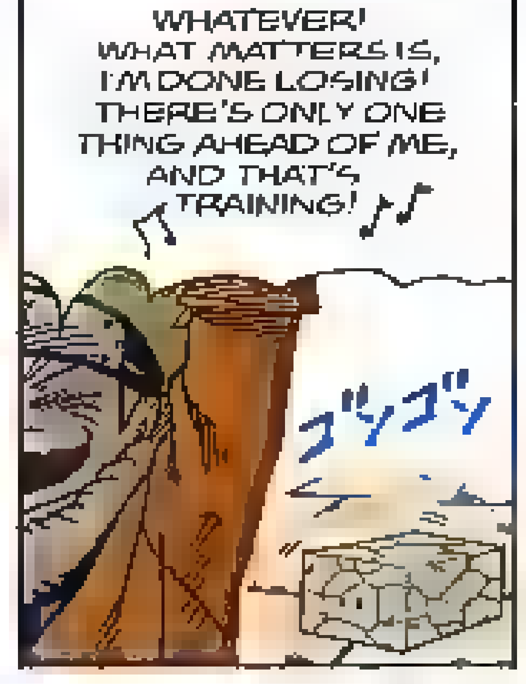



HEY, HOT STUFF! FORGET SASUKE. YOU AND I CAN TRAIN TOGETHER!


A... ROCK? WHY IS A ROCK SNEAKING UP ON ME?

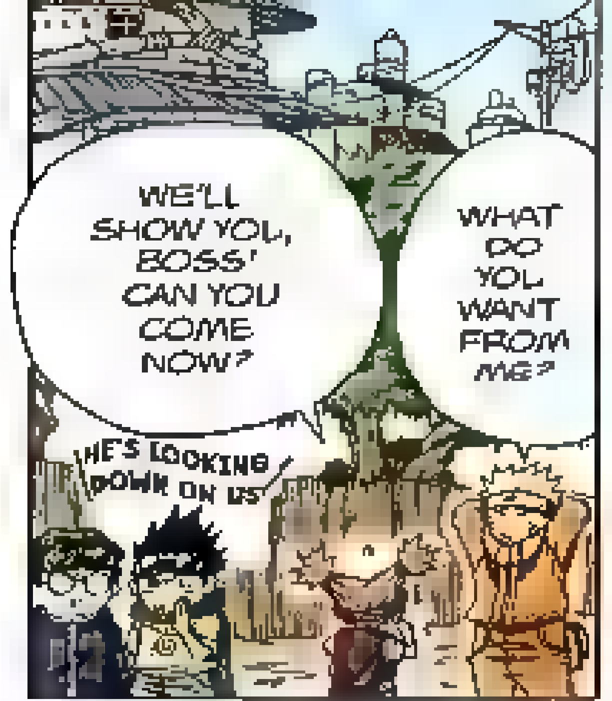

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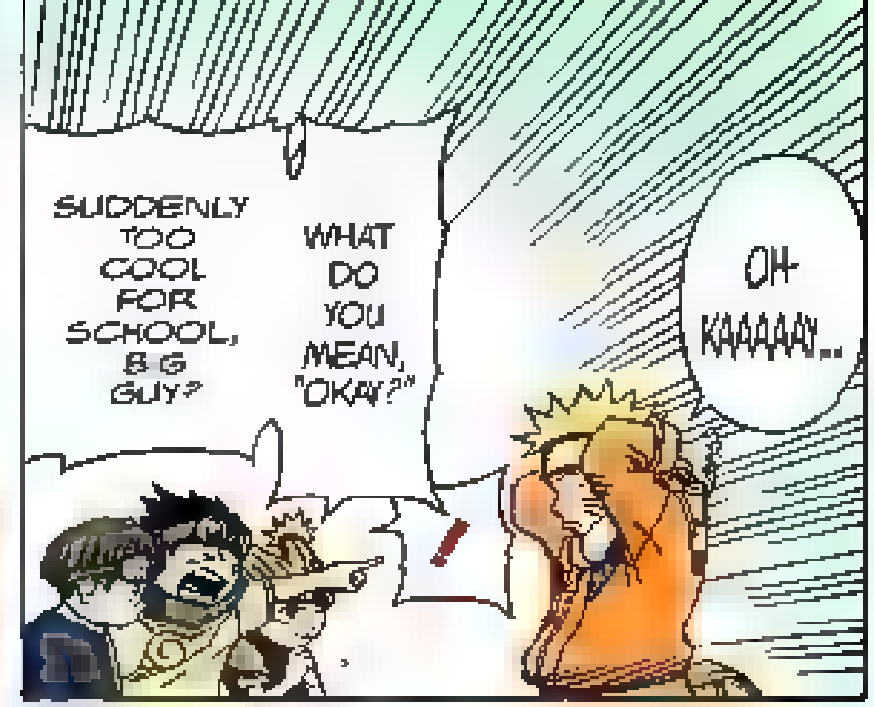

HUH?!
ピタ

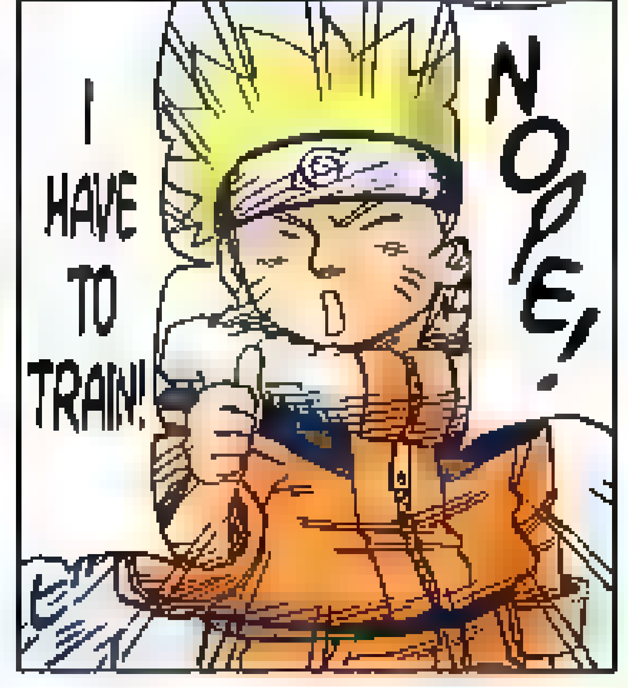

WHATEVER! WHAT MATTERS IS, I'M DONE LOSING! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING AHEAD OF ME, AND THAT'S TRAINING!

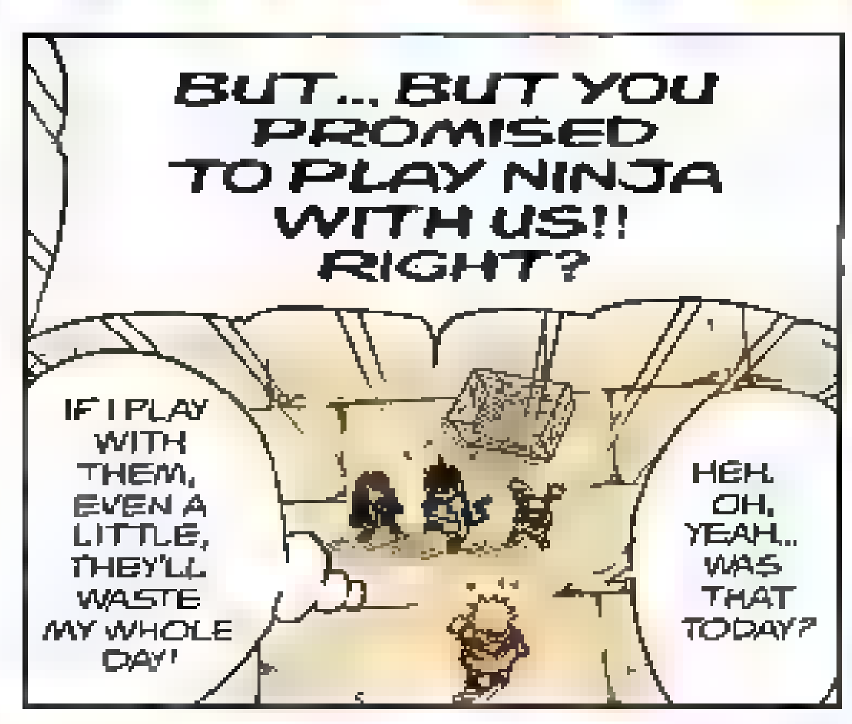



PSYCH!! FAKED YOU OUT, ROCK!!!
ドテ!
ビク
ゴツ
LITTLE HINT... NO ROCK HAS PERFECT ANGLES, PERFECT CORNERS... AND EYE HOLES.
KIND OF A BIG CLUE.
うんしょ うんしょ
LEAVE IT TO THE MAN I HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED AS BEING ALMOST MY EQUAL! YOUR SKILLS RIVAL MY OWN!!
OH, IT'S YOU GUYS.
UHH..
WHAT'S UP WITH THE GOGGLES?
HEH HEH HEH
YOU'RE OUR IDOL, RIGHT? WE'RE COPYING THE STYLE YOU USED TO WEAR.

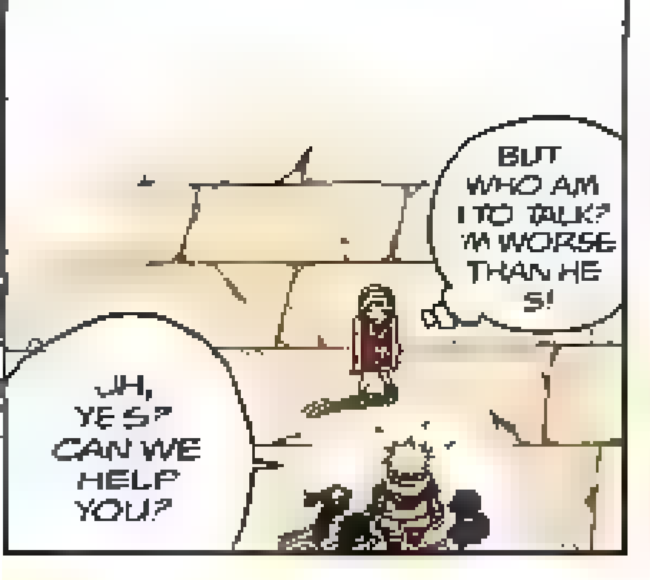

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
WE'LL SHOW YOU, BOSS! CAN YOU COME NOW?
HE'S LOOKING DOWN ON US!

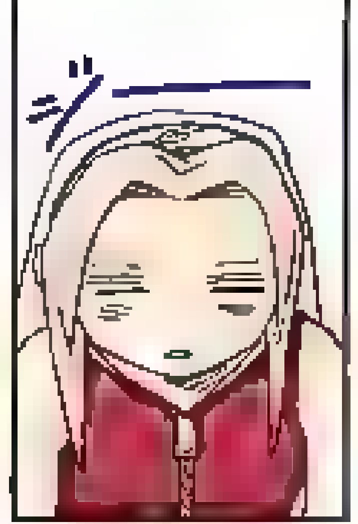

OH- KAAAAAY...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "OKAY?"
SUDDENLY TOO COOL FOR SCHOOL, BIG GUY?
!


NOPE!
I HAVE TO TRAIN!


BUT... BUT YOU PROMISED TO PLAY NINJA WITH US!! RIGHT?
HEH. OH, YEAH... WAS THAT TODAY?
IF I PLAY WITH THEM, EVEN A LITTLE, THEY'LL WASTE MY WHOLE DAY!


SO JUST WHAT IS A NINJA DOING "PLAYING NINJA", HMM?
...

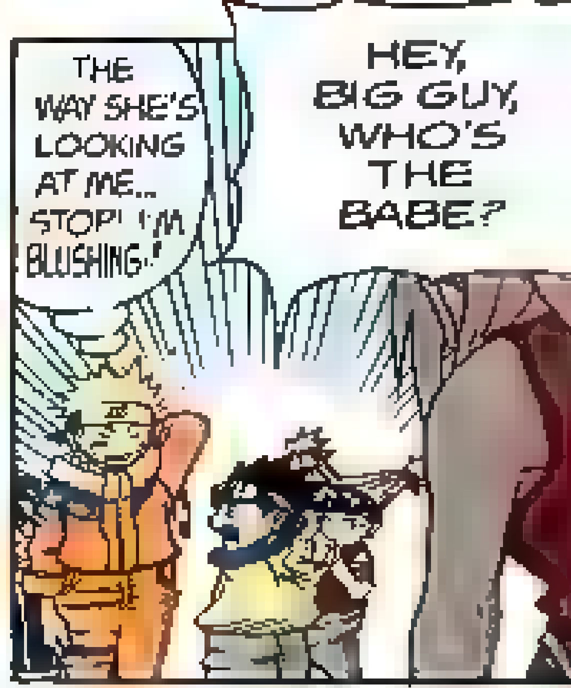

BUT WHO AM I TO TALK? 'M WORSE THAN HE S!
UH, YES? CAN WE HELP YOU?

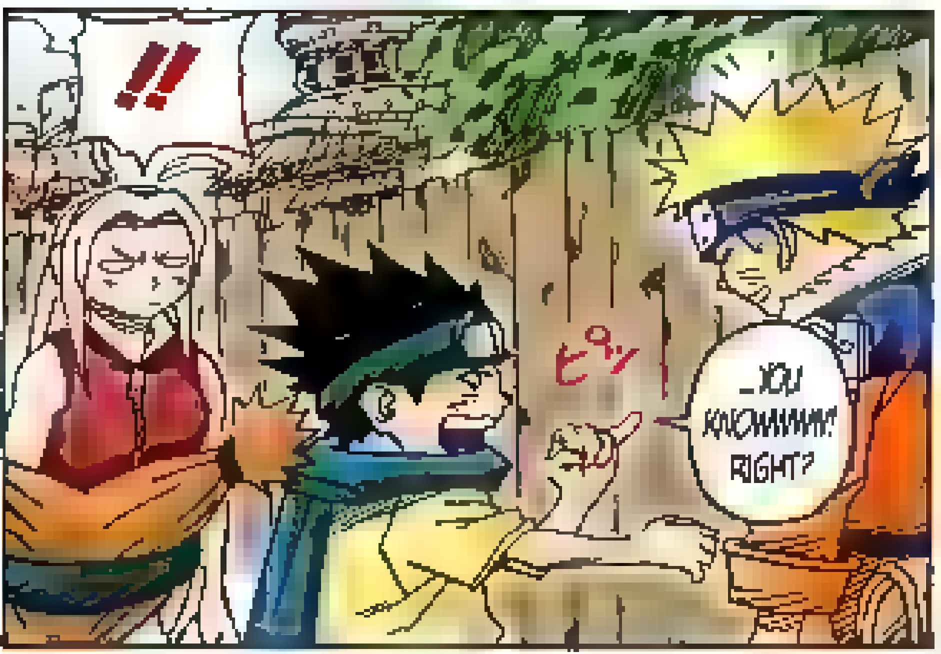


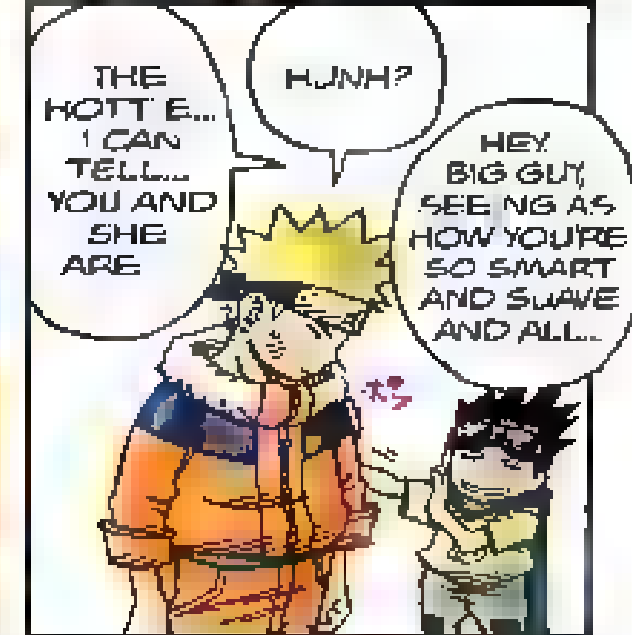

!




THAT CHICK'S EY NG HIM LIKE SHE'D LIKE TO KILL HIM AND DEVOUR HIS CORPSE!


HEY, BIG GUY, WHO'S THE BABE?
THE WAY SHE'S LOOKING AT ME... STOP! I'M BLUSHING!

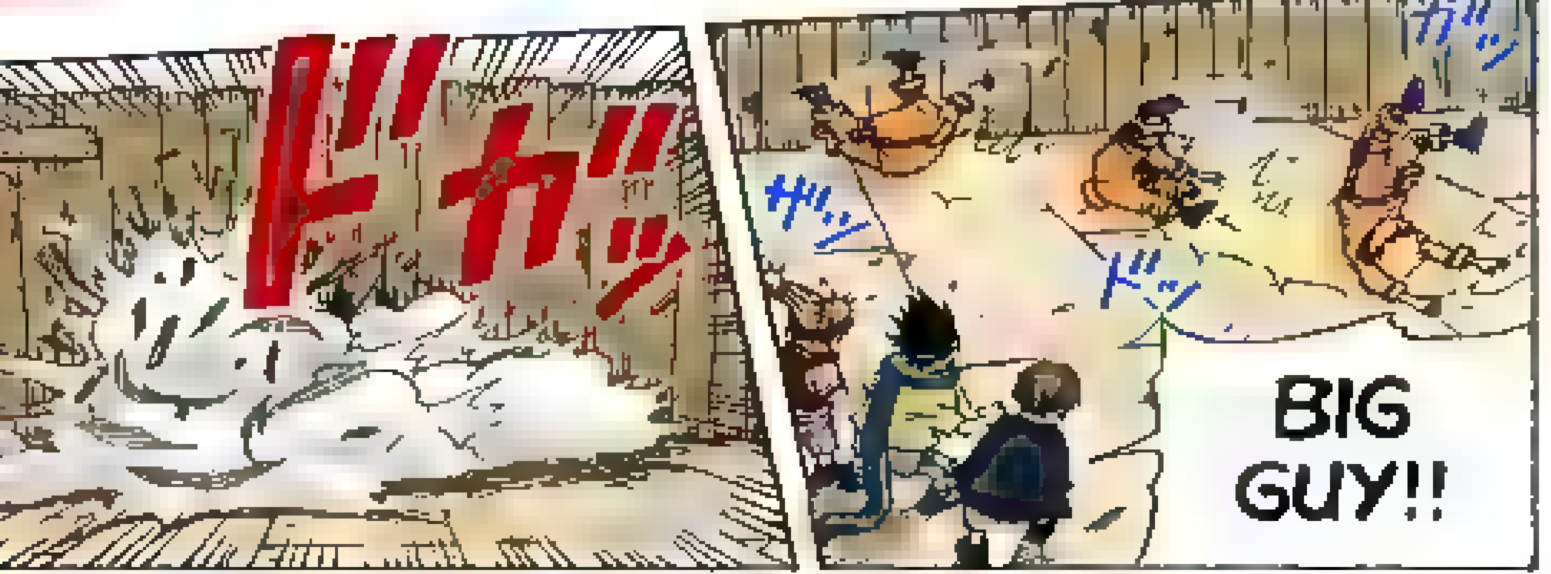

!!
ピクッ
...YOU KNOWWWW! RIGHT?


HEY BIG GUY, SEE NG AS HOW YOU'RE SO SMART AND SUAVE AND ALL...
HUNH?
THE HOTT E... I CAN TELL... YOU AND SHE ARE

HEH HEH HEH

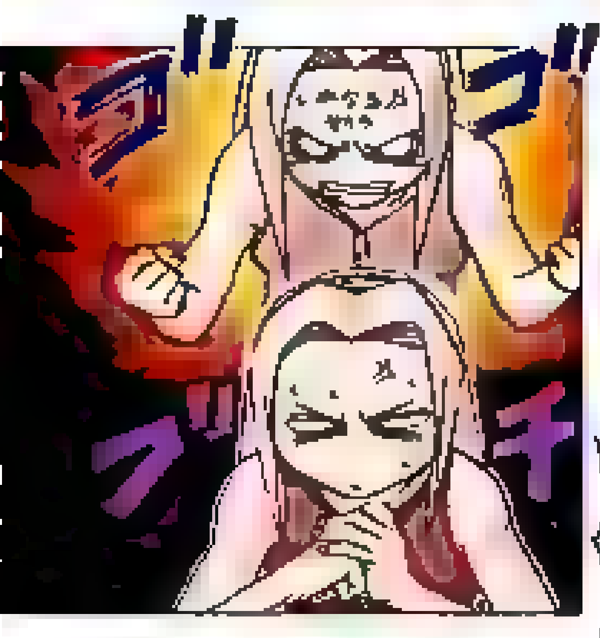
FOR LITTLE GUYS, YOU CATCH ON QUICK.

WRONG!!!

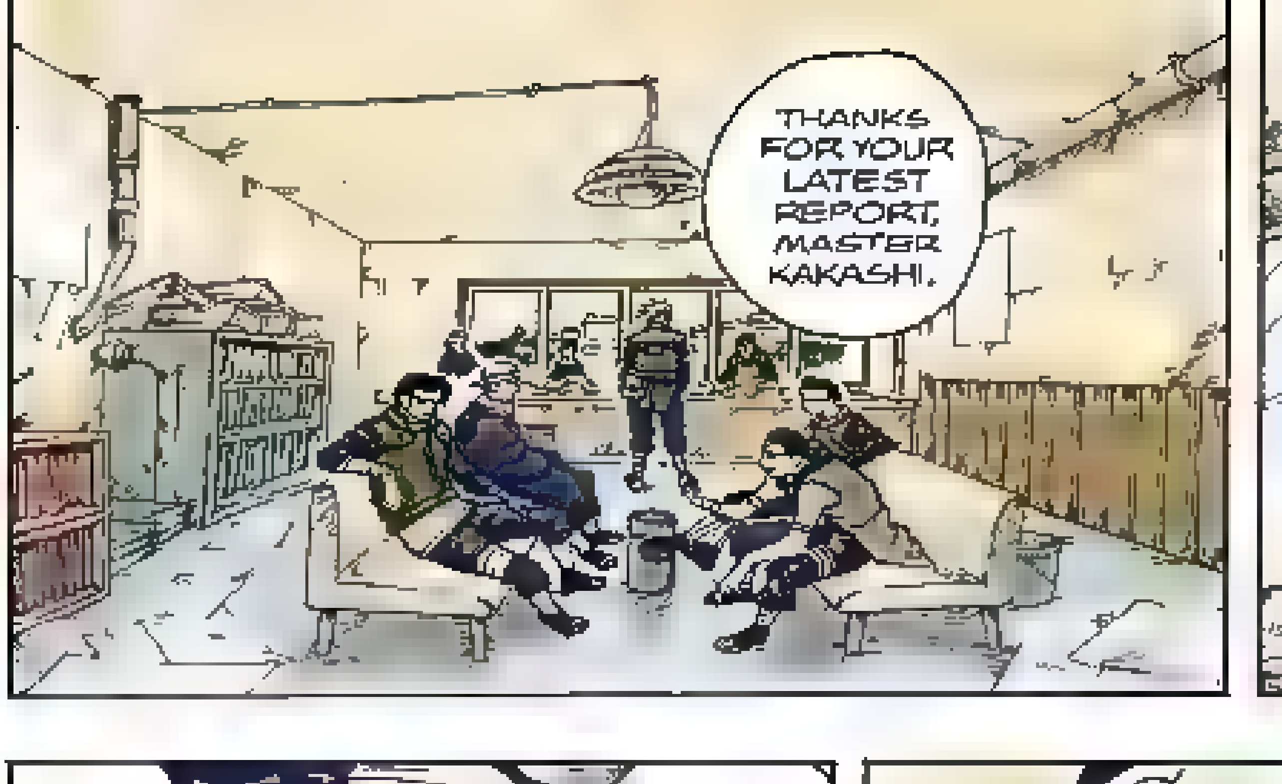


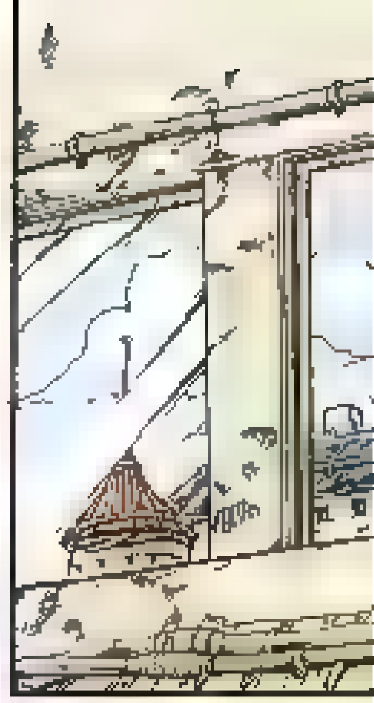









THANKS FOR YOUR LATEST REPORT, MASTER KAKASHI.

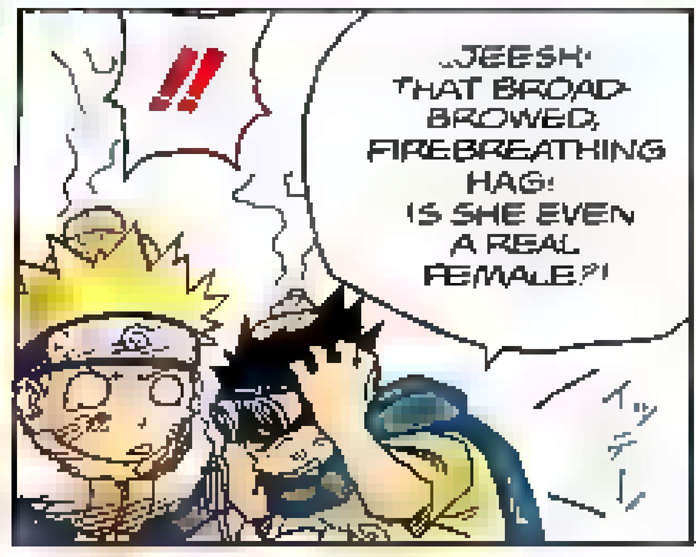



...
HOW'S OUR LITTLE HELLION?
HE'S... GETTING THERE.
DOES HE GET ALONG WELL WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS CELL?


YOUR TEAM'S SEEN A LOT OF ACTION LATELY.
NARUTO HASN'T HAD TIME TO GET TOGETHER WITH ME ONCE. I CAN'T HELP WORRYING ABOUT HIM.

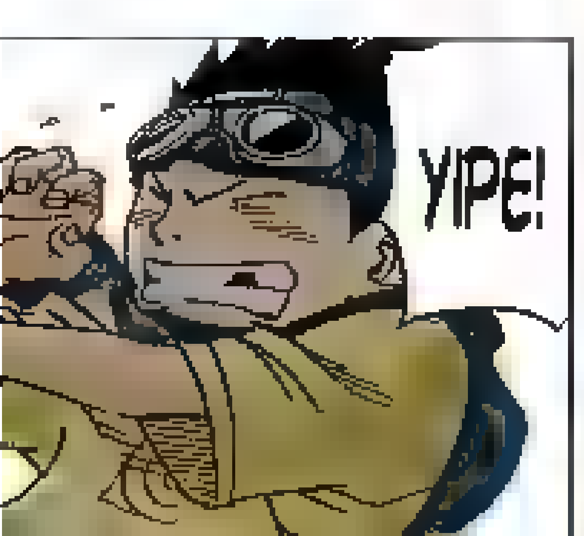

YOU KNOW HOW IT IS, MASTER IRUKA. UCH HA SASUKE IS IN OUR CELL, TOO. HE AND NARUTO ARE LIKE A COUPLE OF DOGS, ALWAYS CIRCLING EACH OTHER, SNAPPING AND SNARL NG
BUT IT KEEPS NARUTO ON HIS TOES. HE'S DEVELOPING FAST. HE'S ALWAYS HOPING TO CATCH UP TO HIS HERO... YOU.
...!
REALLY?


KONOHAMARU! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HMF


!!
...JEESH! THAT BROAD-BROWED, FIREBREATHING HAG! IS SHE EVEN A REAL FEMALE?!

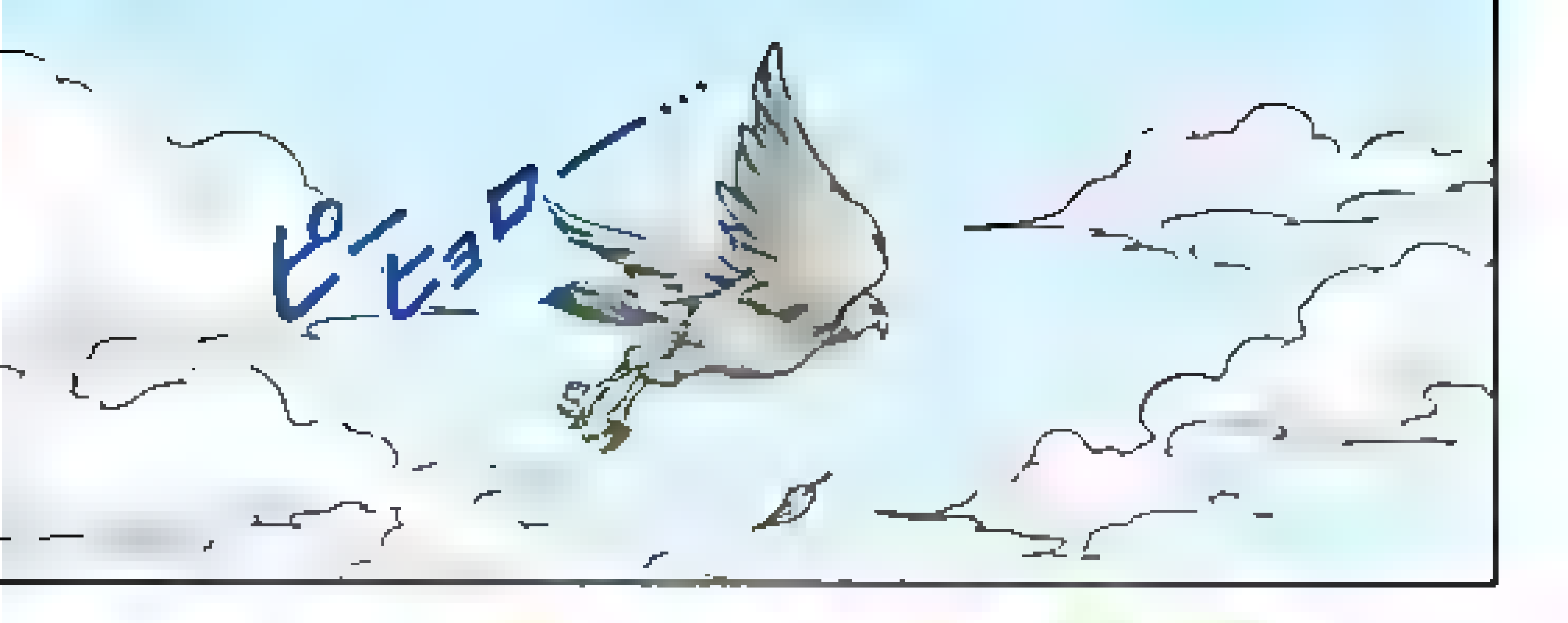



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YIPE!

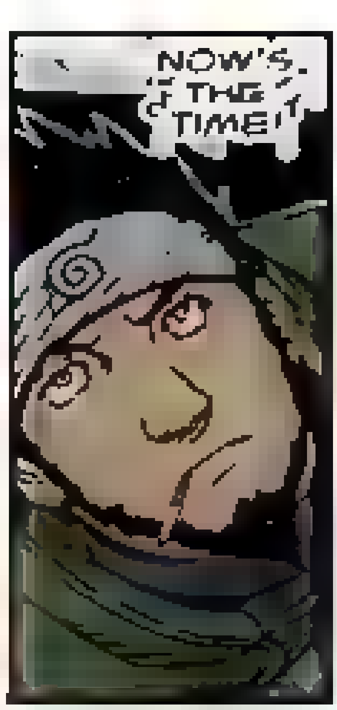

ARRRRGH!!


THAT'S GOTTA SMART!
!!


ピーヒョロー…

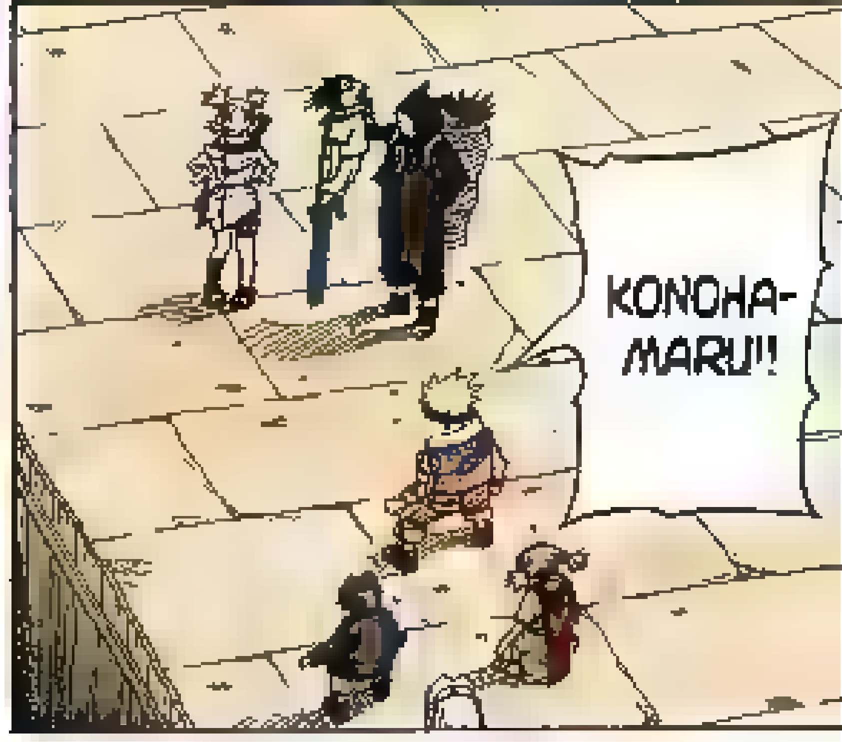
NOW WHAT?

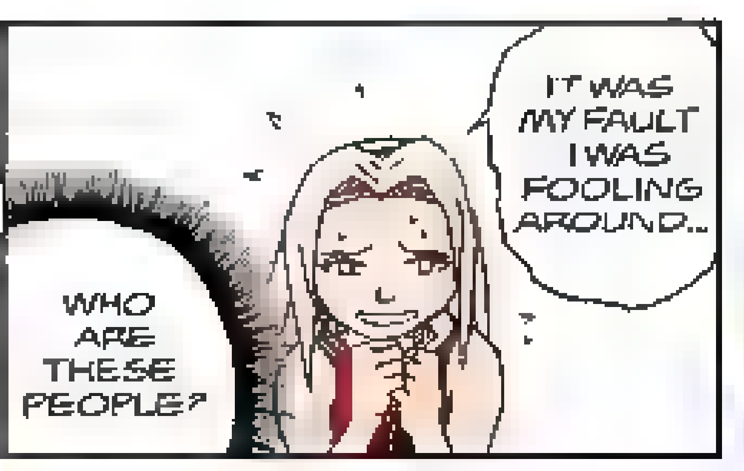
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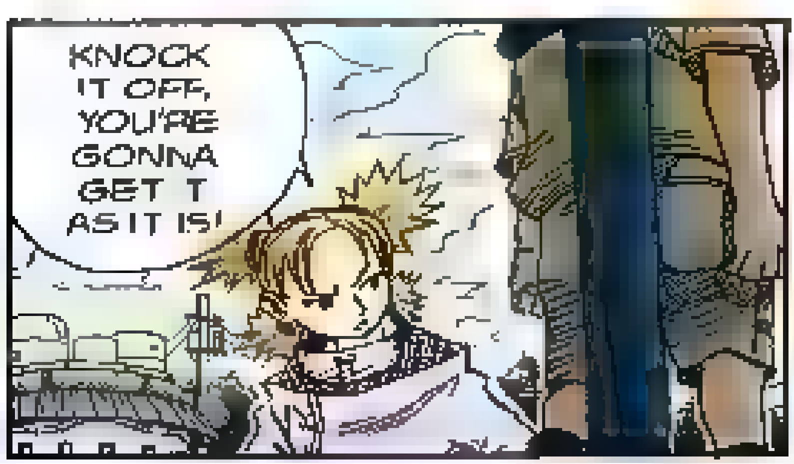

NOW'S THE TIME!



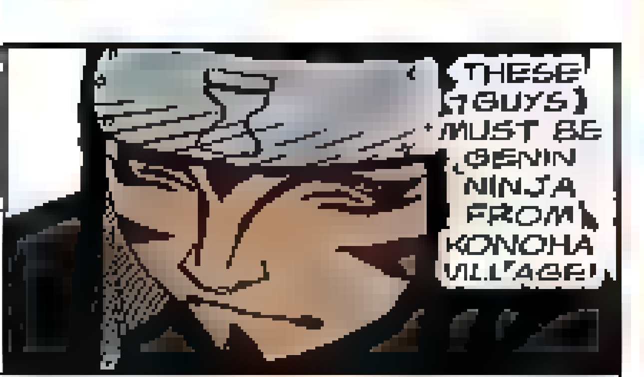
JAAH
THAT HURT SNOTFACE!

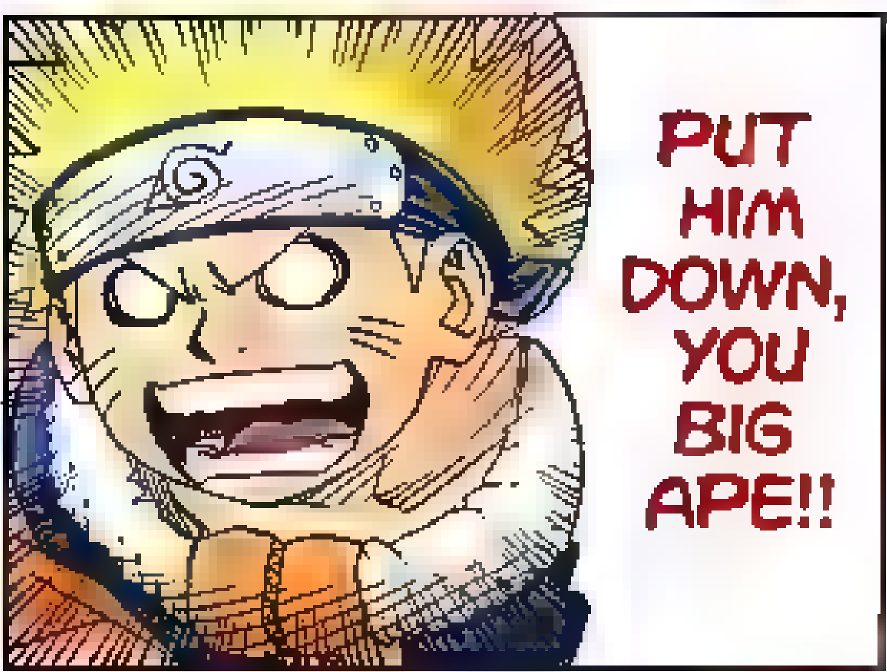

KONOHA-MARU!!


IT WAS MY FAULT I WAS FOOLING AROUND...
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

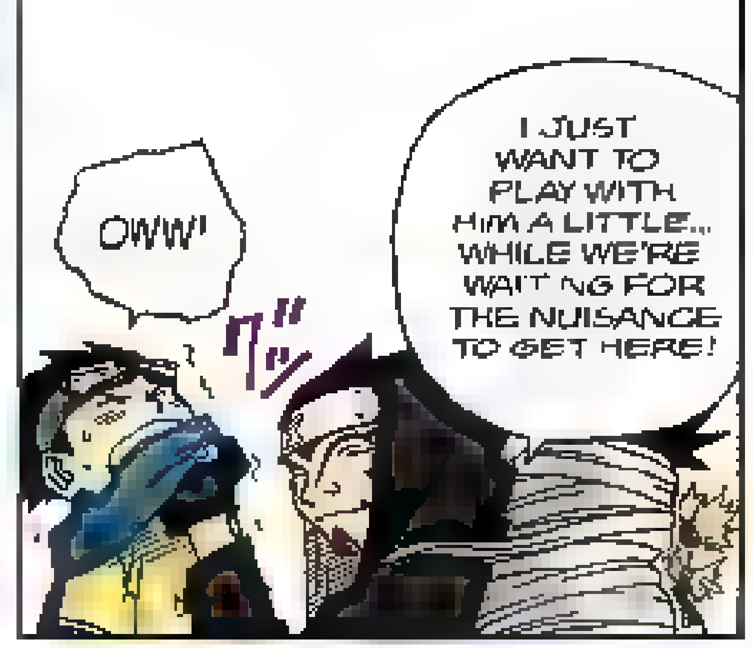

KNOCK IT OFF, YOU'RE GONNA GET T AS IT IS!

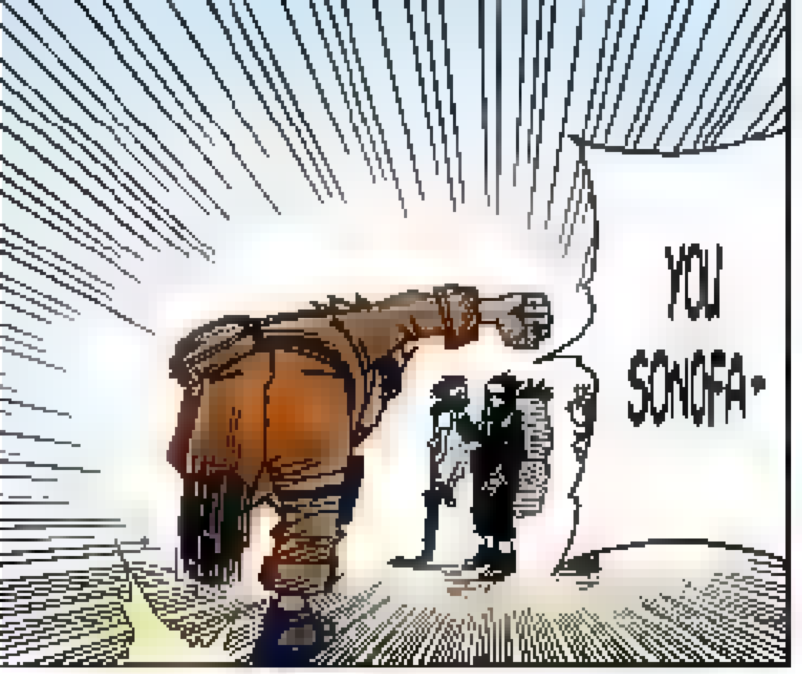



THESE GUYS MUST BE GENIN NINJA FROM KONOHA VILLAGE!

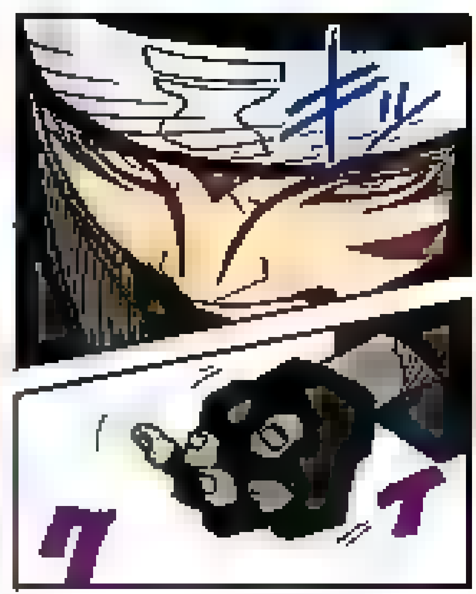

PUT HIM DOWN, YOU BIG APE!!

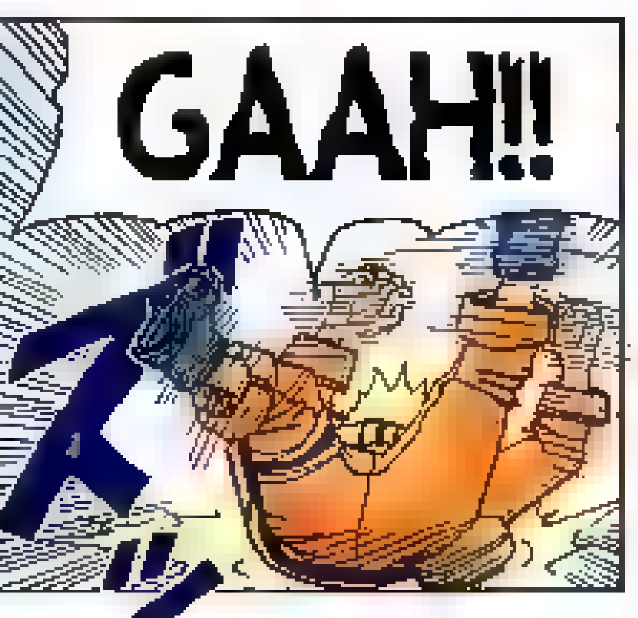



OWW!
I JUST WANT TO PLAY WITH HIM A LITTLE... WHILE WE'RE WAITING FOR THE NUISANCE TO GET HERE!


YOU SONOFA-

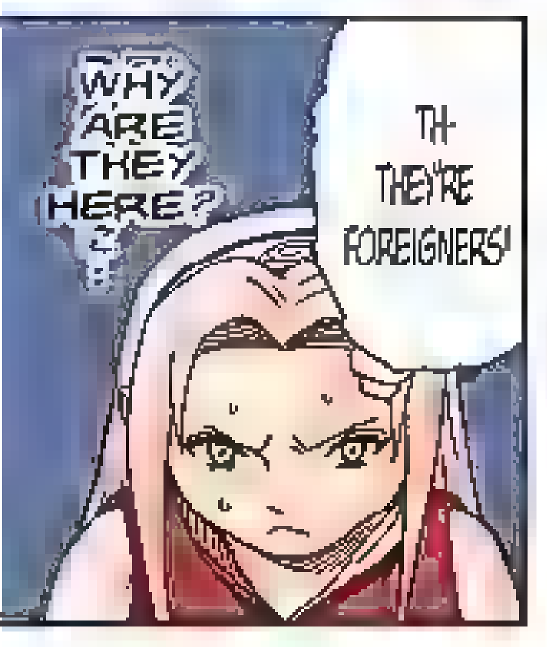




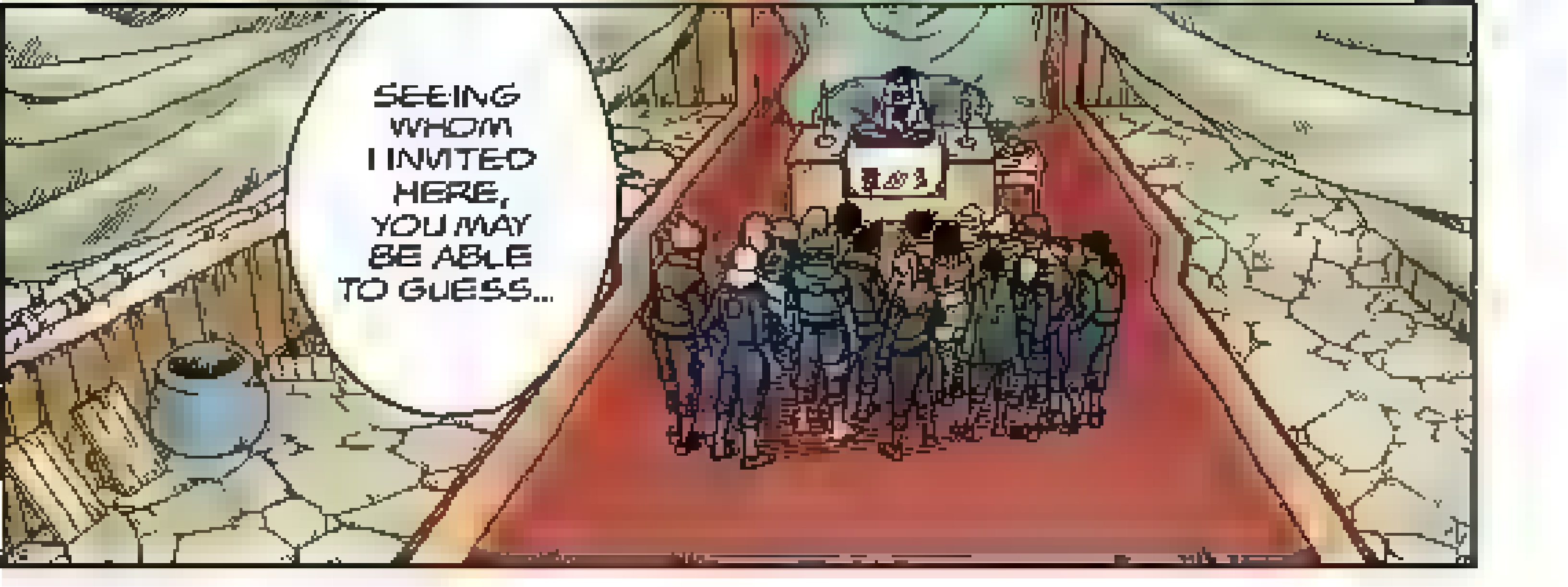

GAAH!!


?
WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?!

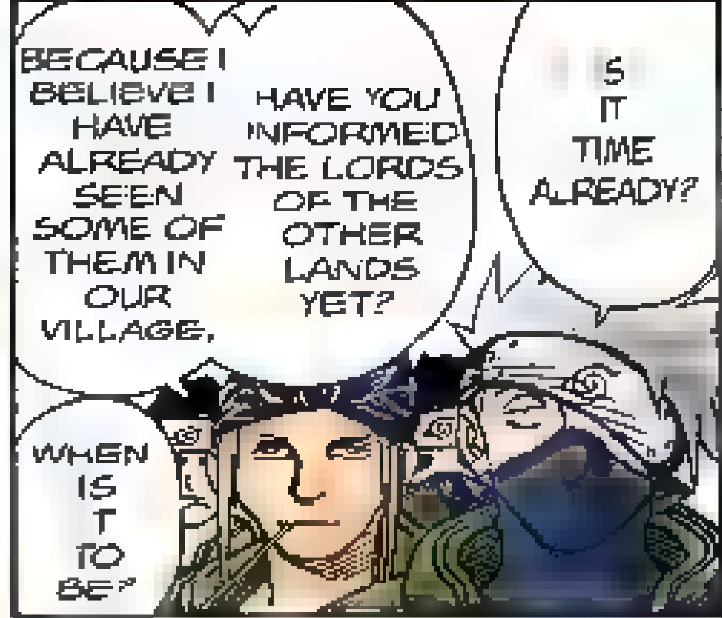

WHAT A WIMP!
IS THAT THE BEST KONOHA'S GENIN CAN DO?!

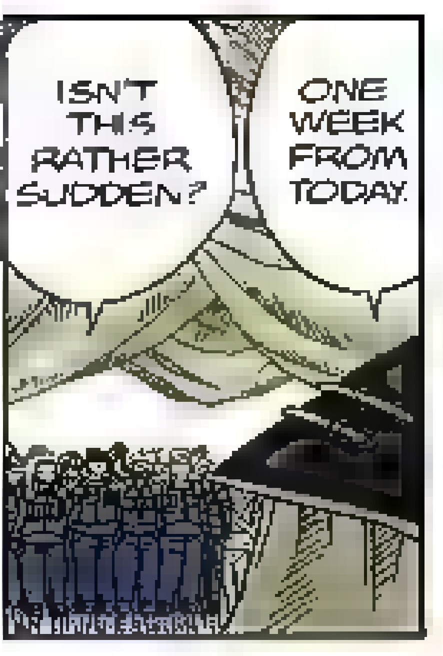

TH- THEY'RE FOREIGNERS!
WHY ARE THEY HERE?


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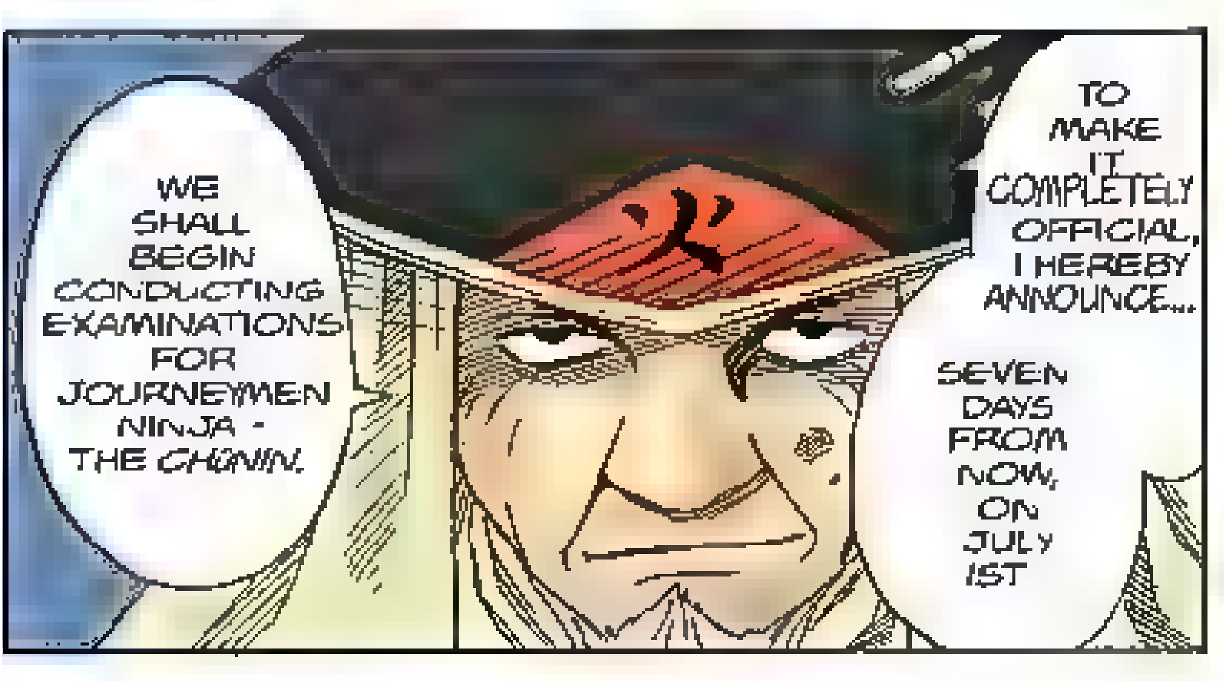

SEEING WHOM I INVITED HERE, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO GUESS...


...WHAT WE ARE HERE TO DISCUSS.


IS IT TIME ALREADY?
HAVE YOU INFORMED THE LORDS OF THE OTHER LANDS YET?
BECAUSE I BELIEVE I HAVE ALREADY SEEN SOME OF THEM IN OUR VILLAGE.
WHEN IS IT TO BE?


ONE WEEK FROM TODAY.
ISN'T THIS RATHER SUDDEN?




TO MAKE IT COMPLETELY OFFICIAL, I HEREBY ANNOUNCE...
SEVEN DAYS FROM NOW, ON JULY 1ST
WE SHALL BEGIN CONDUCTING EXAMINATIONS FOR JOURNEYMEN NINJA - THE *CHUNIN.*


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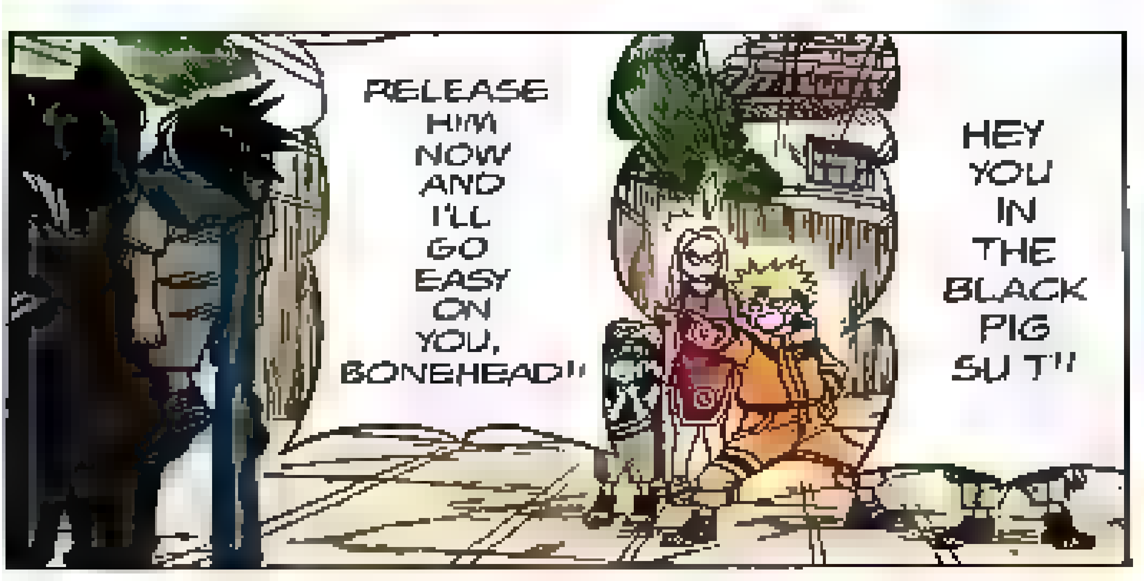
35 : IRUKA VS. KAKASHI?!

イルカVSカカシ!?

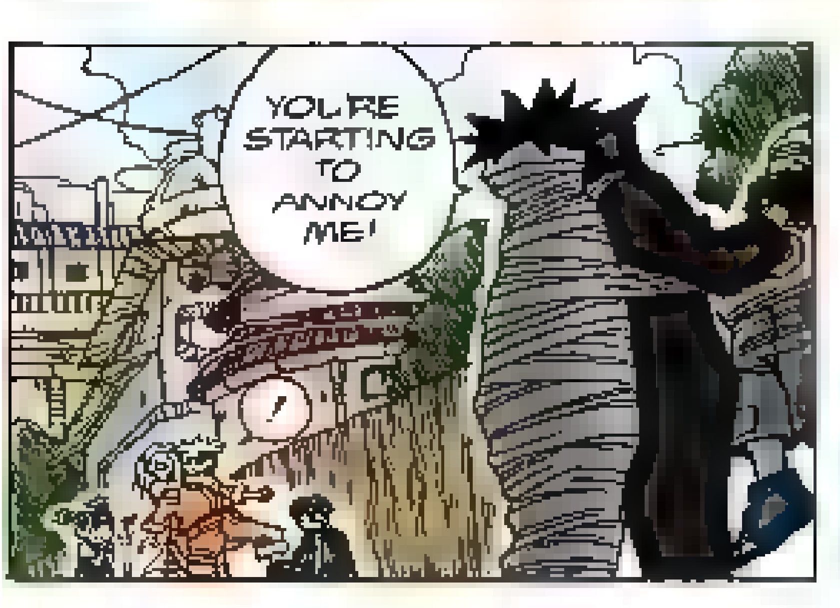


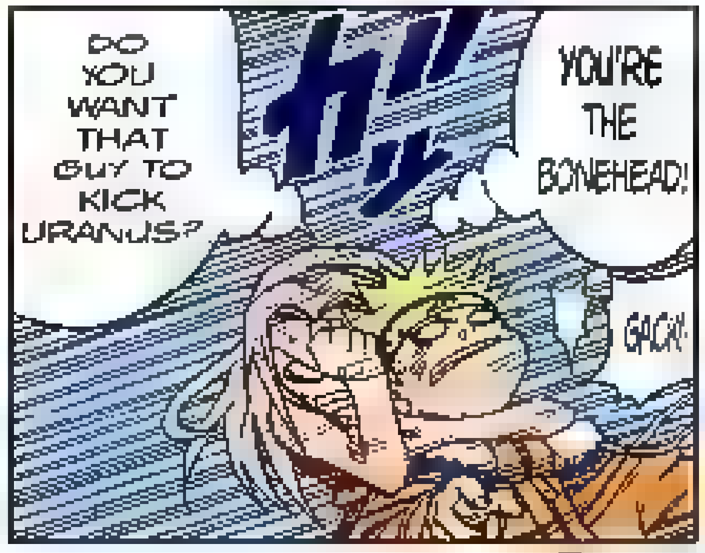
KONOHA-MARU!!

KONOHA-MARU!!

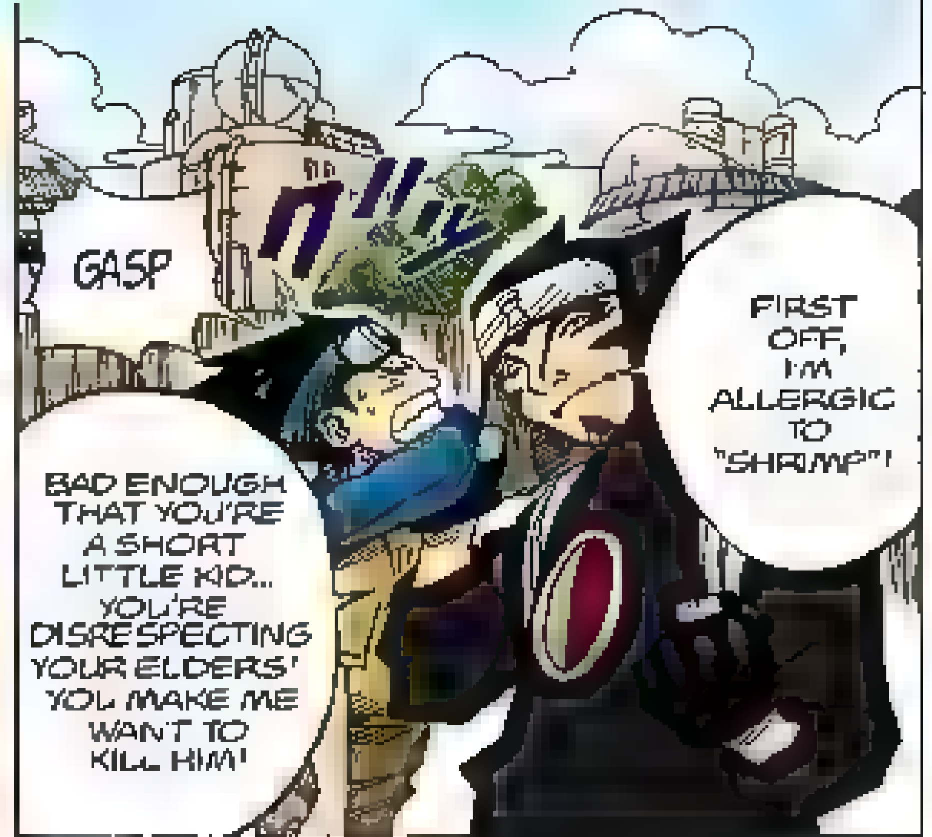




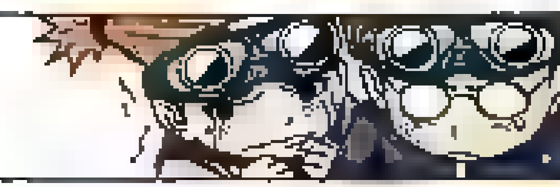


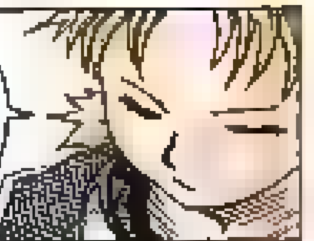




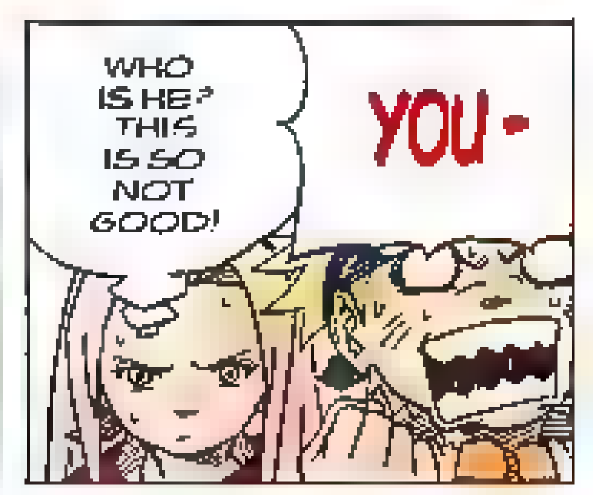

GASP
FIRST OFF, I'M ALLERGIC TO "SHRIMP"!
BAD ENOUGH THAT YOU'RE A SHORT LITTLE KID... YOU'RE DISRESPECTING YOUR ELDERS! YOU MAKE ME WANT TO KILL HIM!

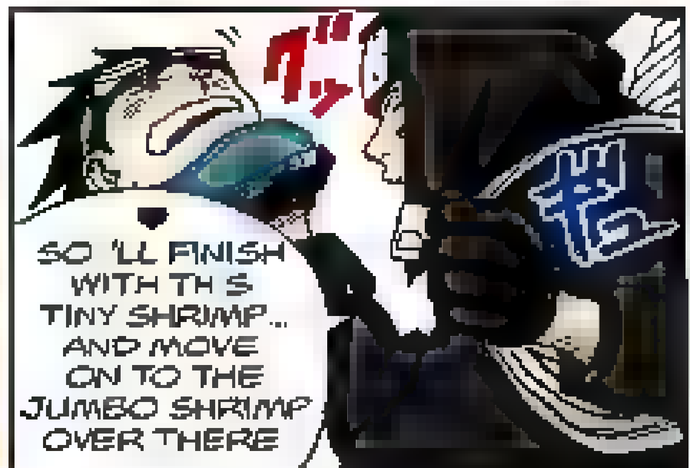

!!
WHAT?!



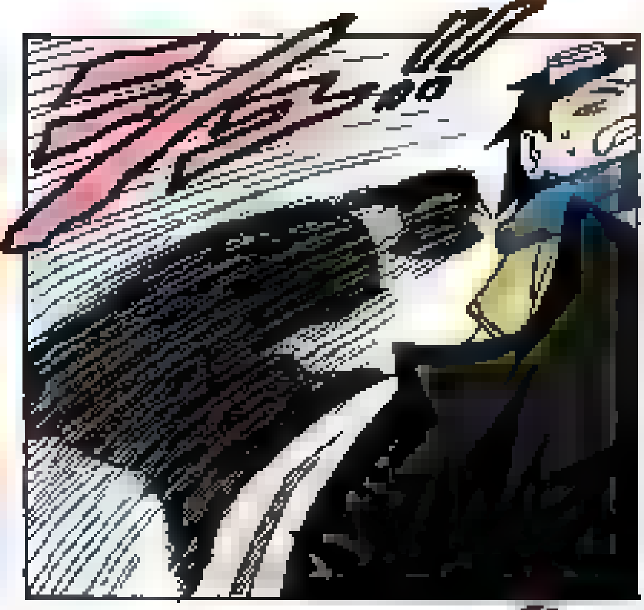



... WILL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS...

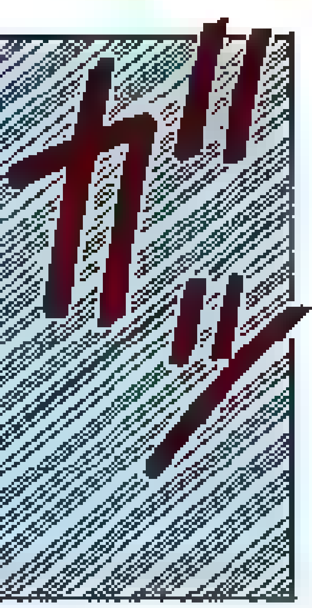

YOU-
WHO IS HE? THIS IS SO NOT GOOD!

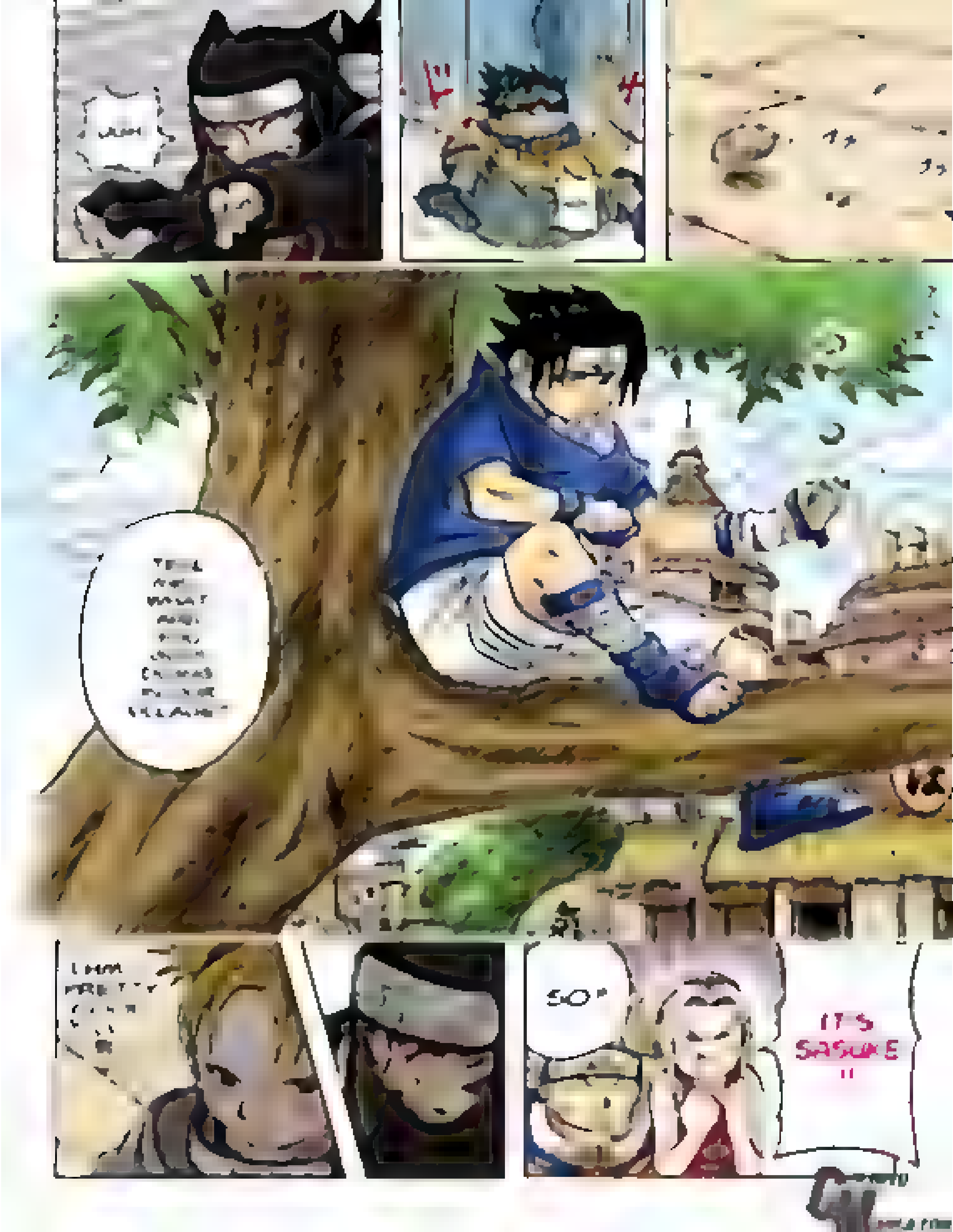

SO I'LL FINISH WITH THIS TINY SHRIMP... AND MOVE ON TO THE JUMBO SHRIMP OVER THERE

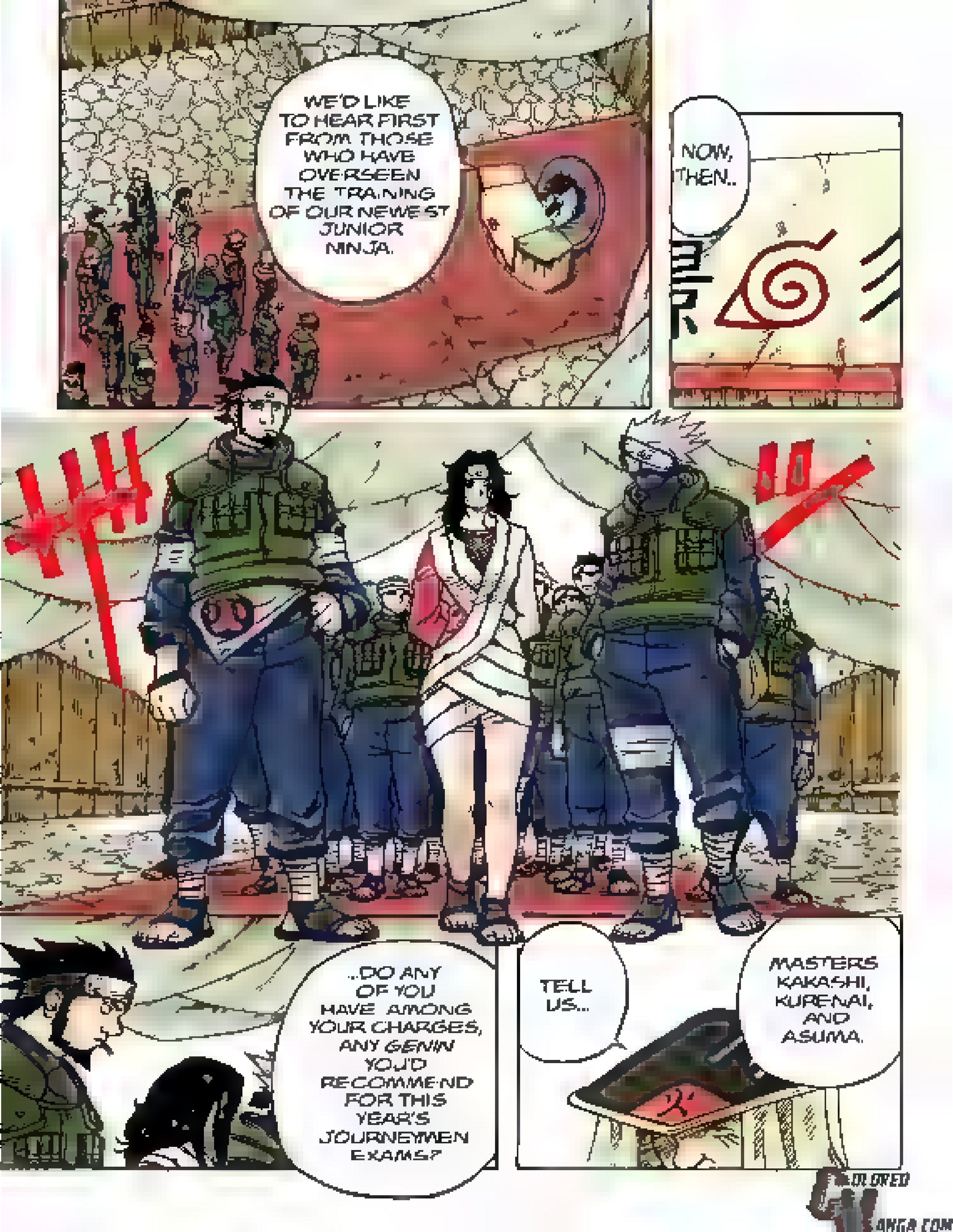

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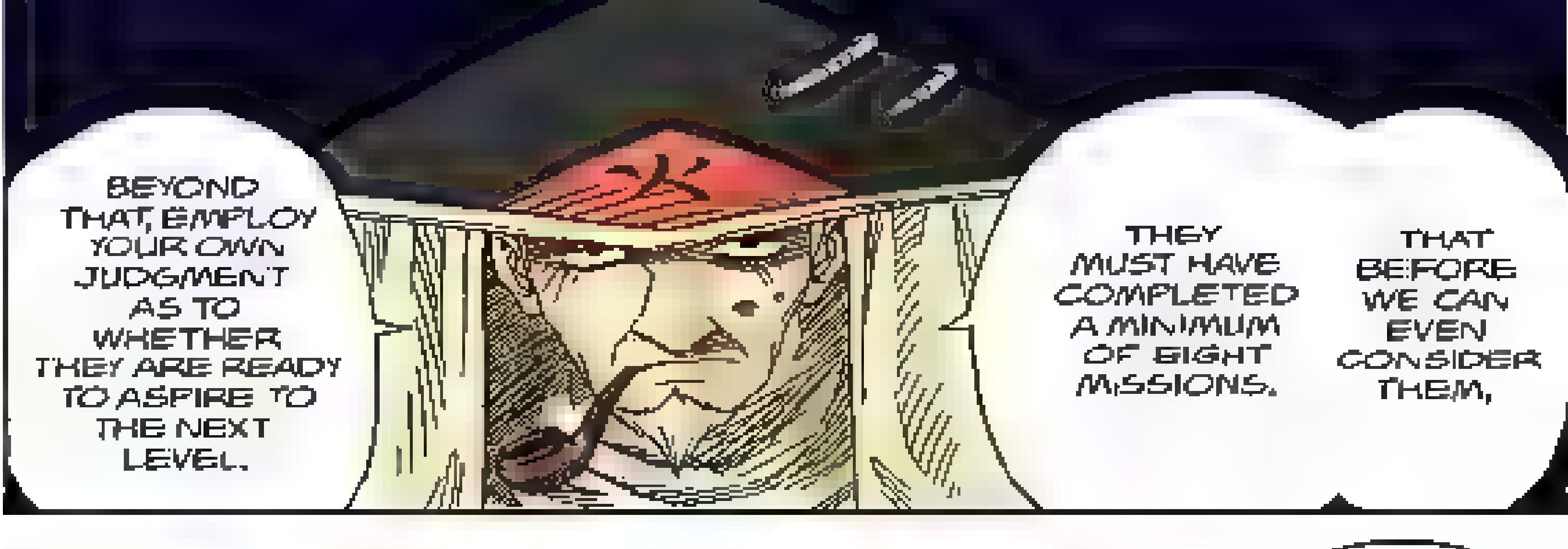



YOU...
YOU...

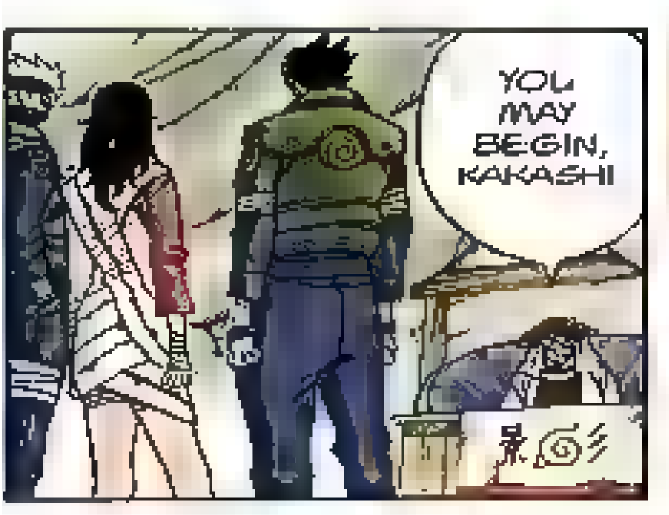



SO!
IT'S SASUKE!!


NOW, THEN..
WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FIRST FROM THOSE WHO HAVE OVERSEEN THE TRAINING OF OUR NEWEST JUNIOR NINJA.
MASTERS KAKASHI, KURENAI, AND ASUMA.
TELL US...
..DO ANY OF YOU HAVE AMONG YOUR CHARGES, ANY GENIN YOU'D RECOMMEND FOR THIS YEAR'S JOURNEYMEN EXAMS?







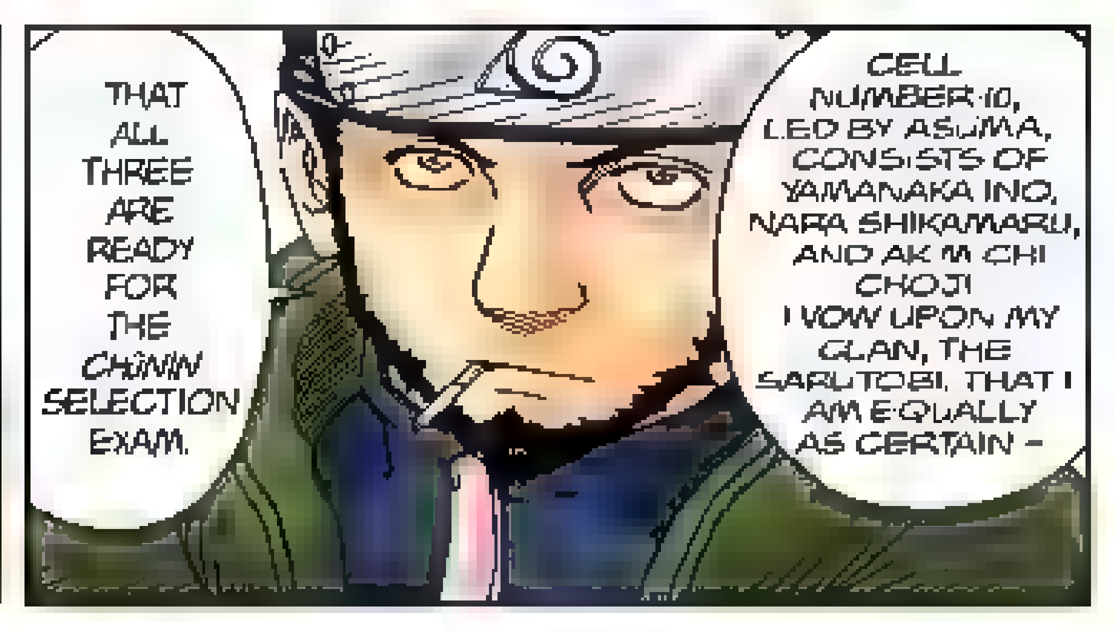
CELL NUMBER 7, LED BY KAKASHI, CONSISTS OF UCHIHA SASUKE, UZUMAKI NARUTO, AND HARUNO SAKURA. I VOW UPON THE HONOR OF MY CLAN, THE HATAKE -

- THAT ALL THREE OF THEM ARE READY FOR THE *CHŪNIN* SELECTION EXAM.





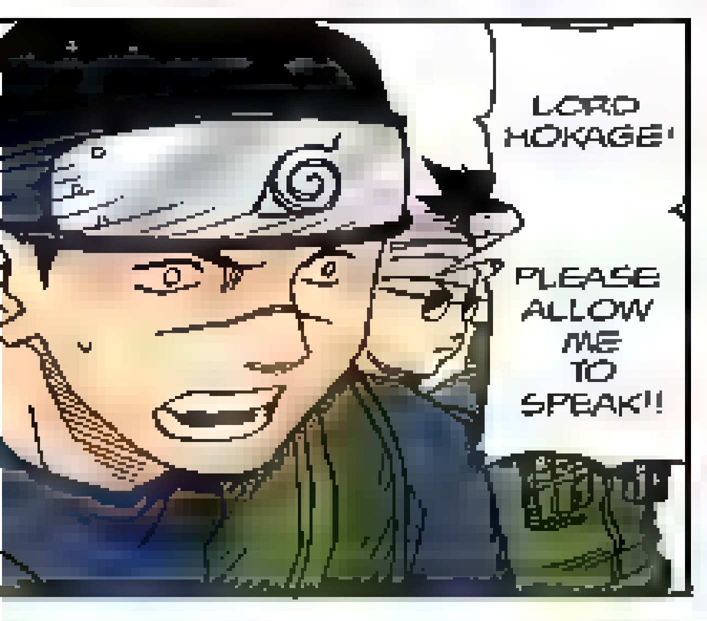




HOW UNUSUAL FOR ALL THREE OF YOU TO HAVE UNHESITATINGLY ASSENTED...

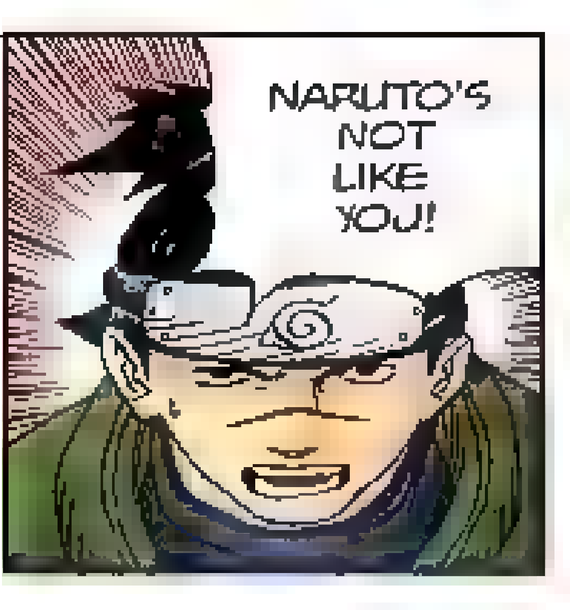


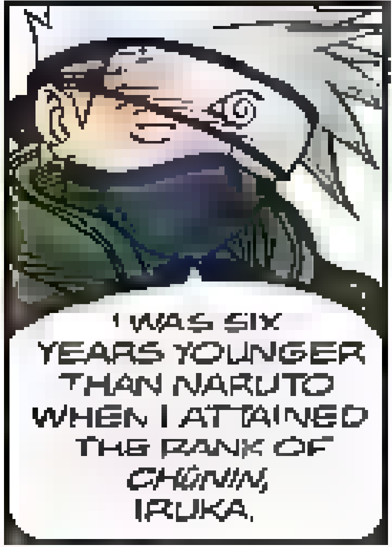


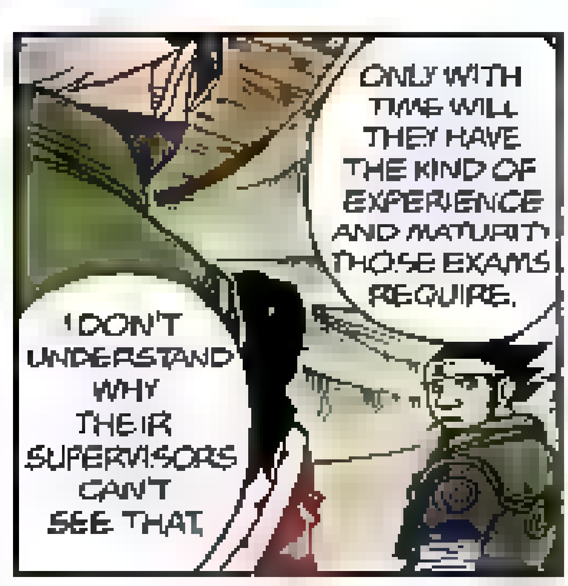


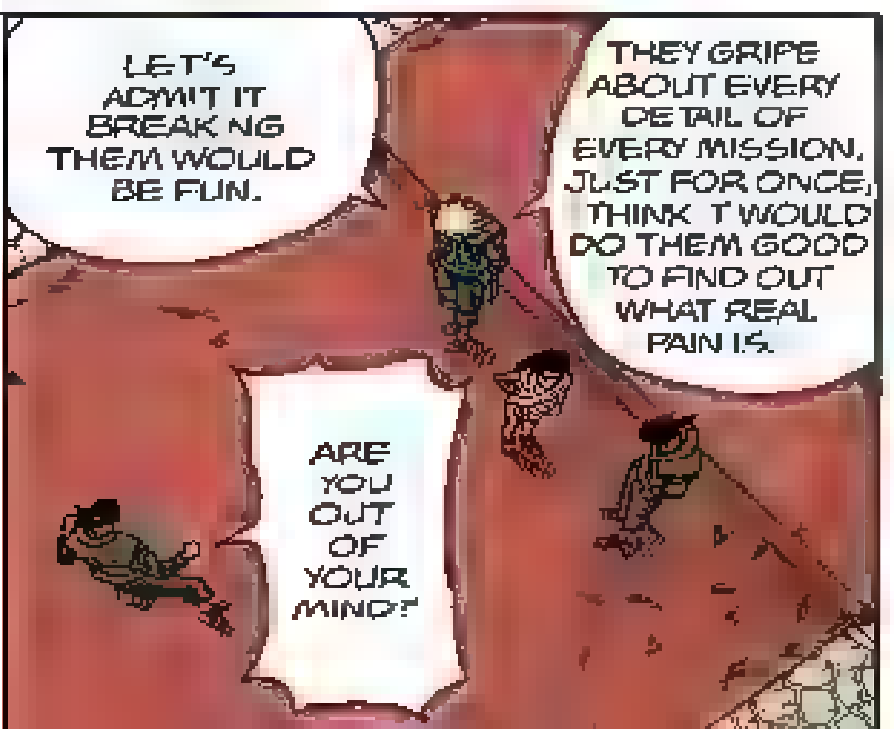


FORGIVE ME IF I OVERSTEP BUT MOST OF THE NINE STUDENTS JUST NAMED...
... WERE MY STUDENTS WHILE THEY WERE AT THE ACADEMY.
CERTAINLY, THEY ARE ALL GIFTED AND SHOW BOTH COMMITMENT AND TALENT... BUT IT'S TOO SOON FOR KIDS THAT YOUNG TO BE STEPPING UP TO THE JOURNEYMAN LEVEL.













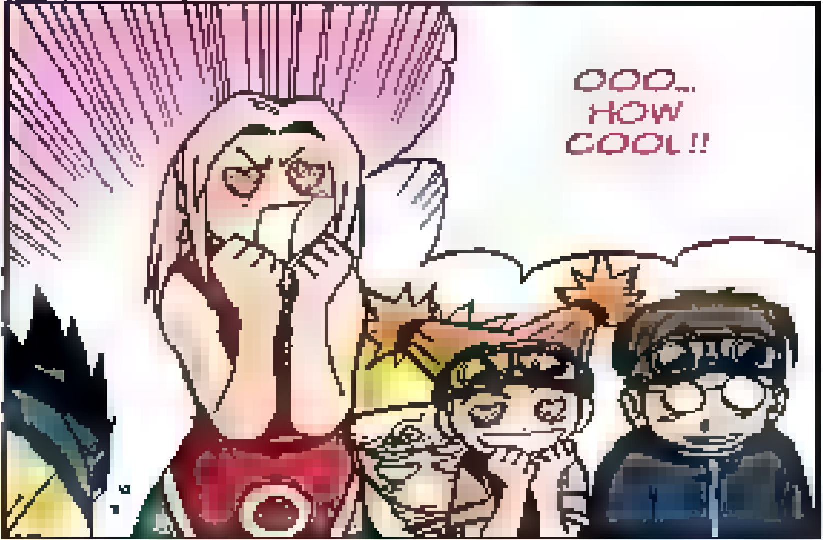


...IT WAS A JOKE, MASTER IRUKA.
I UNDERSTAND YOU... AND I'M SORRY IF MY RECOMMENDATION UPSETS YOU. BUT I STAND BY IT.
BUT
KAKASHI... CAN WE FINISH WITH THIS?
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, ANYWAY...
...THEY'RE NOT YOUR STUDENTS ANYMORE.
THEY ARE SOLDIERS UNDER MY COMMAND.
...
WHAT A PEST
...

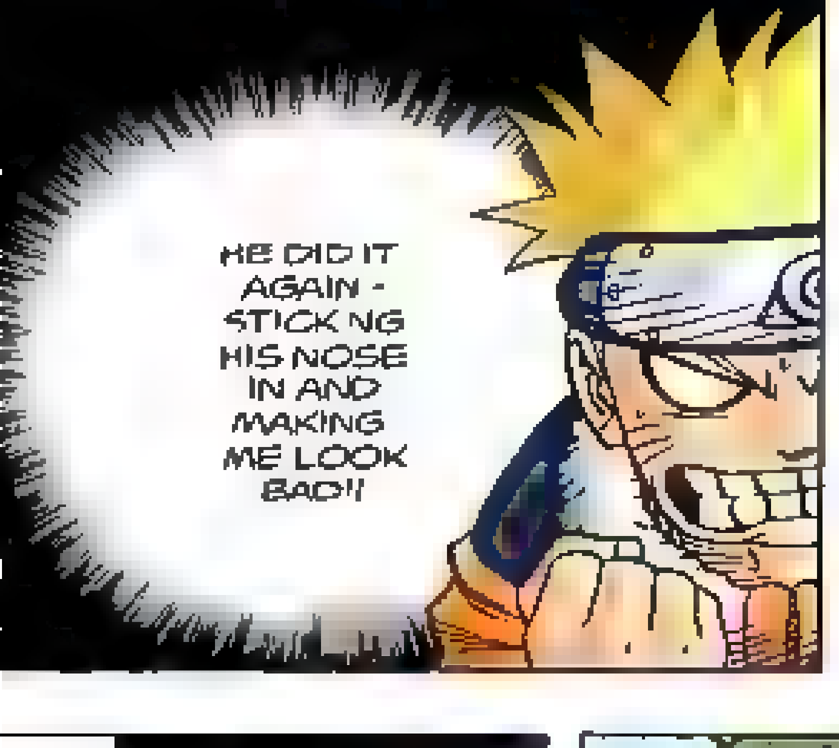

GET LOST

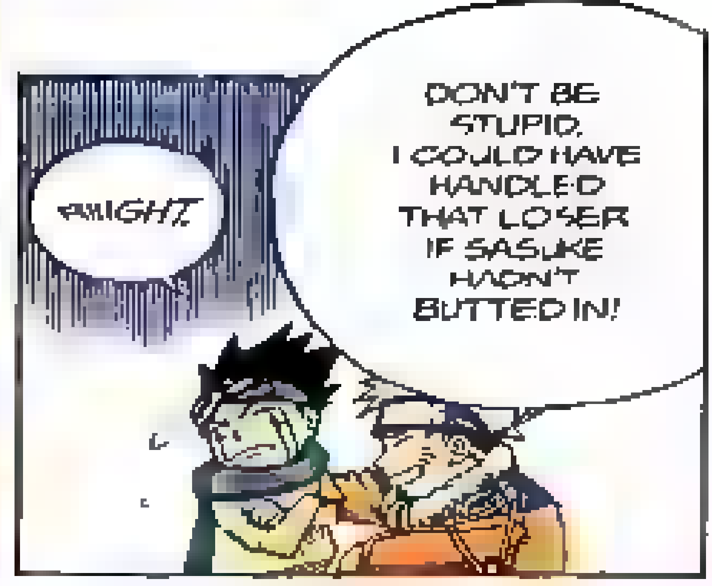

OH, LOOK. ANOTHER LITTLE BRAT.


NARUTO... YOU SUCK!
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE LOOKED UP TO YOU!


OOO... HOW COOL!!


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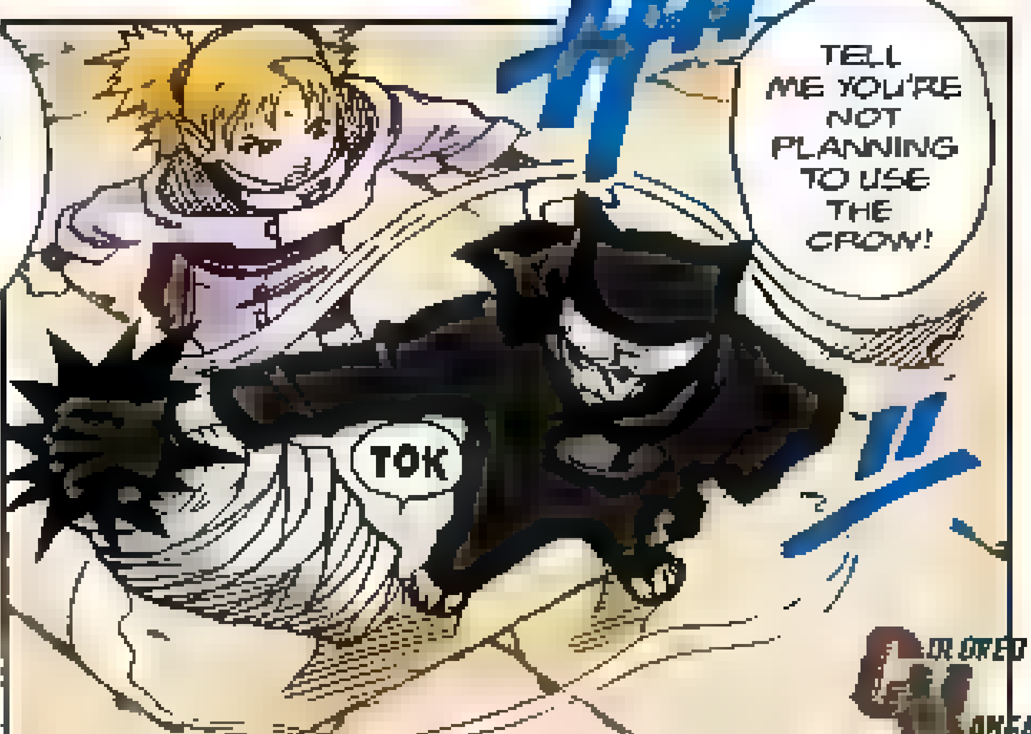

HE DID IT AGAIN - STICK NG HIS NOSE IN AND MAKING ME LOOK BAD!!

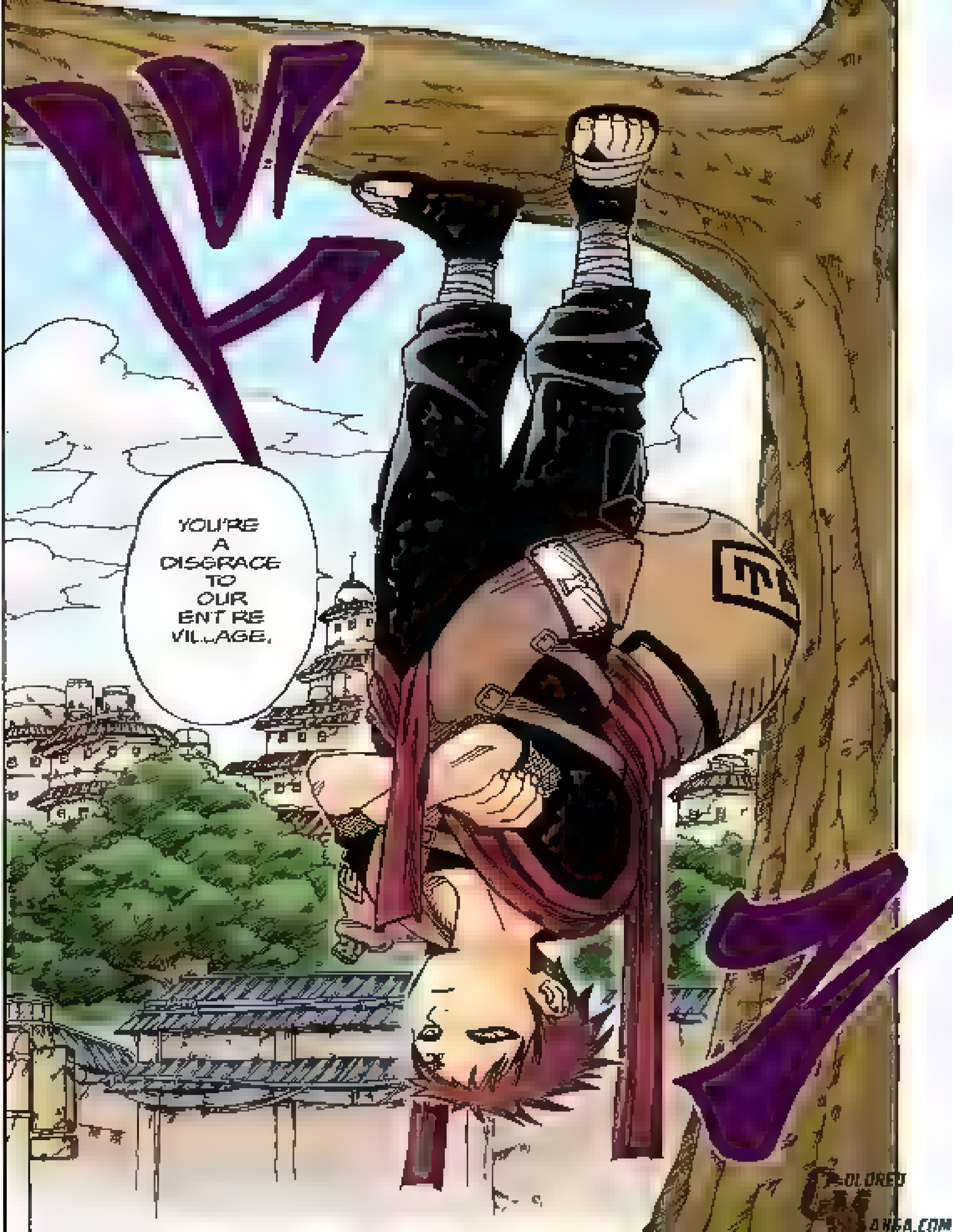

DON'T BE STUPID. I COULD HAVE HANDLED THAT LOSER IF SASUKE HADN'T BUTTED IN!
AWIGHT.

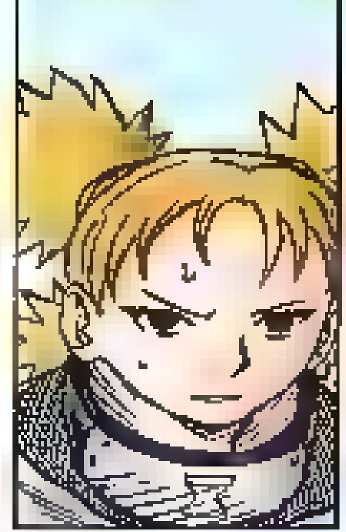
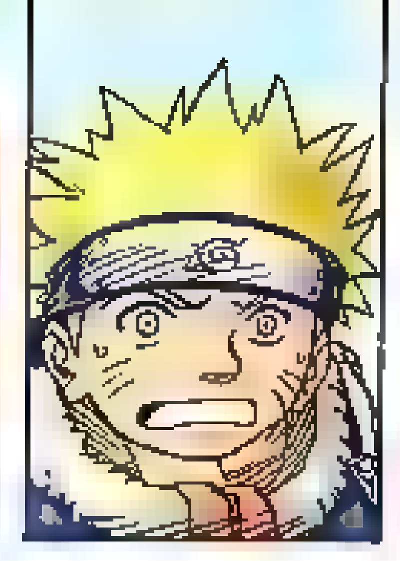
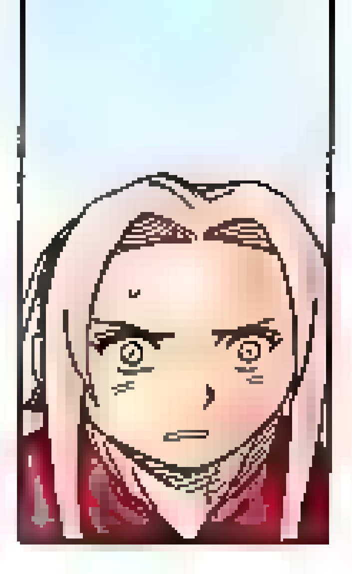
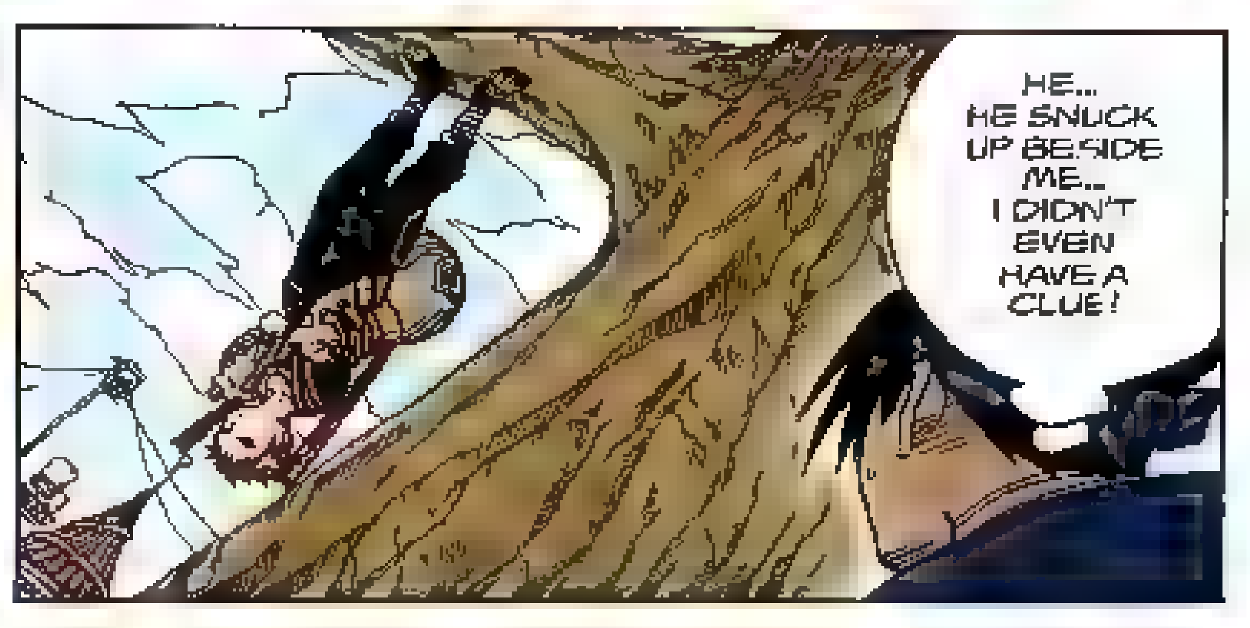
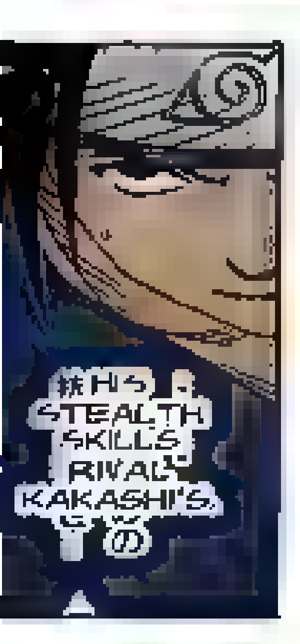
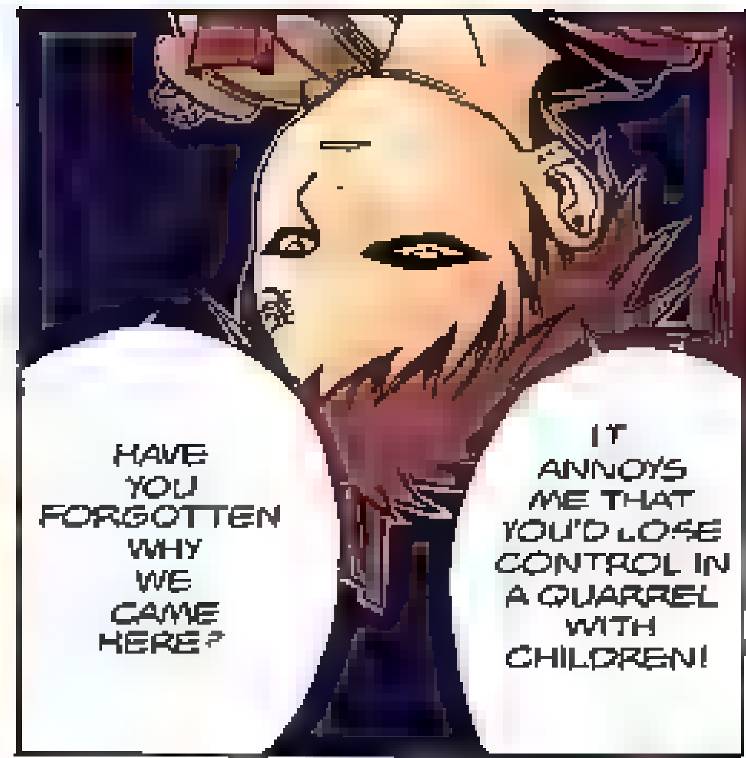
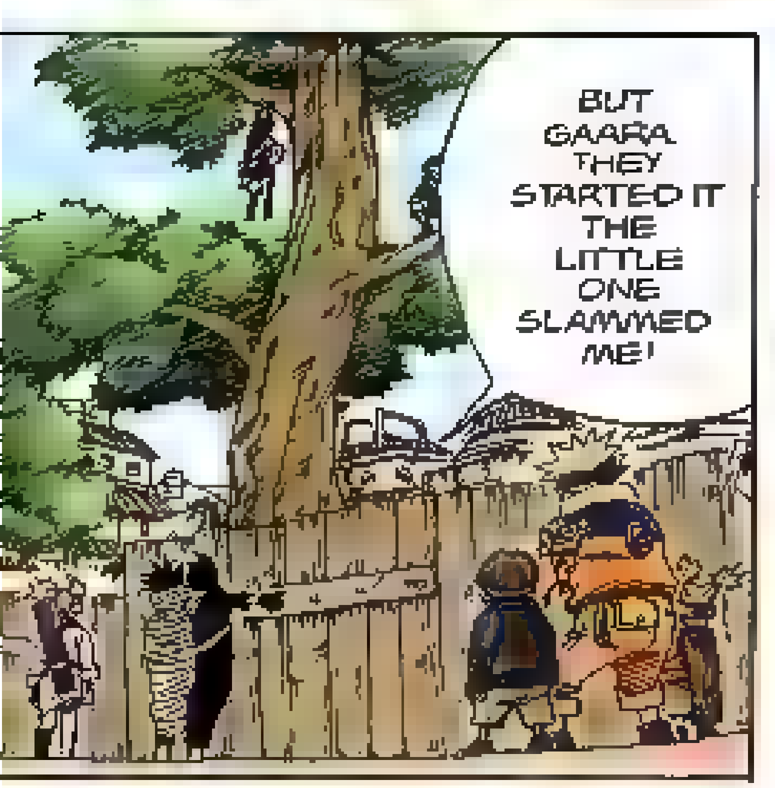

THINK YOU'RE PRETTY SMART, DON'T YOU?


COME DOWN, LITTLE SQUIRREL.


KANKURO DON'T!
!!


TELL ME YOU'RE NOT PLANNING TO USE THE CROW!
TOK


YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO OUR ENTIRE VILLAGE.

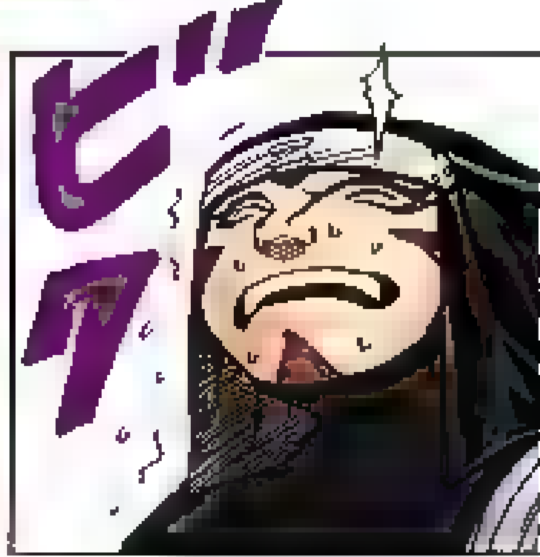

G- GAA- RA...




HE... HE SNUCK UP BESIDE ME... I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A CLUE!

HIS STEALTH SKILLS RIVAL KAKASHI'S.

IT ANNOYS ME THAT YOU'D LOSE CONTROL IN A QUARREL WITH CHILDREN!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHY WE CAME HERE?

BUT GAARA THEY STARTED IT THE LITTLE ONE SLAMMED ME!

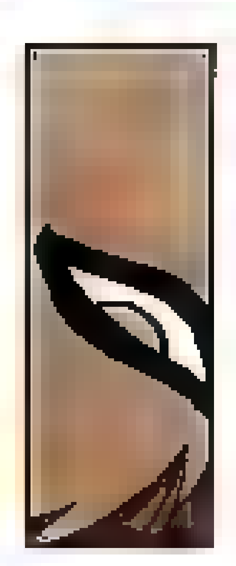
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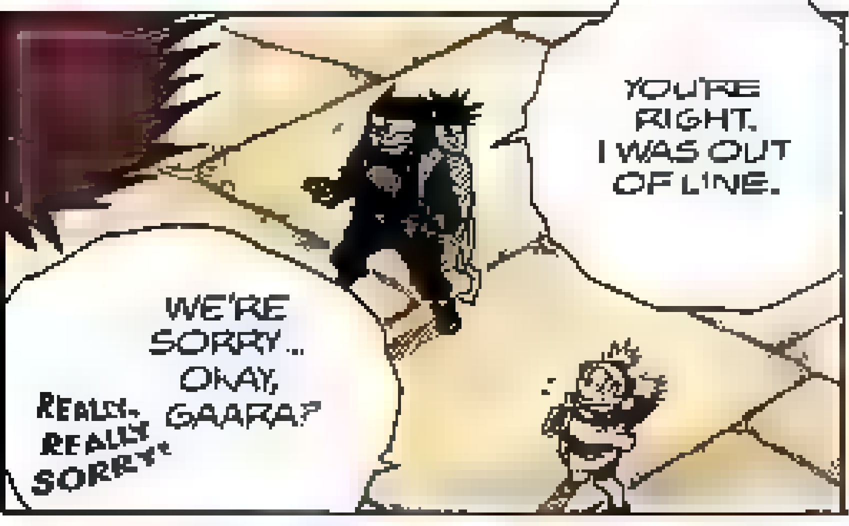
SHUT UP...

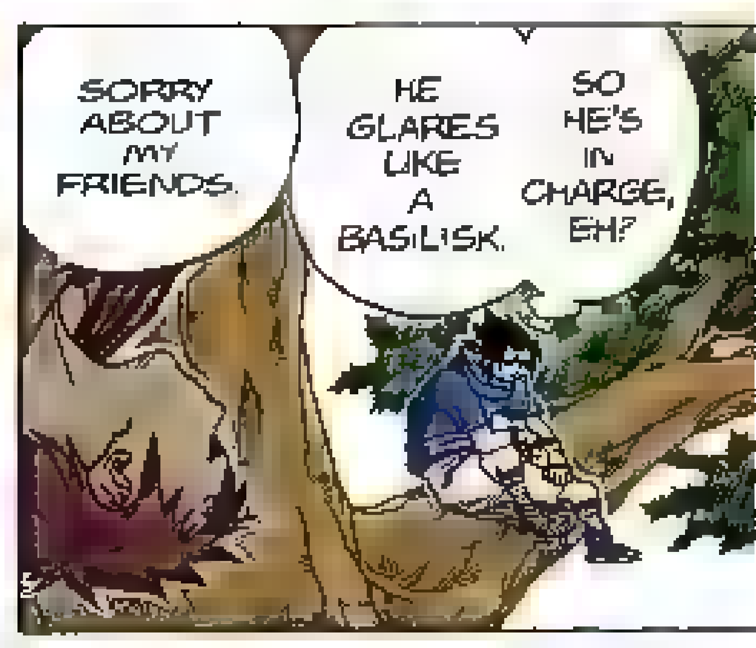
OR I'LL KILL YOU.

GAARA'S TATTOO SAYS "LOVE".

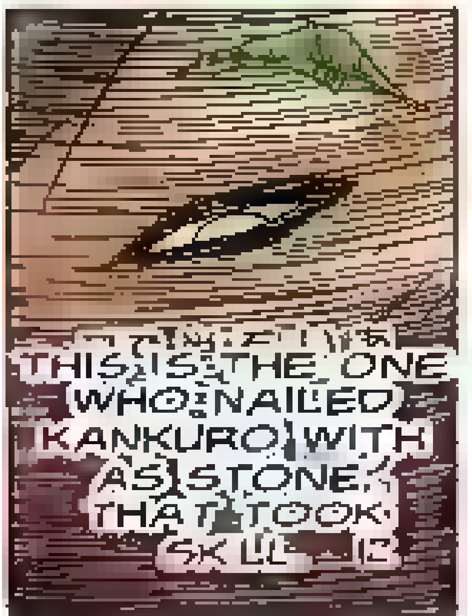


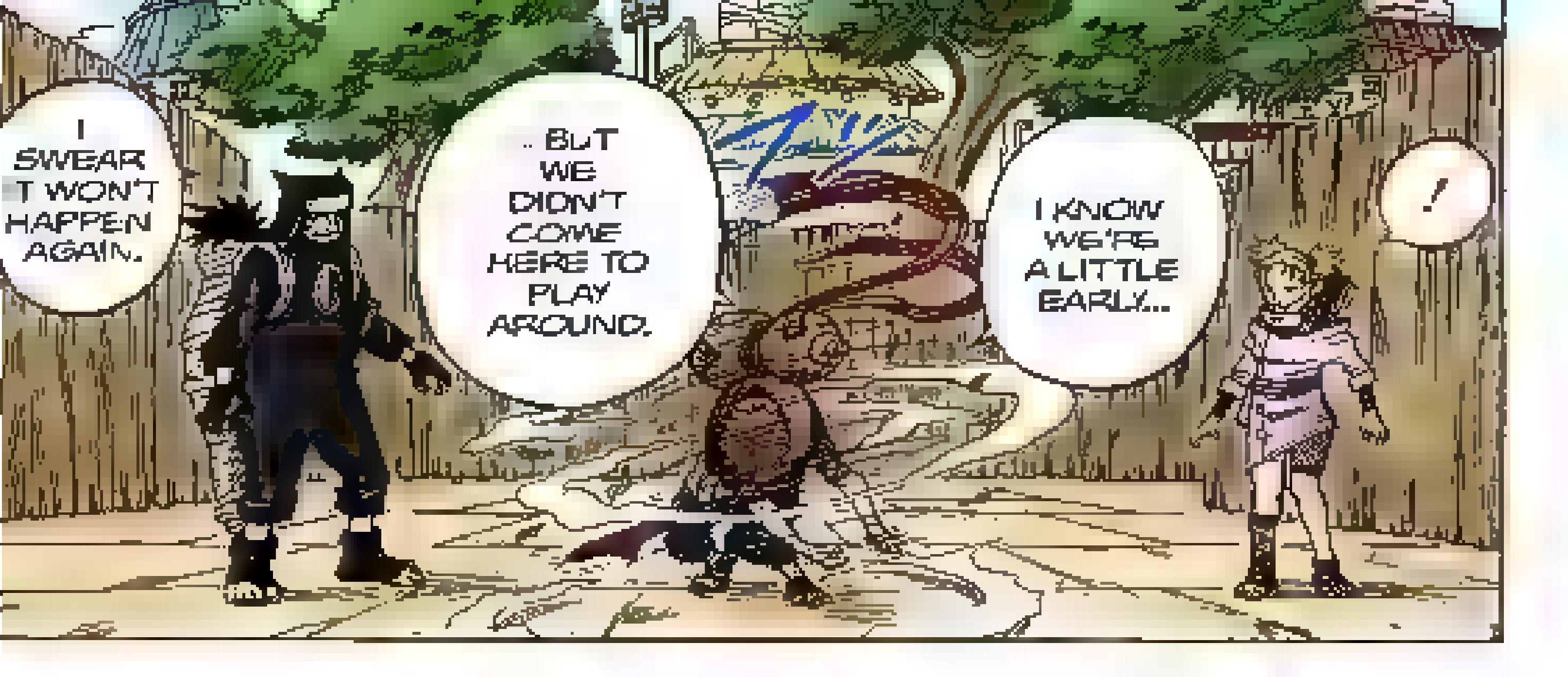


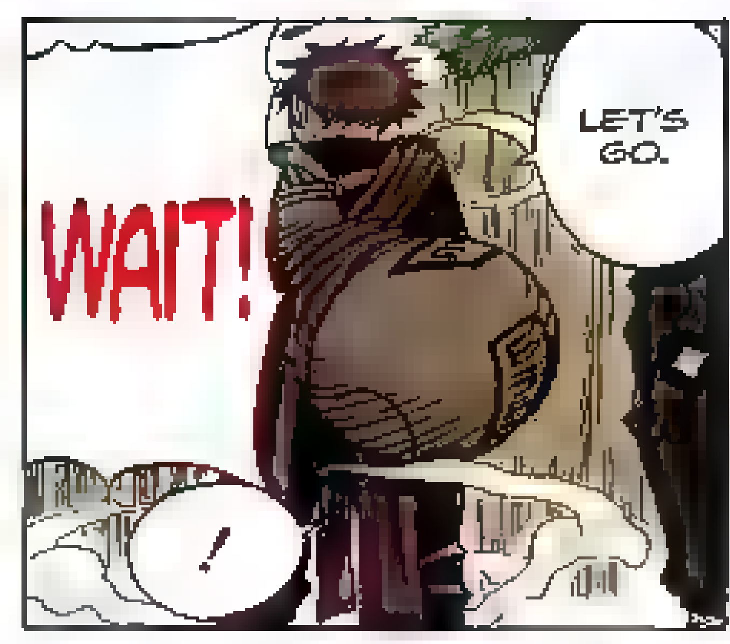


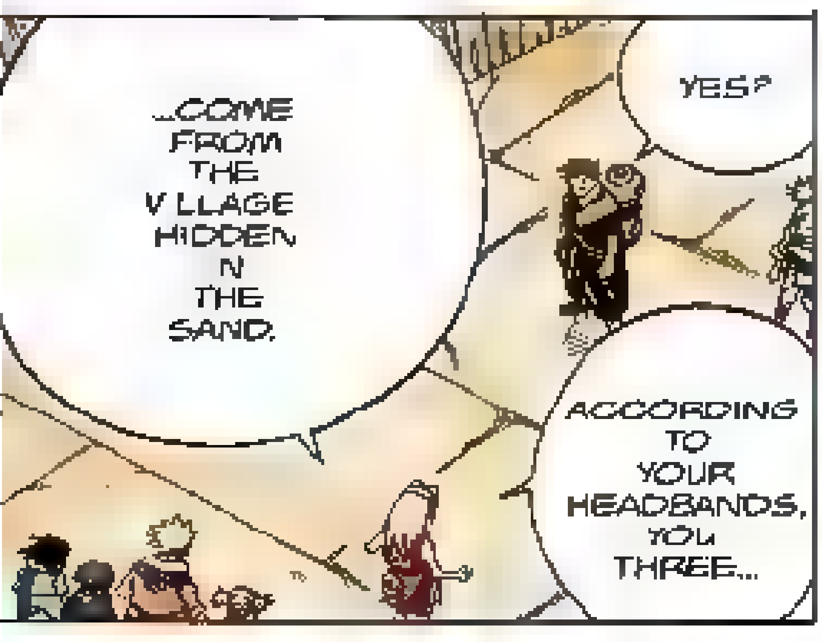


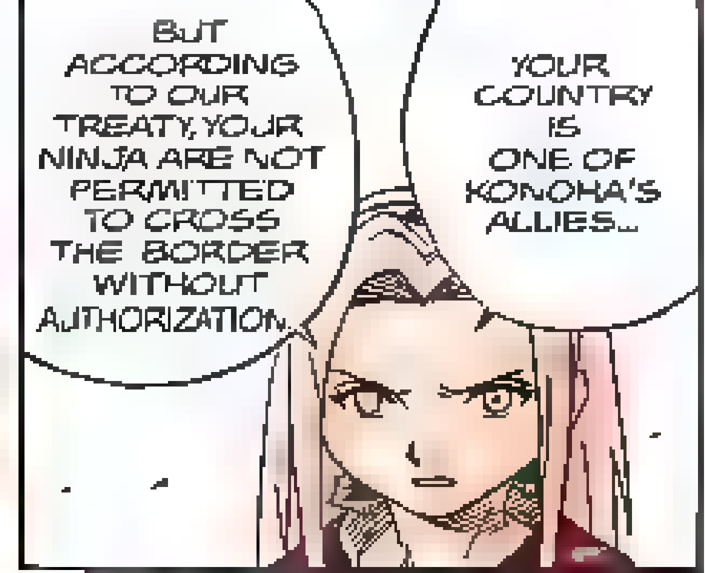


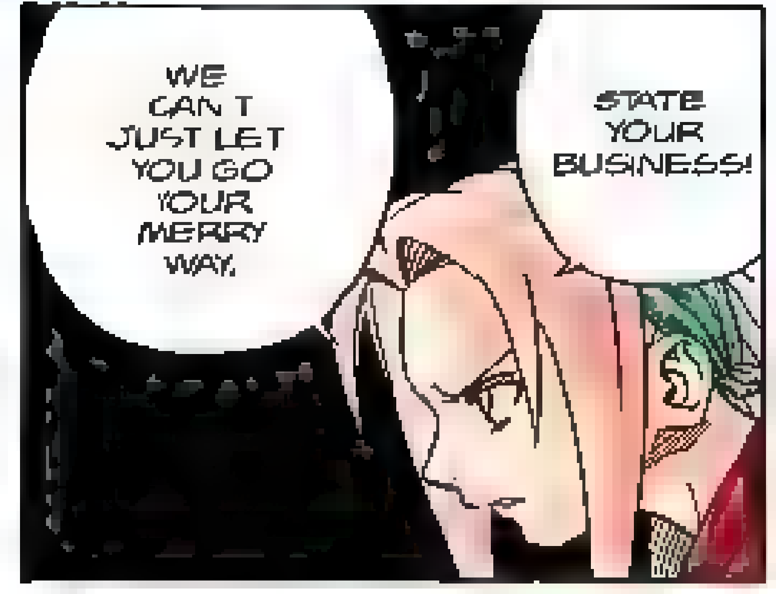



!
I KNOW WE'RE A LITTLE EARLY...
...BUT WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO PLAY AROUND.
I SWEAR T WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

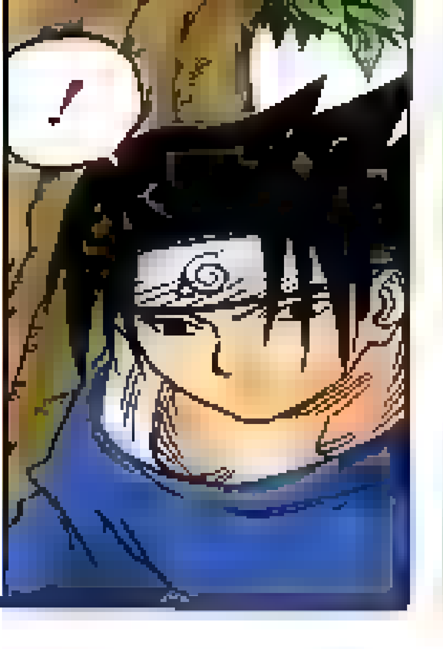

LET'S GO.
WAIT!
!

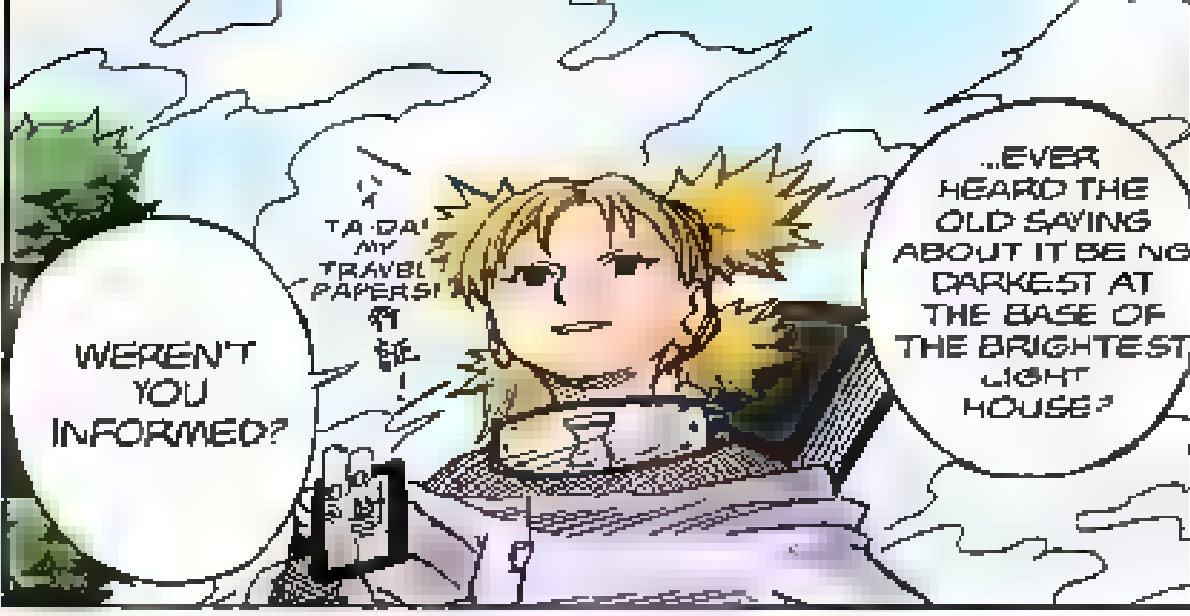

YES?
ACCORDING TO YOUR HEADBANDS, YOU THREE...
...COME FROM THE V LLAGE HIDDEN N THE SAND.

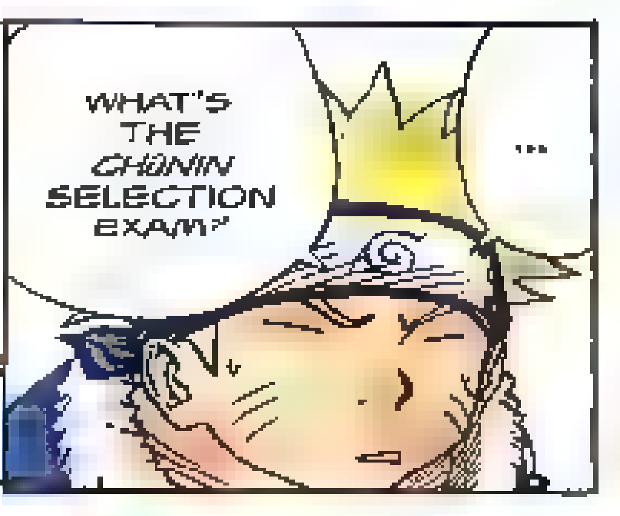

YOUR COUNTRY IS ONE OF KONOHA'S ALLIES...
BUT ACCORDING TO OUR TREATY, YOUR NINJA ARE NOT PERMITTED TO CROSS THE BORDER WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION.


STATE YOUR BUSINESS!
WE CAN T JUST LET YOU GO YOUR MERRY WAY.







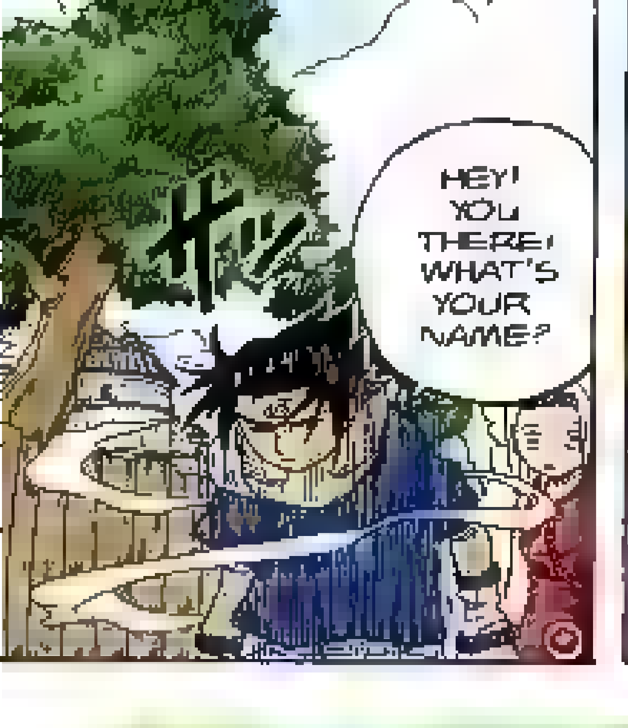


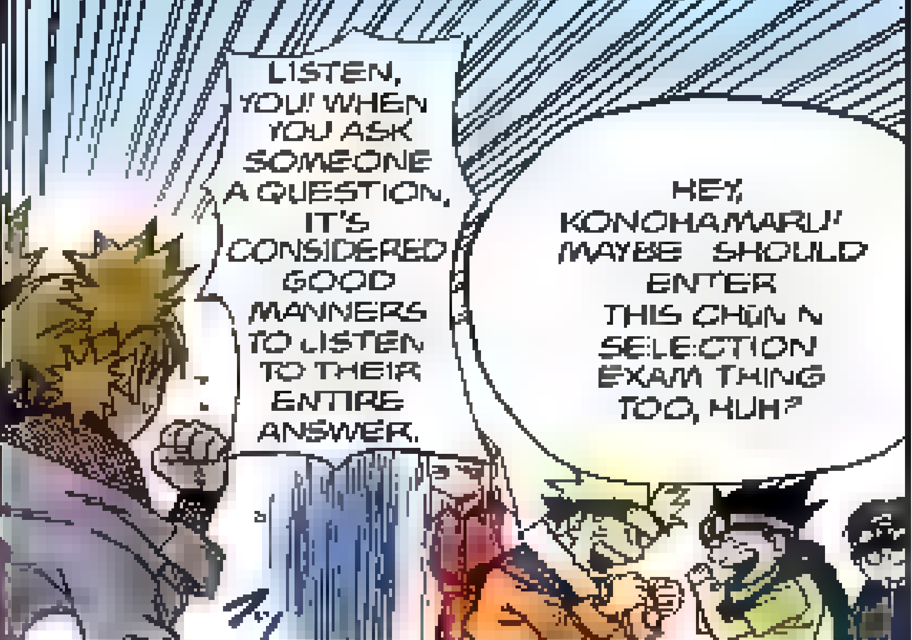


YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW? JUNIOR NINJA ARE SENT FROM THE HIDDEN SAND VILLAGE AND THE MINOR LANDS BETWEEN OUR HOME AND YOURS TO COMPETE AGAINST KONOHA'S OWN CANDIDATES.

WHY TEST US ALL TOGETHER?

MAINLY TO MAINTAIN THE SKILL OF ALL SHINOBI AT THE SAME HIGH LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE. ALSO TO FOSTER FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NINJA. AND, OF COURSE, TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN THE LANDS THEMSELVES.

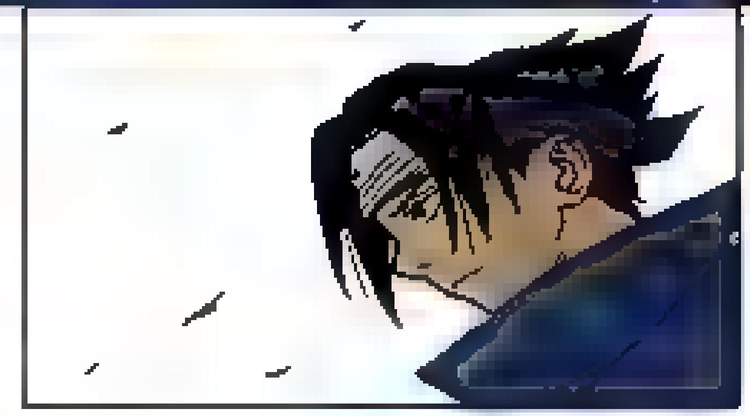


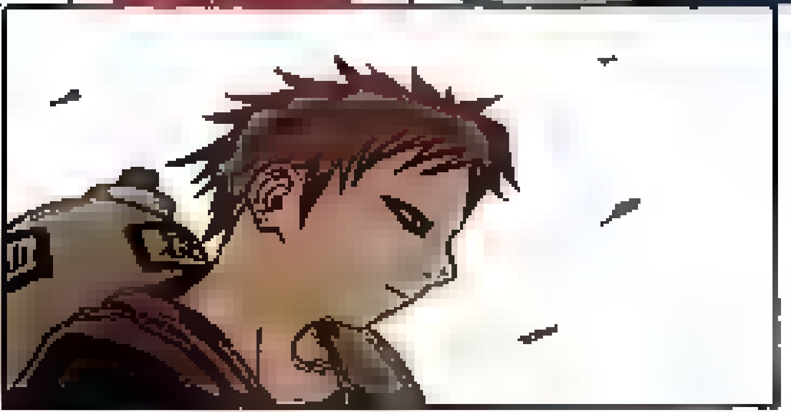


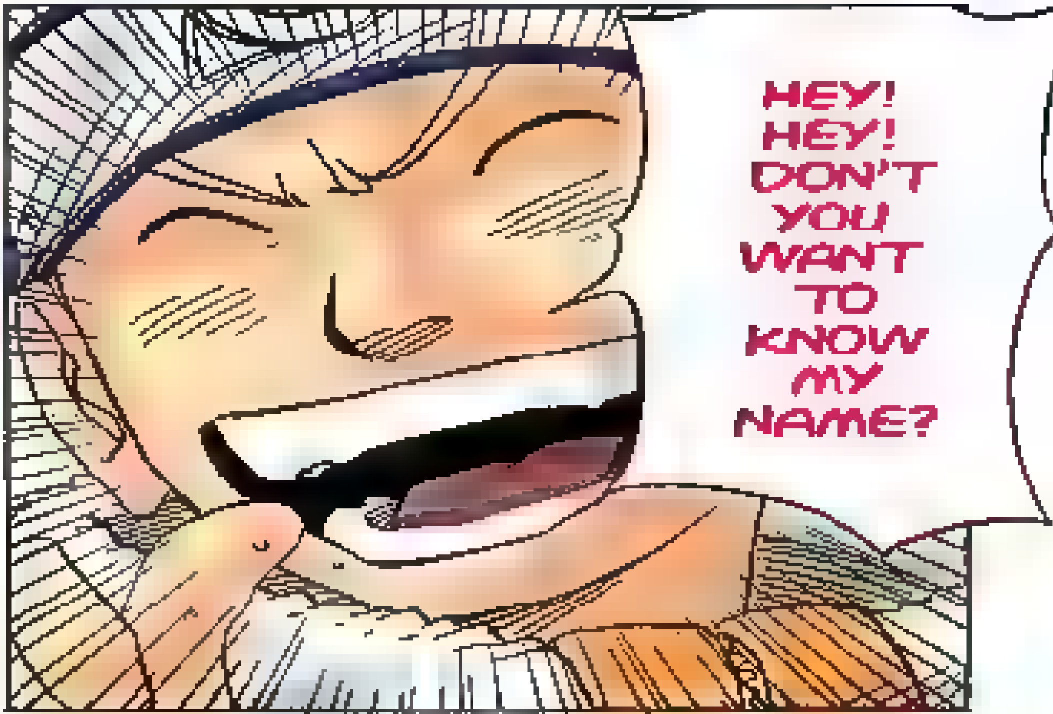
!
!
...
NO!
WAS TALKING TO THE SPOOK BESIDE YOU
HUH?
W-WHO, ME?
!
AND YOU ARE...?
...
GAARA OF THE DESERT, AT YOUR SERVICE.

UCHIHA SASUKE

HEH

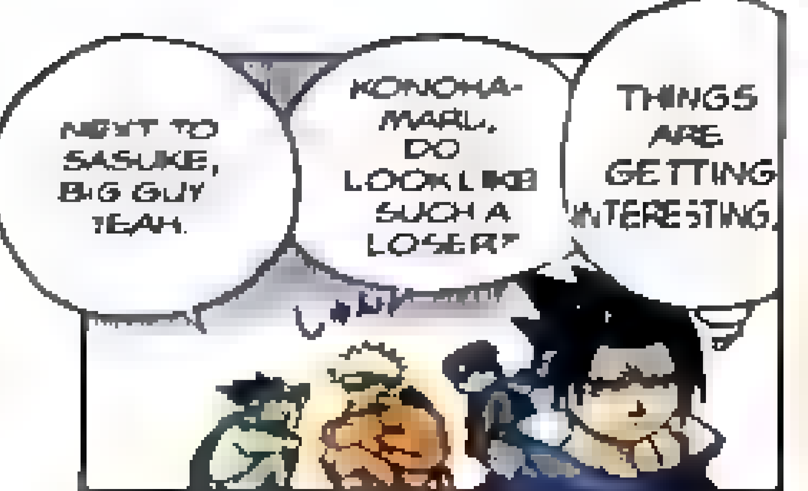


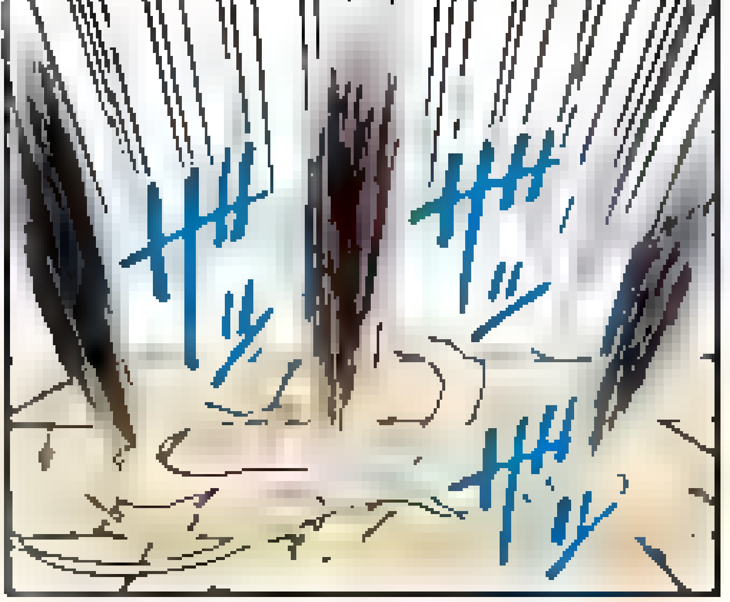









THINGS ARE GETTING INTERESTING.
KONOHA-MARU, DO LOOK LIKE SUCH A LOSER?
NEXT TO SASUKE, BIG GUY YEAH.

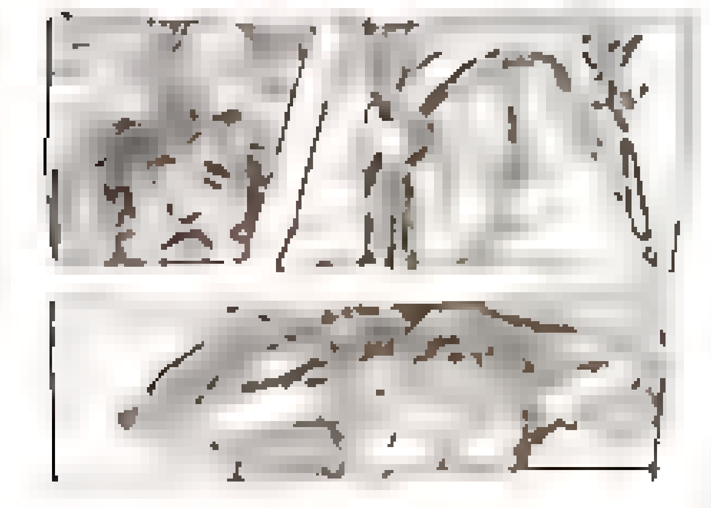


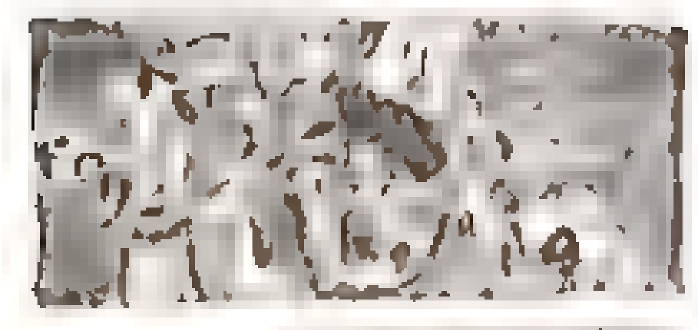
SASUKE!! I AIN'T GONNA TAKE THIS!
WHERE DO YOU GET OFF STICKING YOUR NOSE IN?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

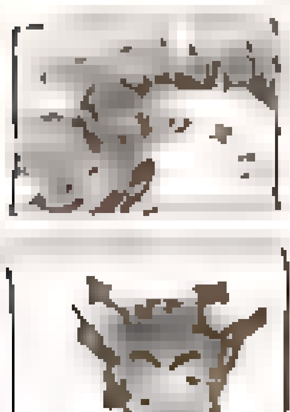

NONE OF THEM ARE OF ANY IMPORTANCE..
EXCEPT THE KONOHA RAVEN-HAIR AND THE SPOOK FROM THE SAND. KEEP AN EYE ON THEM.



POINTLESS LITTLE STORY



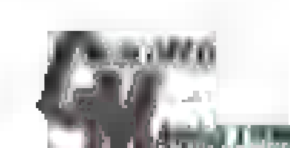


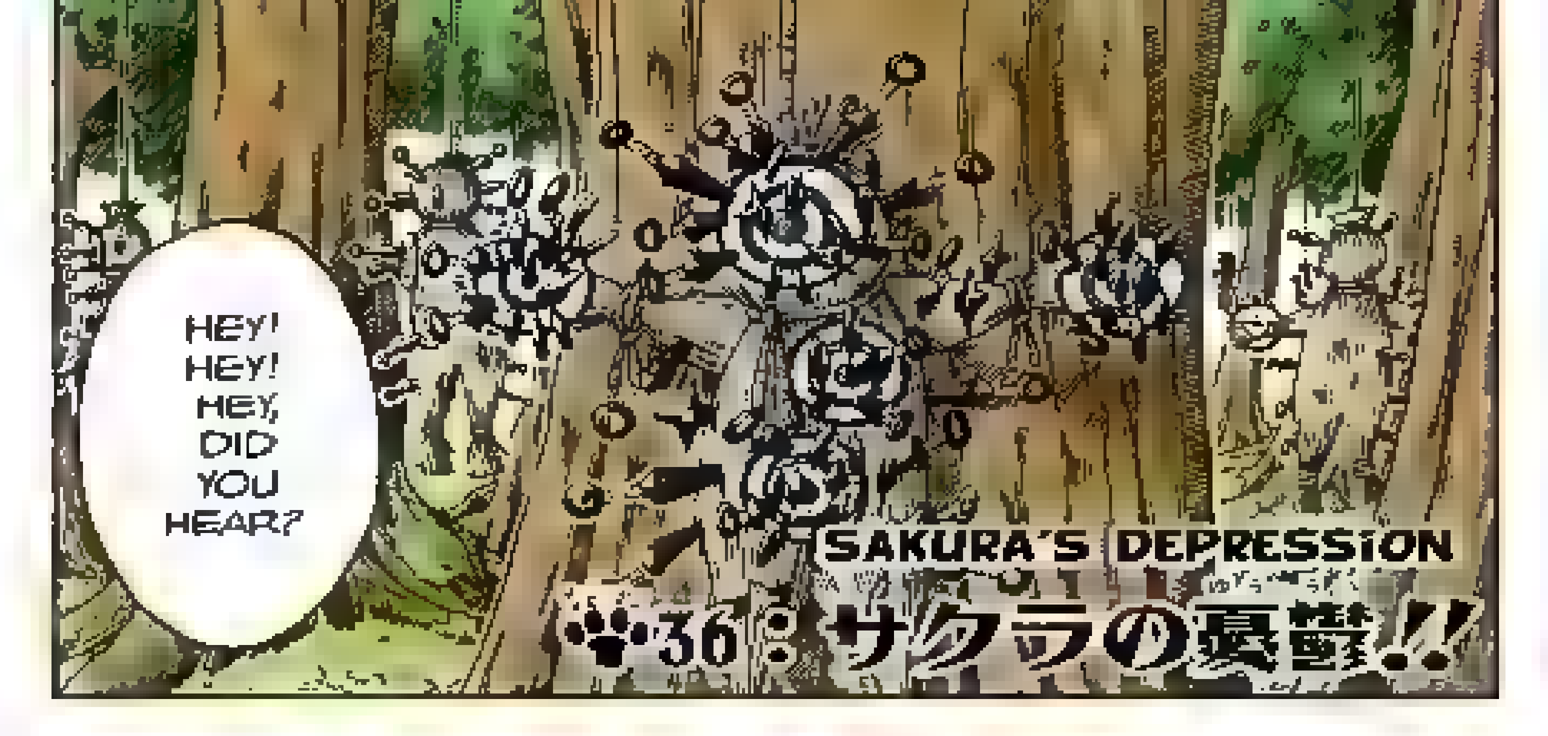


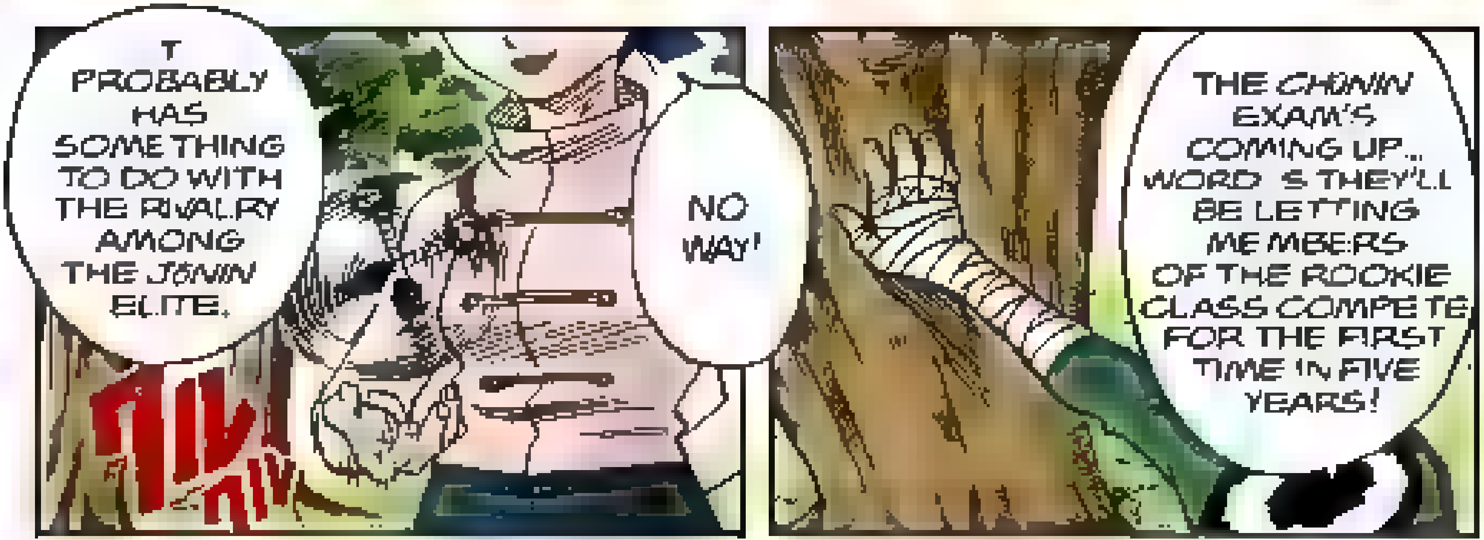


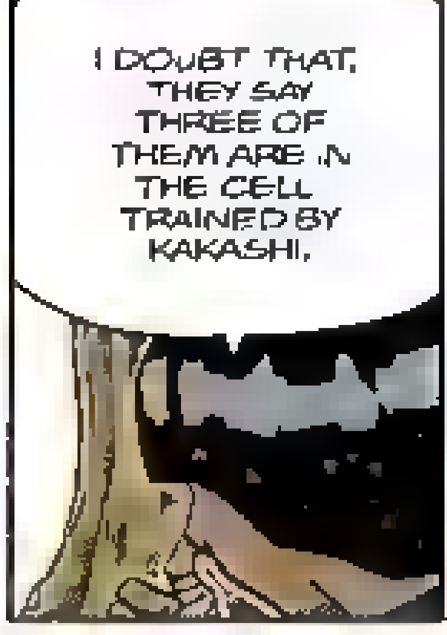
THE EIGHT-FRAME *MANGA* ON THE LEFT BRINGS BACK FOND MEMORIES FOR ME OF KOSHI, THE FRIEND WHO DREW IT FOR ME BACK IN COLLEGE. I HAD BEEN DRAWING *MANGA* SINCE MY HIGH SCHOOL DAYS, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE A SINGLE FRIEND WHO SHARED MY PASSION. IN COLLEGE, I HEARD OF A GROUP OF MANGA FANS AND ASPIRING ARTISTS WHO CALLED THEMSELVES THE *MANKEN*, OR MANGA LAB. BUT THEY WEREN'T SO MUCH DRAWING MANGA AS THEY WERE PATTING EACH OTHER ON THE BACK FOR DRAWING PIN-UPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS WITH NO ATTEMPT AT STORYTELLING WHATSOEVER. I AVOIDED THOSE PHONIES LIKE THE PLAGUE AND WENT MY OWN WAY, TRYING TO DRAW ACTUAL MANGA.

THEN ONE DAY I MET A MAN WHO CLAIMED HE HAD DRAWN AUTHENTIC *MANGA* BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL. I HAD DOUBTS ABOUT WHETHER HE WAS ON THE LEVEL, SO I CHALLENGED HIM. I WAS DETERMINED TO FIND OUT WHETHER HE WAS A REAL MANGA ARTIST OR ANOTHER PHONY. I DEMANDED THAT HE DRAW A TWO-PAGE STORY FOR ME ON THE SPOT. SO HE DREW THE MANGA ON THE LEFT AND GAVE IT TO ME. IT WAS MOMENT OF INTENSE JOY FOR ME TO HOLD SOMEONE ELSE'S *MANGA* IN MY HAND LIKE THAT, FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME, AND I TREASURE HIS *MANGA* TO THIS VERY DAY.

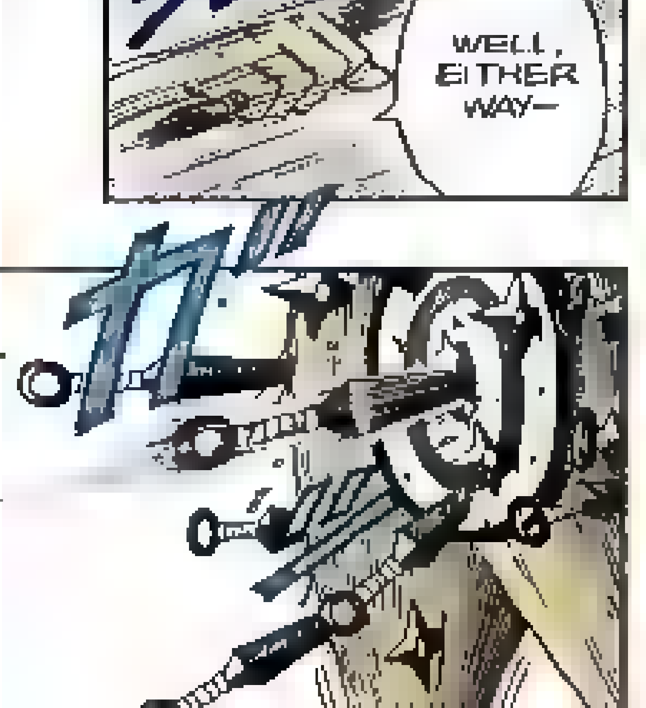



HEY! HEY! HEY, DID YOU HEAR?
SAKURA'S DEPRESSION
36: サクラの憂鬱!!


THE CHŪNIN EXAM'S COMING UP... WORD IS THEY'LL BE LETTING MEMBERS OF THE ROOKIE CLASS COMPETE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FIVE YEARS!
NO WAY!
I PROBABLY HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE RIVALRY AMONG THE JŌNIN ELITE.


I DOUBT THAT. THEY SAY THREE OF THEM ARE IN THE CELL TRAINED BY KAKASHI.

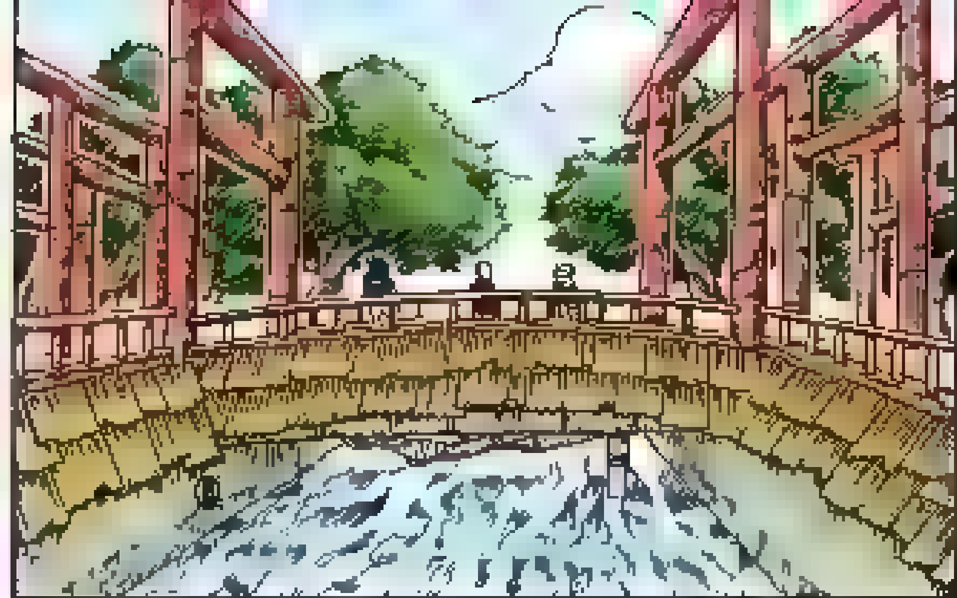

THE KAKASHI? THAT'S INTERESTING...
POK

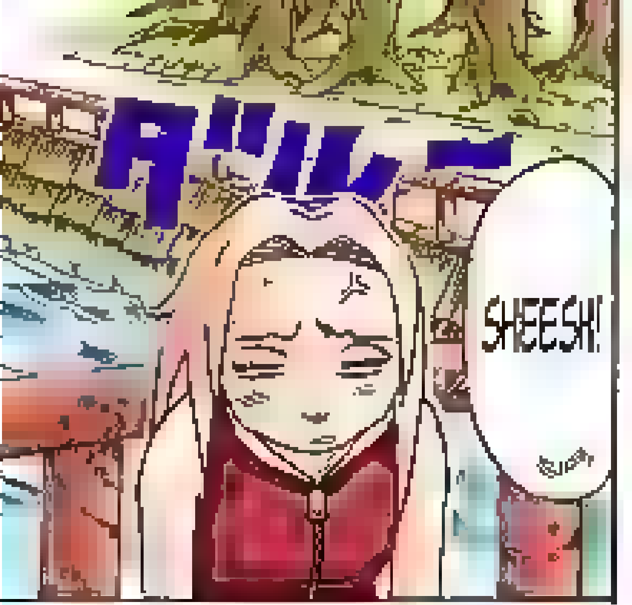

WELL, EITHER WAY—



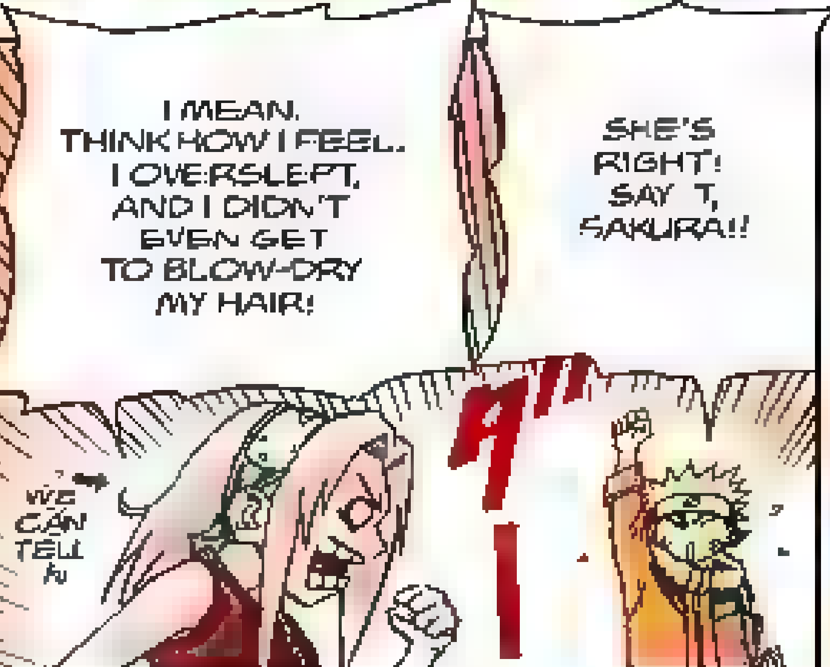


IT ALL HAS A VERY SAD SOUND TO IT.
36：
サクラの憂鬱!!




SHEESH!

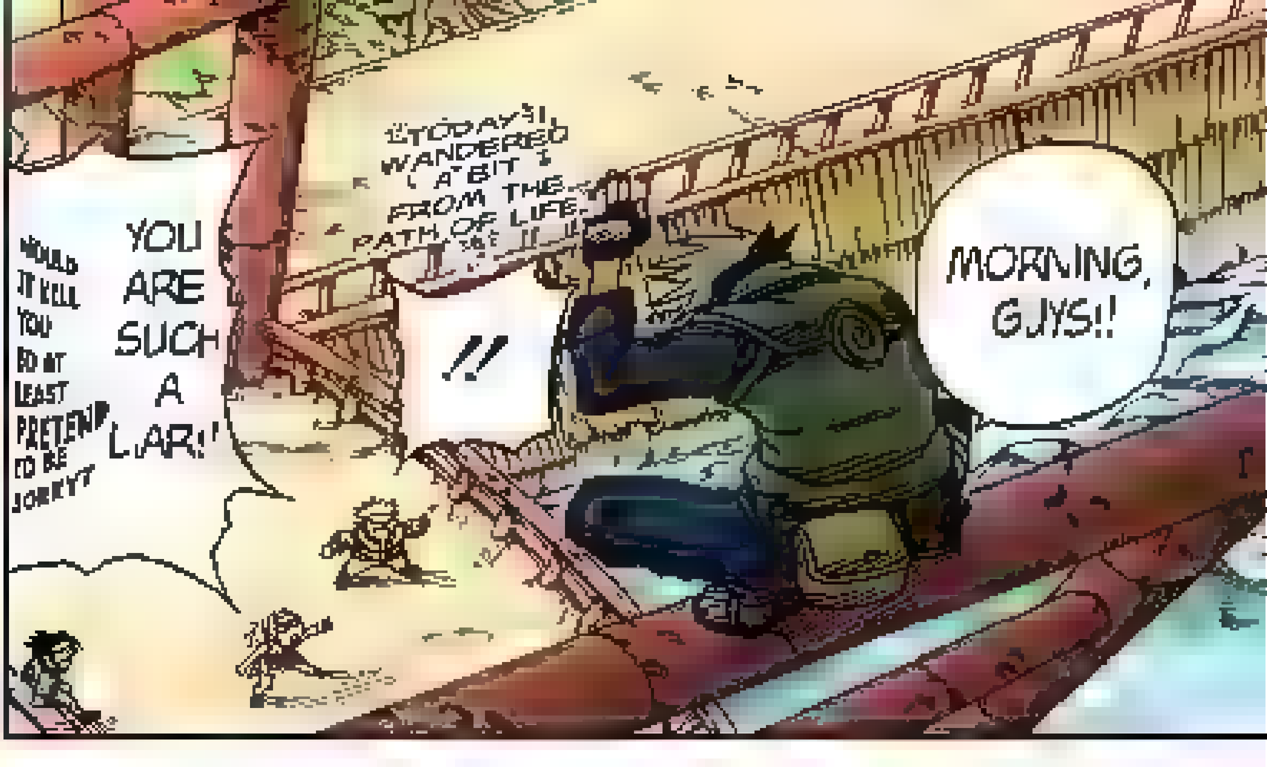

OKAY, LOOK ARE WE GOING TO JUST STAND AROUND AND LET THEM GET AWAY WITH THIS?
WHY IS IT, WHENEVER WE GET CALLED OUT, WE END UP WAITING LIKE DOPES FOR THE CHALLENGER TO SHOW?


SHE'S RIGHT! SAY IT, SAKURA!!
I MEAN, THINK HOW I FEEL. I OVERSLEPT, AND I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO BLOW-DRY MY HAIR!
WE CAN TELL


YEAH. IT'S NOT RIGHT. I OVERSLEPT, TOO...
...AND I DIDN'T EVEN PAUSE TO WASH MY FACE OR BRUSH MY TEETH!


WHY DO THESE TWO ALWAYS WAKE UP FEELING DRAMATIC?
EWWW! GROSS!
HEH.





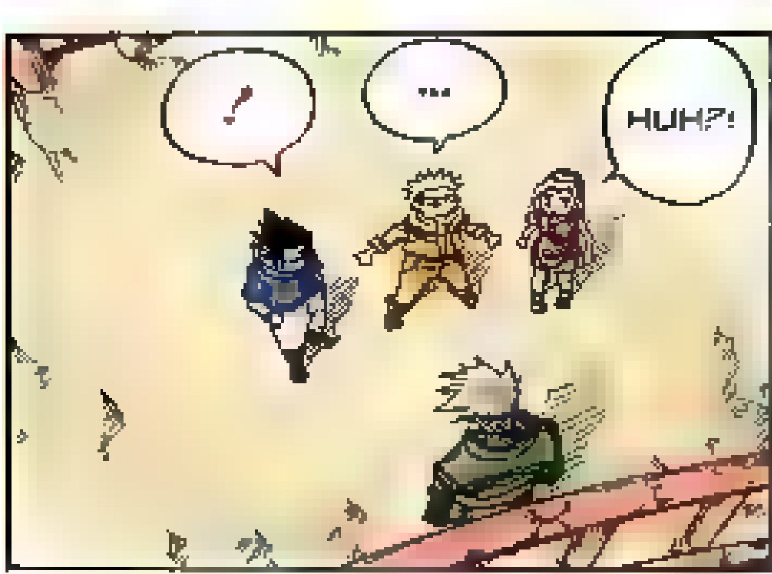
MORNING, GUYS!!
!!
TODAY I WANDERED A BIT FROM THE PATH OF LIFE.
YOU ARE SUCH A LIAR!
WOULD IT KILL YOU TO AT LEAST PRETEND TO BE SORRY?



IN ANY CASE...



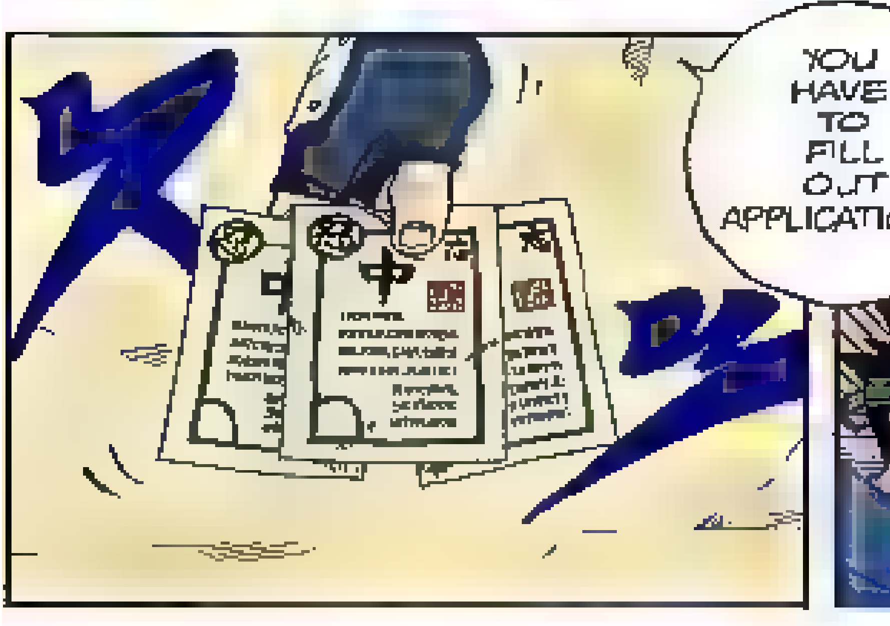
THIS MAY SURPRISE YOU...
BUT I'VE RECOMMENDED ALL THREE OF YOU FOR THE CHUNIN SELECTION EXAM.



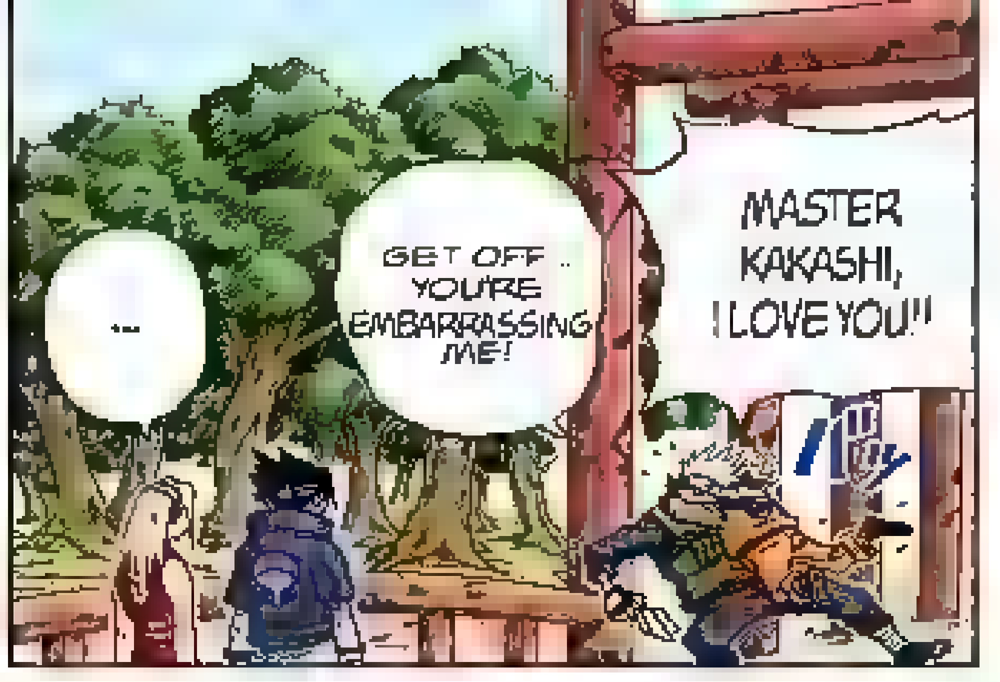
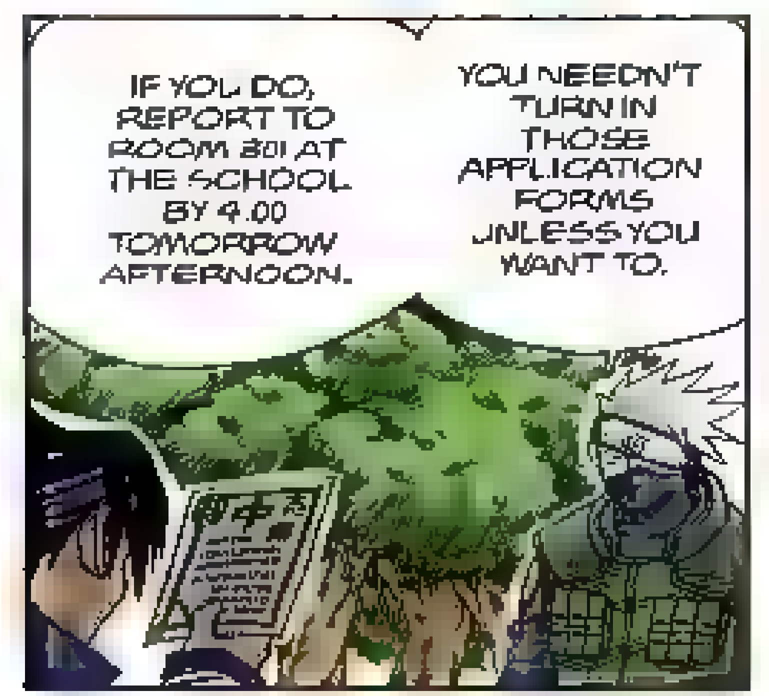
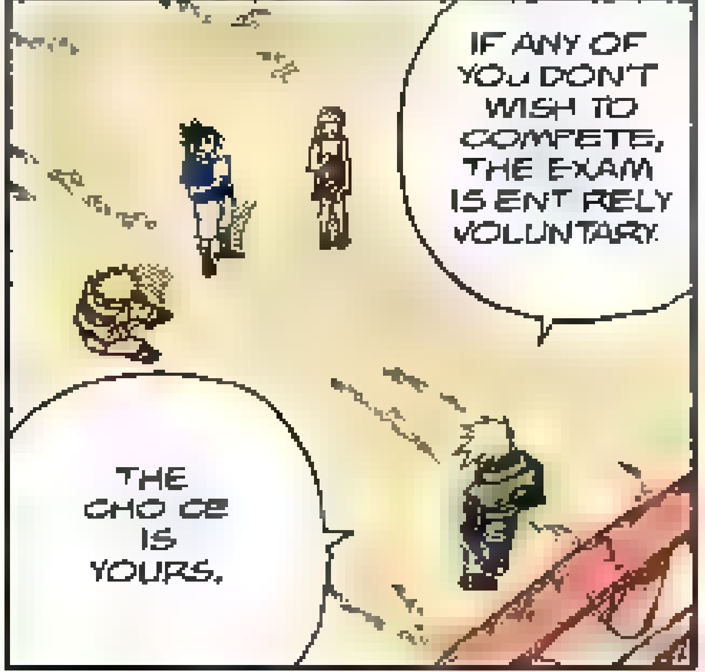
HUH?!
...
!

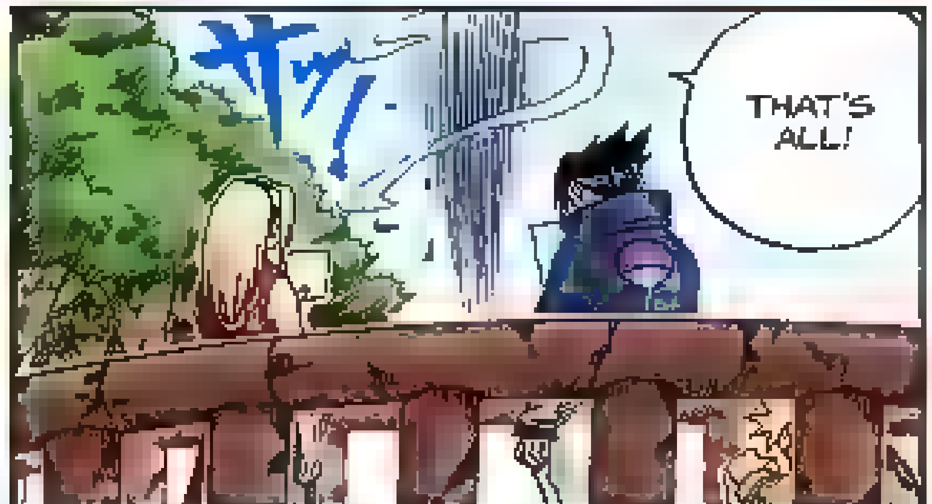


SAY WHAT?!
GOOD ONE, MASTER. YOU ALMOST HAD US.

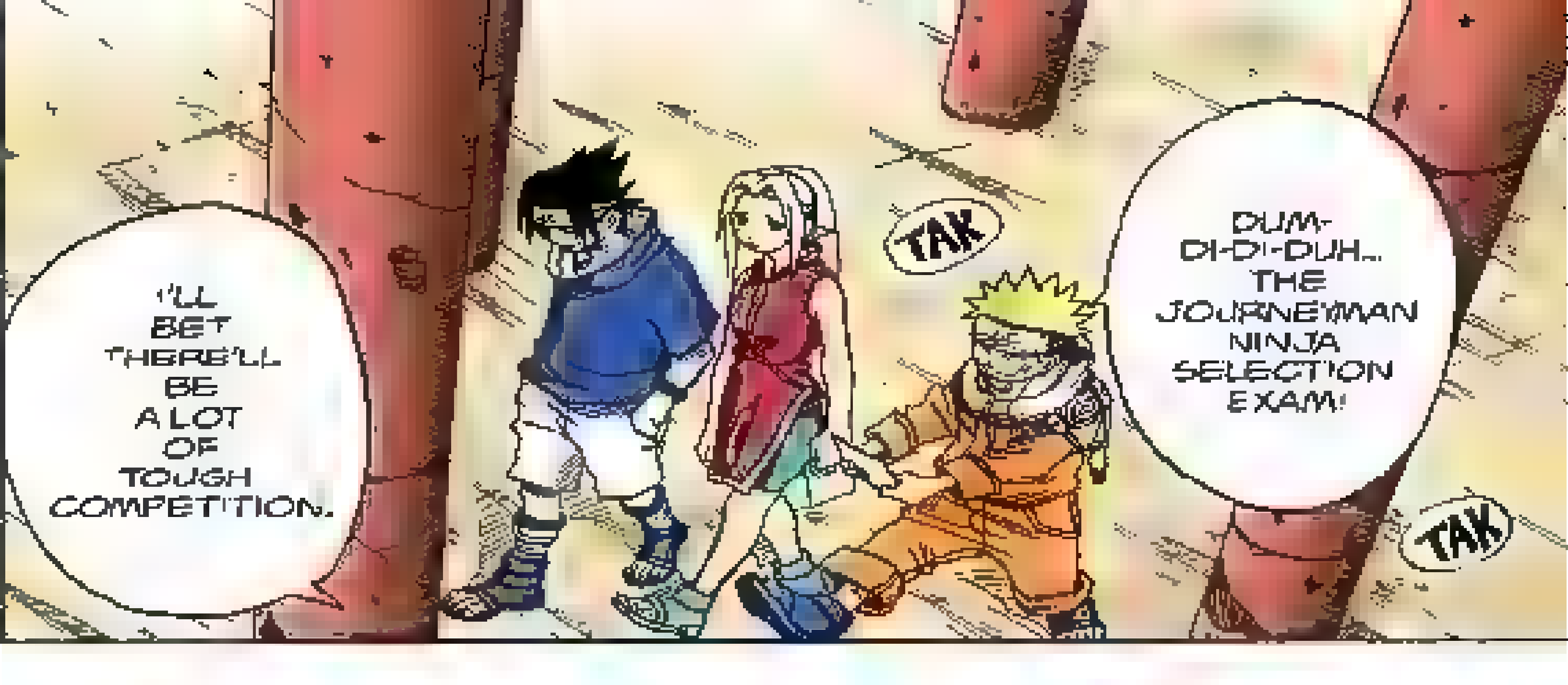


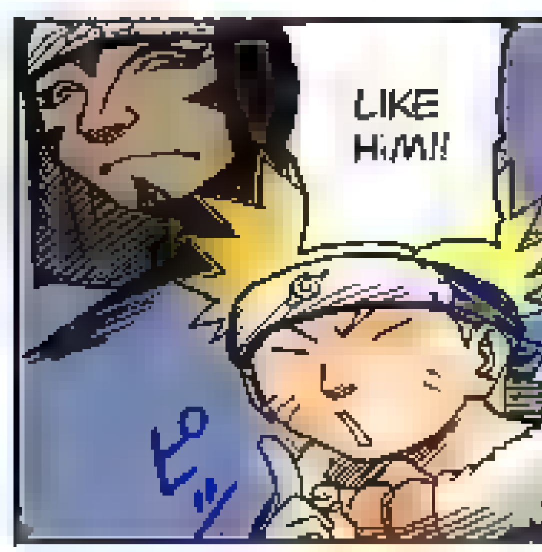
YOU HAVE TO FILL OUT APPLICATIONS.

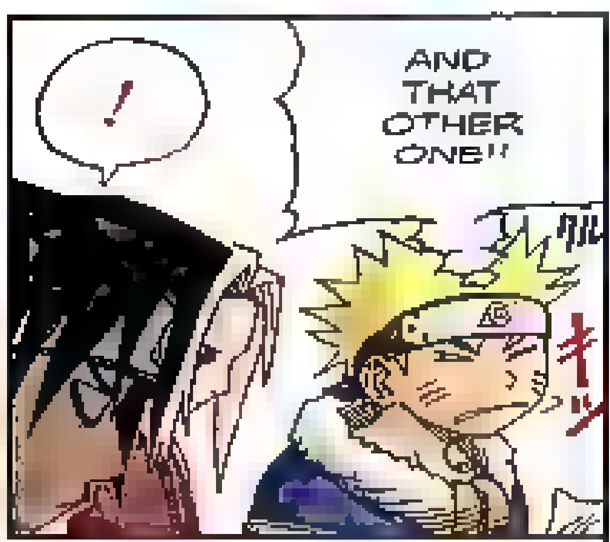

HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH

MASTER KAKASHI, I LOVE YOU!!
GET OFF.. YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME!
...

IF YOU DO, REPORT TO ROOM 301 AT THE SCHOOL BY 4:00 TOMORROW AFTERNOON.
YOU NEEDN'T TURN IN THOSE APPLICATION FORMS UNLESS YOU WANT TO.

IF ANY OF YOU DON'T WISH TO COMPETE, THE EXAM IS ENT RELY VOLUNTARY.
THE CHO CE IS YOURS.


THAT'S ALL!

OLORED
ANGA.COM

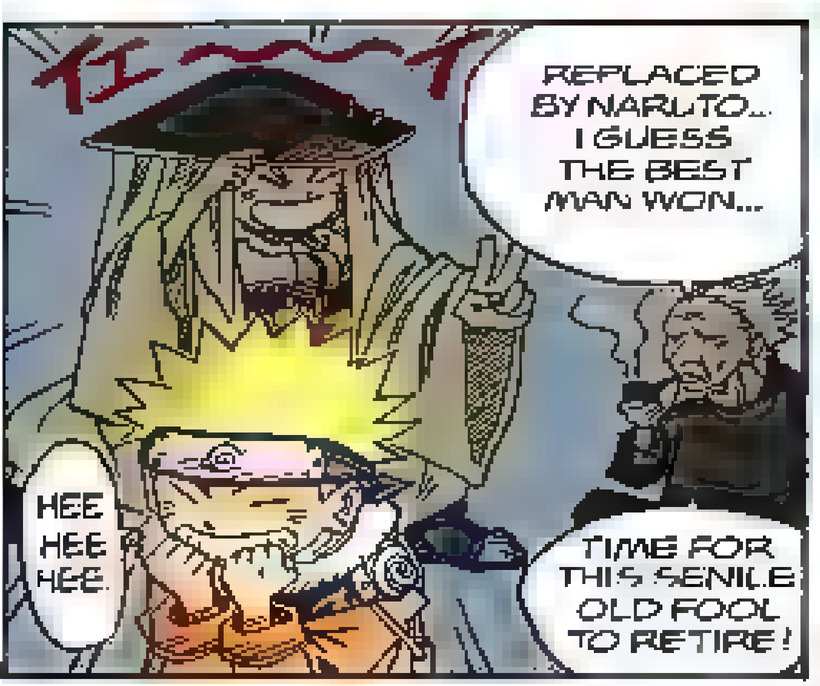

DUM-DI-DI-DUH... THE JOURNEYMAN NINJA SELECTION EXAM!
TAK
TAK
I'LL BET THERE'LL BE A LOT OF TOUGH COMPETITION.


LIKE HIM!!

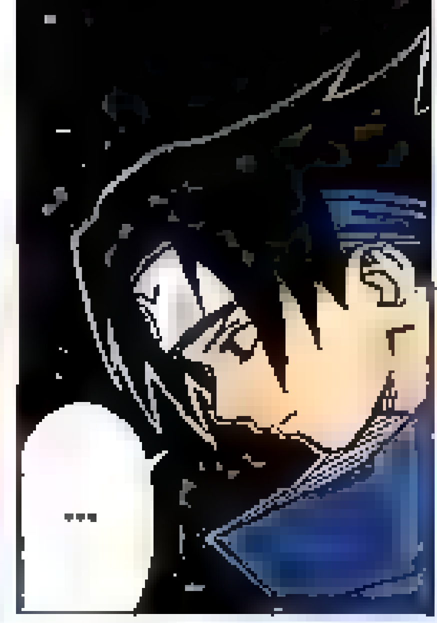

AND THAT OTHER ONE!!
!

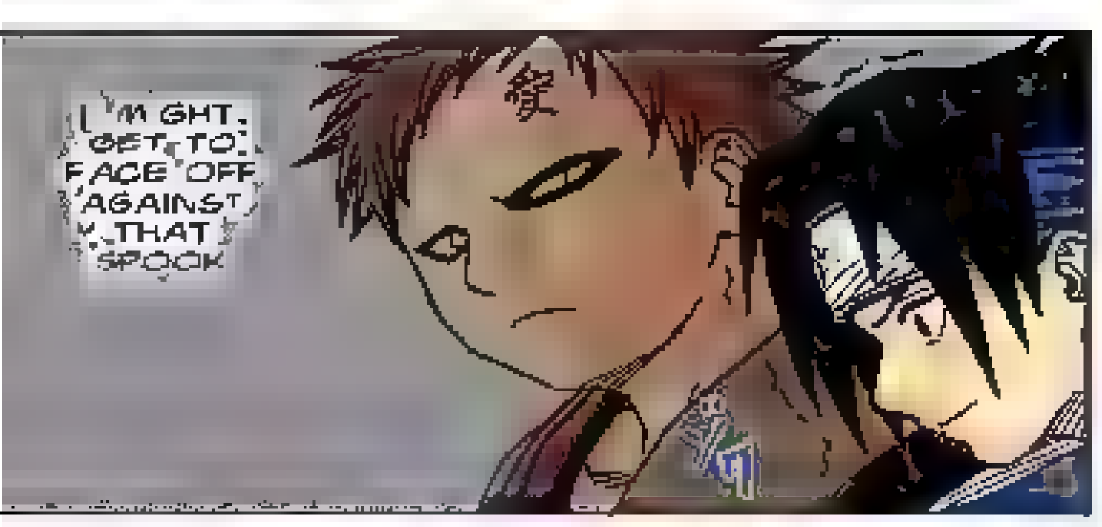

SWEAR, I AM NOT GONNA LET ANYONE BEAT ME!!


...IF I COULD WIN SOMETHING THIS BIG...
IT'D BE SMOOTH SAILING TO BECOME THE NEXT "LORD" HOKAGE!
2


REPLACED BY NARUTO... I GUESS THE BEST MAN WON...
TIME FOR THIS SENILE OLD FOOL TO RETIRE!
HEE HEE HEE.




...

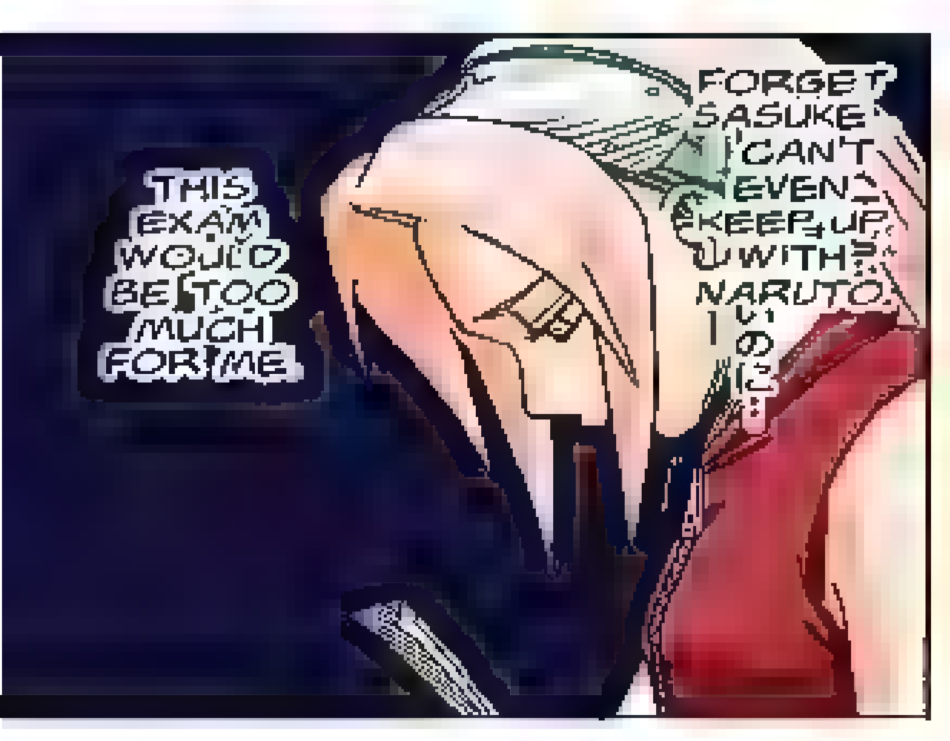

I MIGHT GET TO FACE OFF AGAINST THAT SPOOK


HAH!


...
A-DI-DI-DA

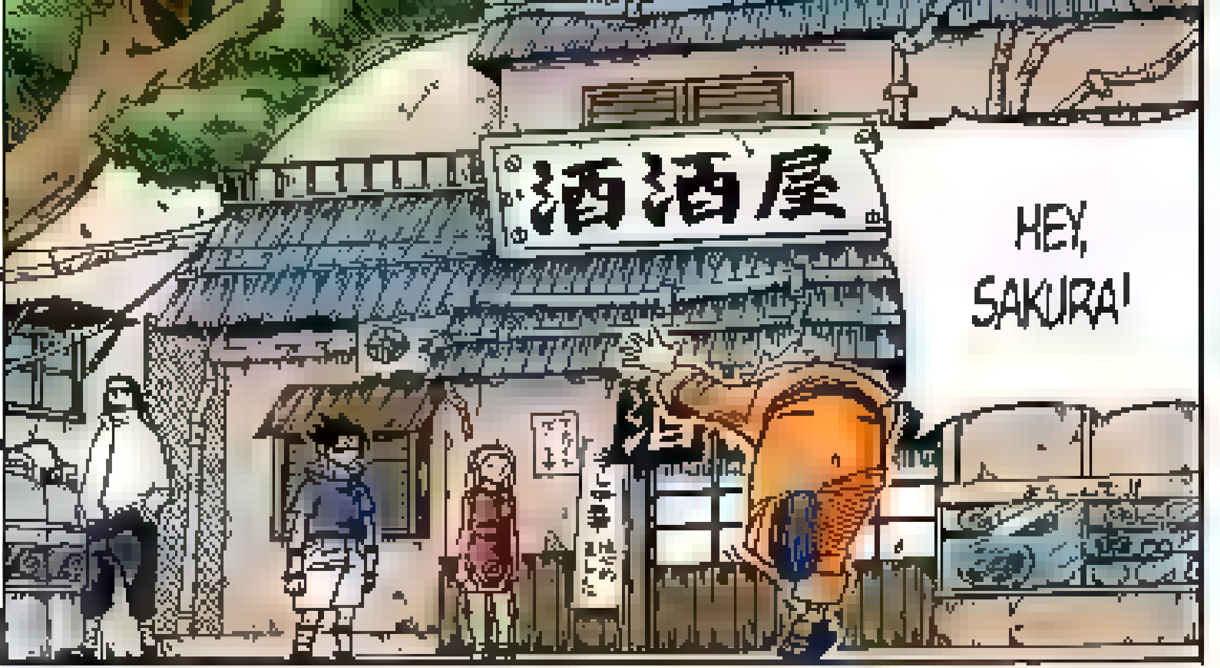

...


...DON'T WANT TO

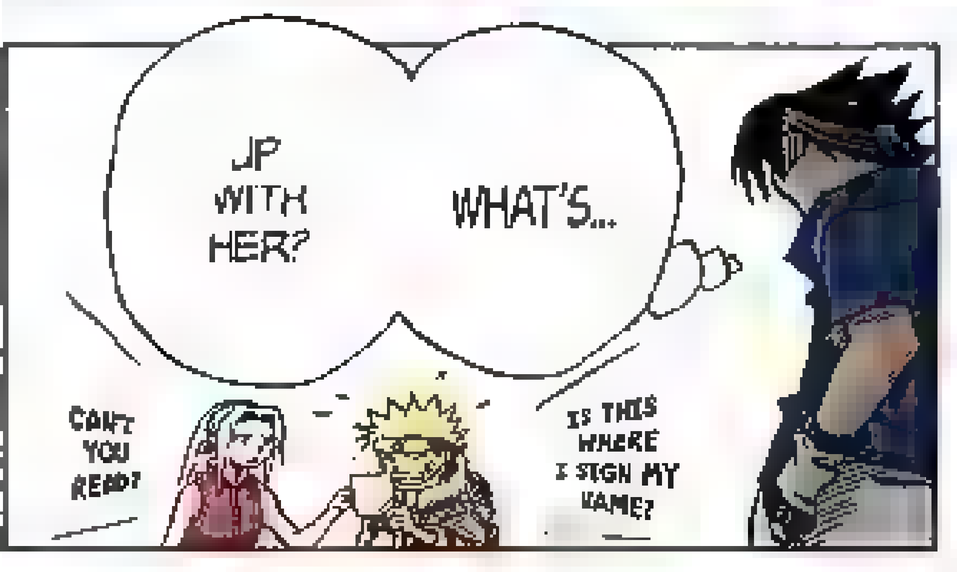

FORGET SASUKE I CAN'T EVEN KEEP UP WITH NARUTO
THIS EXAM WOULD BE TOO MUCH FOR ME

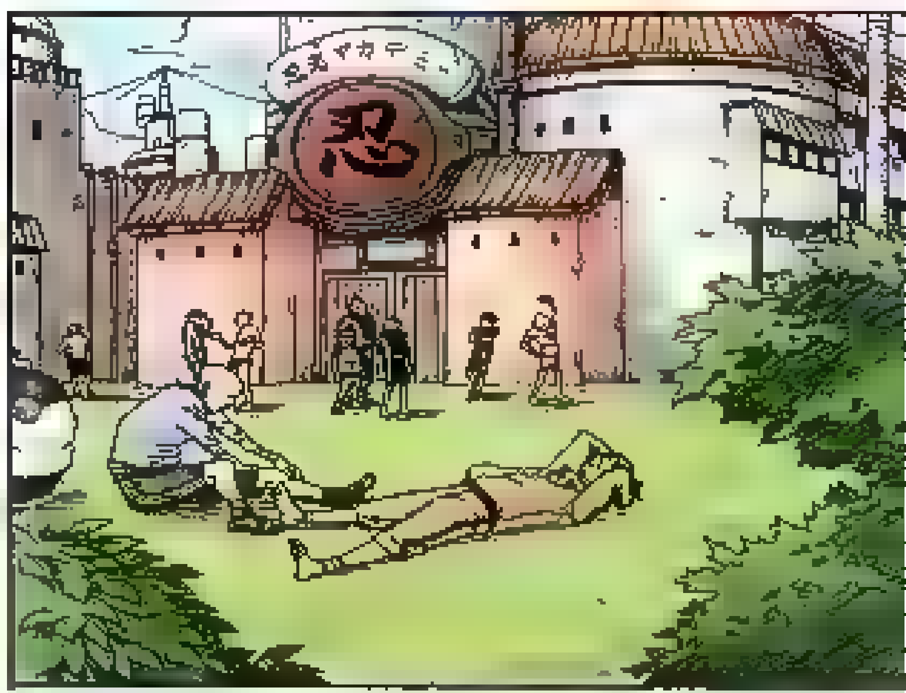


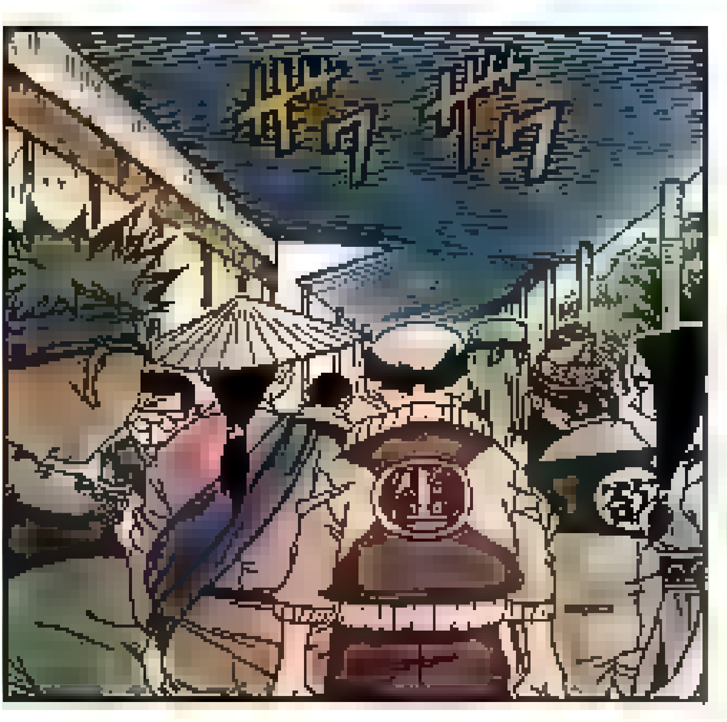

THE NEXT DAY...


酒酒屋
HEY, SAKURA!

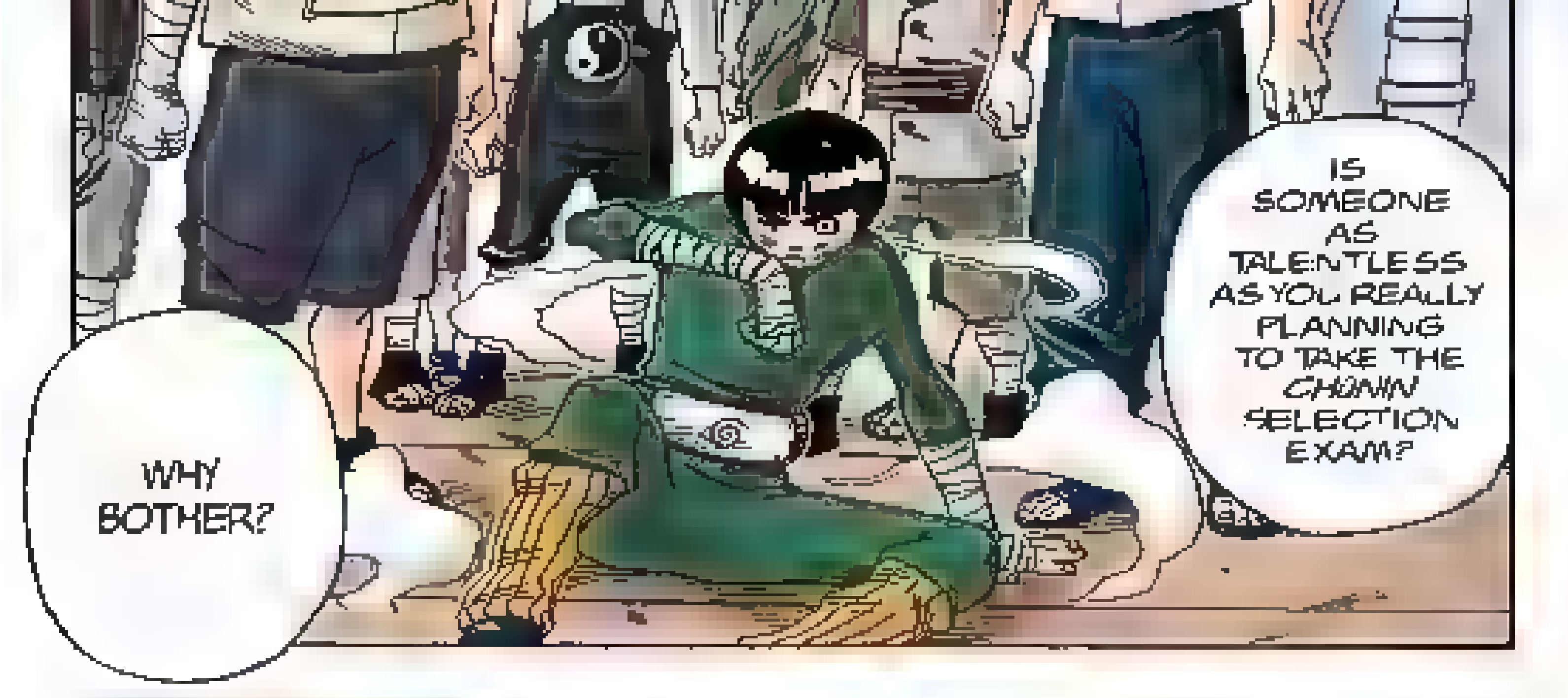

UH... HI.
...

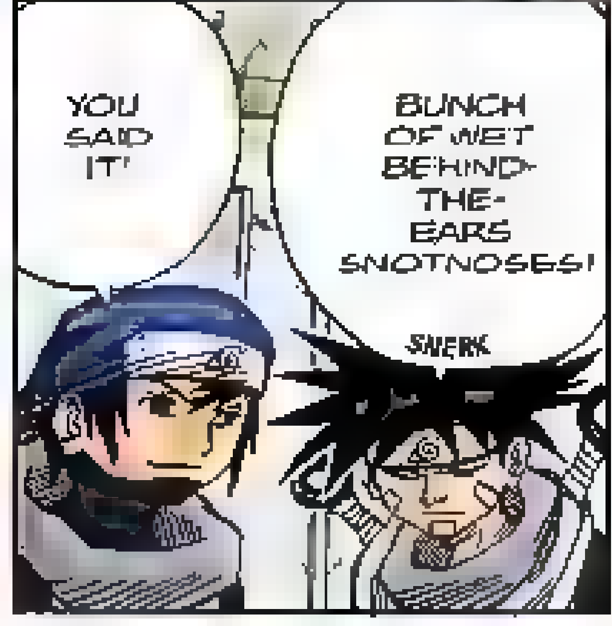

WHAT'S...
UP WITH HER?
IS THIS WHERE I SIGN MY NAME?
CAN'T YOU READ?



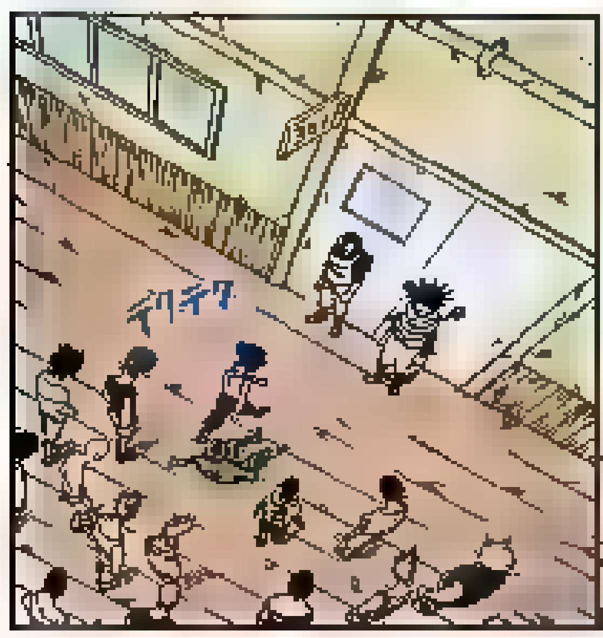





IS SOMEONE AS TALENTLESS AS YOU REALLY PLANNING TO TAKE THE CHŪNIN SELECTION EXAM?
WHY BOTHER?


BUNCH OF WET-BEHIND-THE-EARS SNOTNOSES!
SNERK
YOU SAID IT!


PLEASE... WE'RE BEGGING YOU... LET US IN

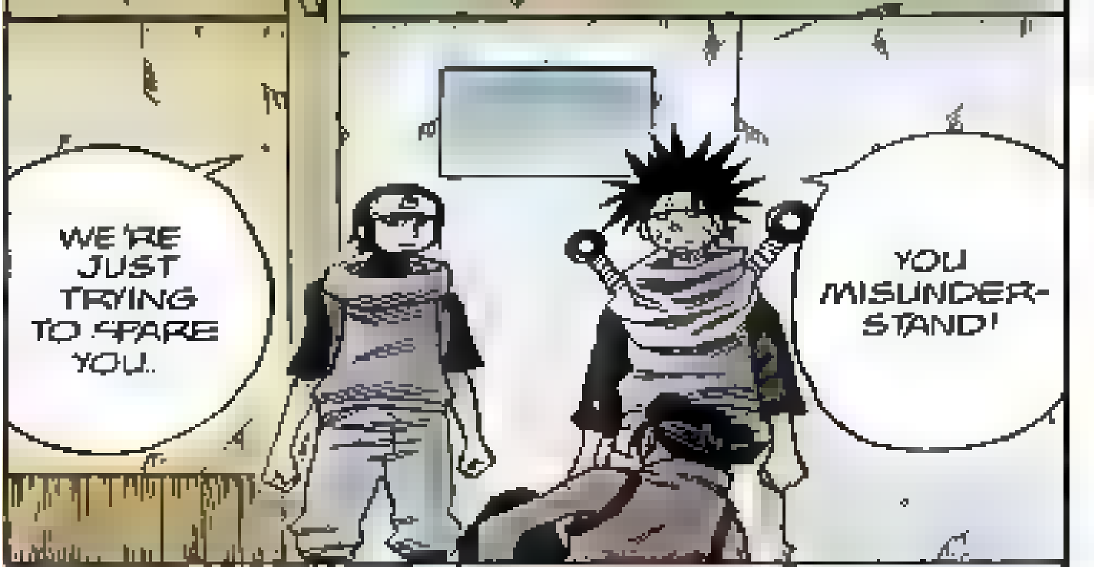



301
ドカ


!!
UHN-

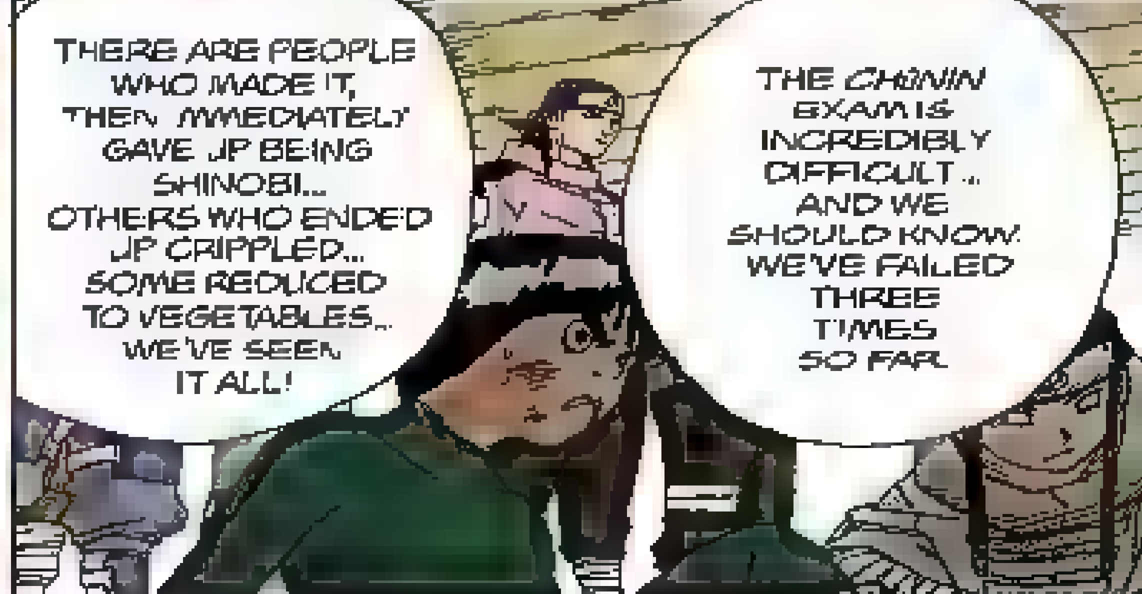

...THAT'S JUST CRUEL...!



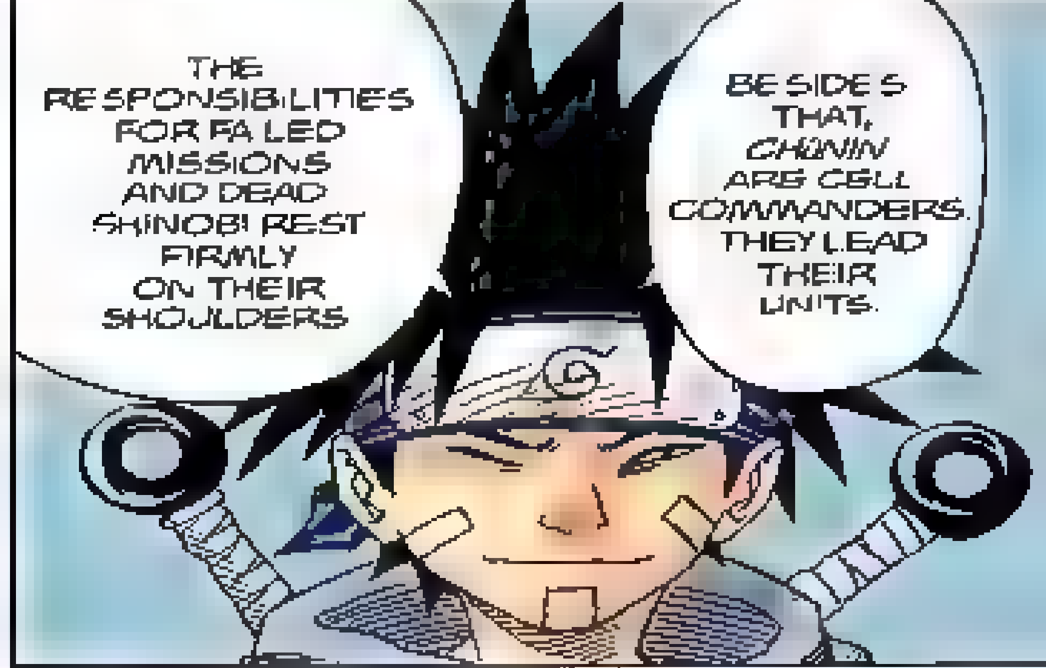

YOU MISUNDERSTAND!
WE'RE JUST TRYING TO SPARE YOU..


WHAT DID YOU SAY?

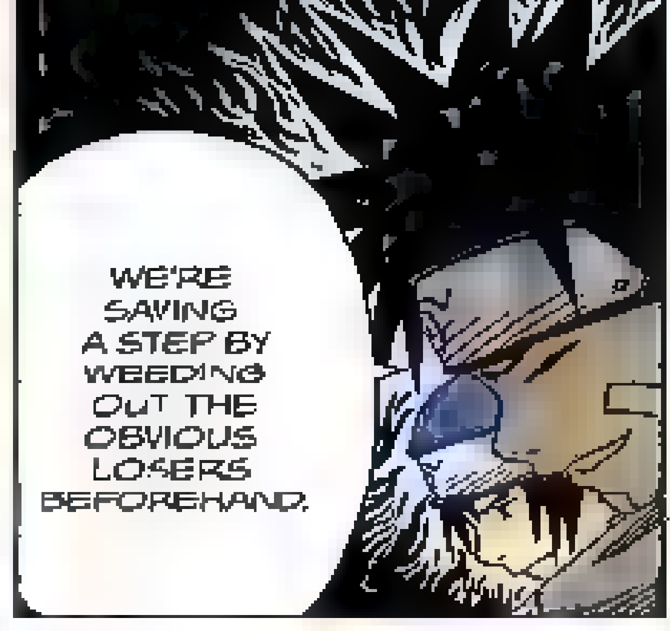

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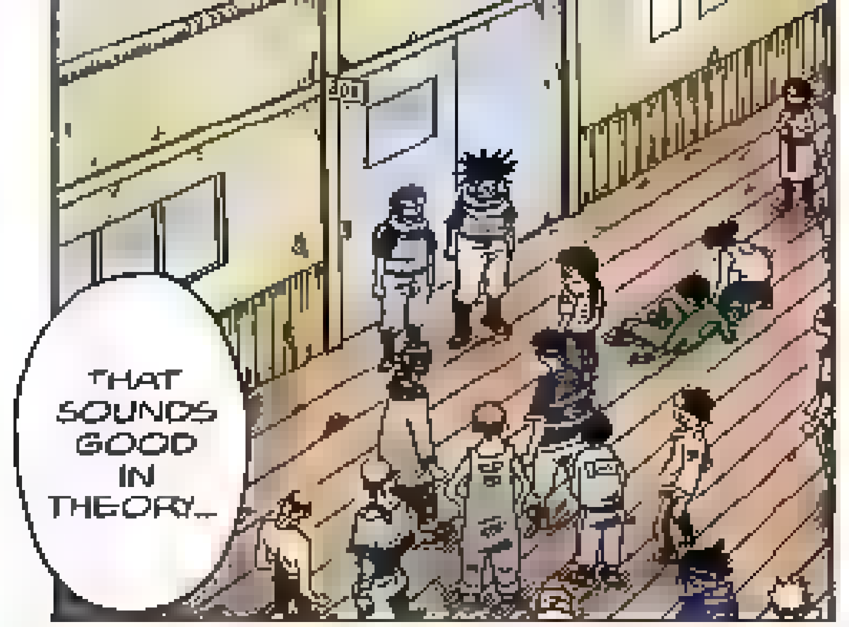

THE CHŪNIN EXAM IS INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT... AND WE SHOULD KNOW. WE'VE FAILED THREE TIMES SO FAR.
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO MADE IT, THEN IMMEDIATELY GAVE UP BEING SHINOBI... OTHERS WHO ENDED UP CRIPPLED... SOME REDUCED TO VEGETABLES... WE'VE SEEN IT ALL!

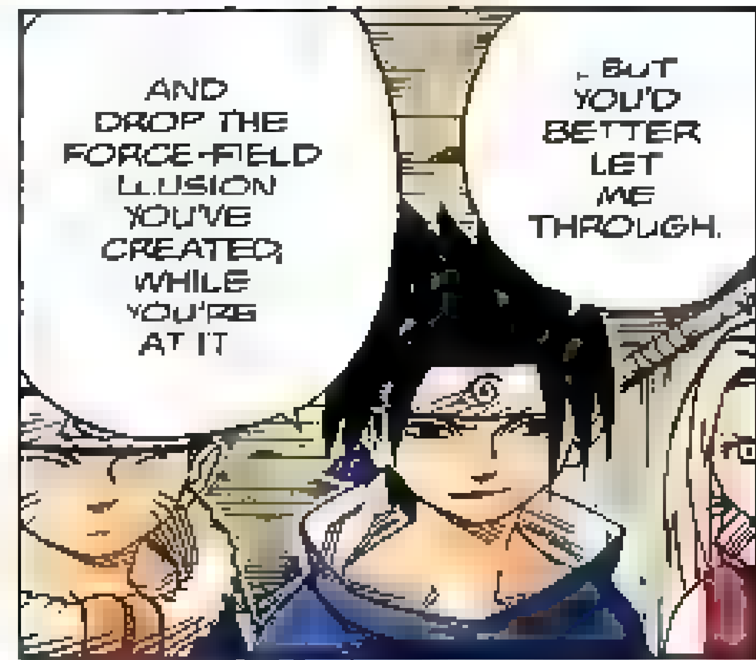

AND YOU LITTLE PUNKS HAVE THE NERVE TO APPLY?
SNORT

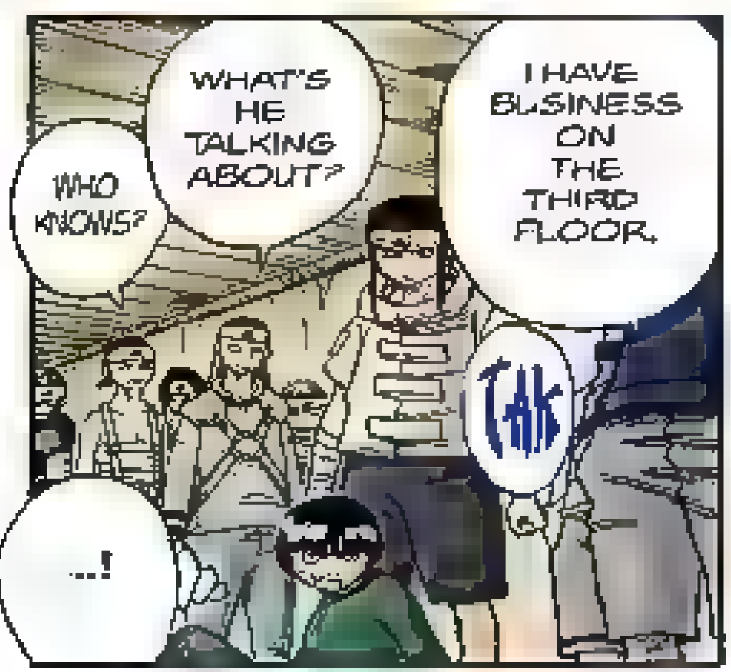

BESIDES THAT, CHŪNIN ARE CELL COMMANDERS. THEY LEAD THEIR UNITS.
THE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FAILED MISSIONS AND DEAD SHINOBI REST FIRMLY ON THEIR SHOULDERS

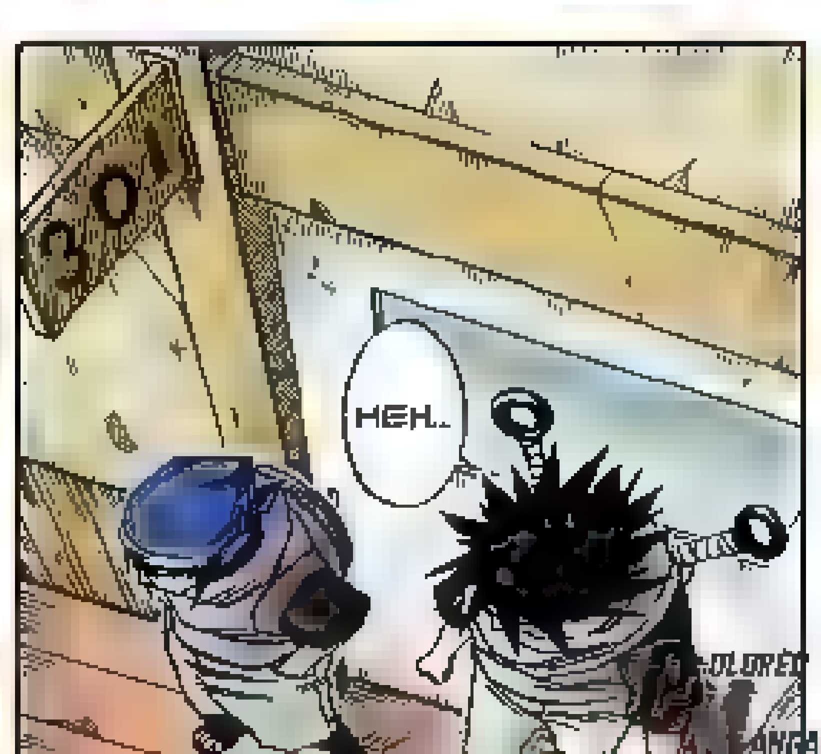


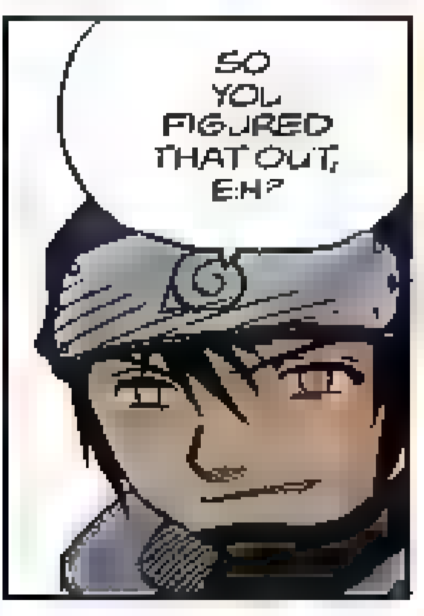

WE'RE SAVING A STEP BY WEEDING OUT THE OBVIOUS LOSERS BEFOREHAND.

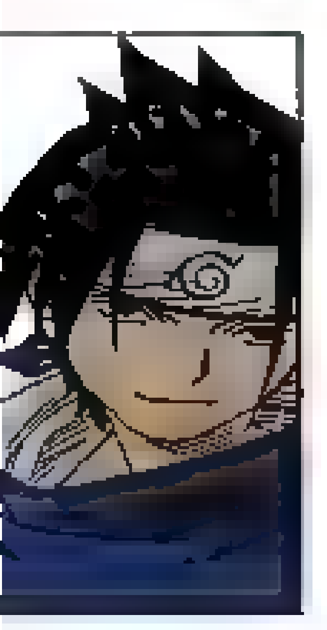

THAT SOUNDS GOOD IN THEORY...

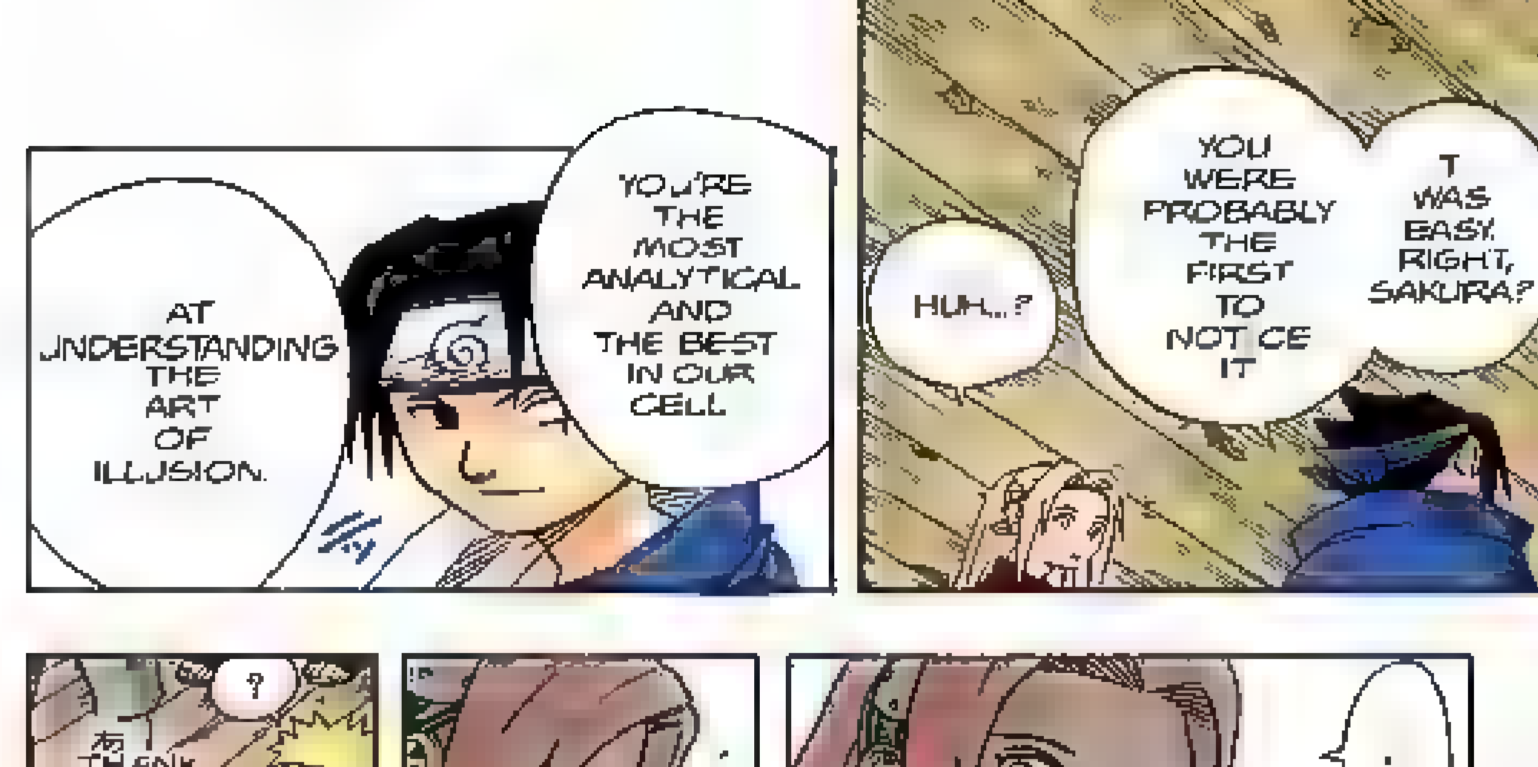

...BUT YOU'D BETTER LET ME THROUGH.
AND DROP THE FORCE-FIELD ILLUSION YOU'VE CREATED, WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.


I HAVE BUSINESS ON THE THIRD FLOOR.
WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?
WHO KNOWS?
TAK
...!


301
HEH..


SO YOU FIGURED THAT OUT, EH?




T WAS EASY, RIGHT, SAKURA?
YOU WERE PROBABLY THE FIRST TO NOTICE IT
HUH...?
YOU'RE THE MOST ANALYTICAL AND THE BEST IN OUR CELL
AT UNDERSTANDING THE ART OF ILLUSION.
SASUKE...
?
...THANK YOU.
HEH.
OF COURSE I NOTICED IT.
OBVIOUSLY, WE'RE STILL ON THE SECOND FLOOR.

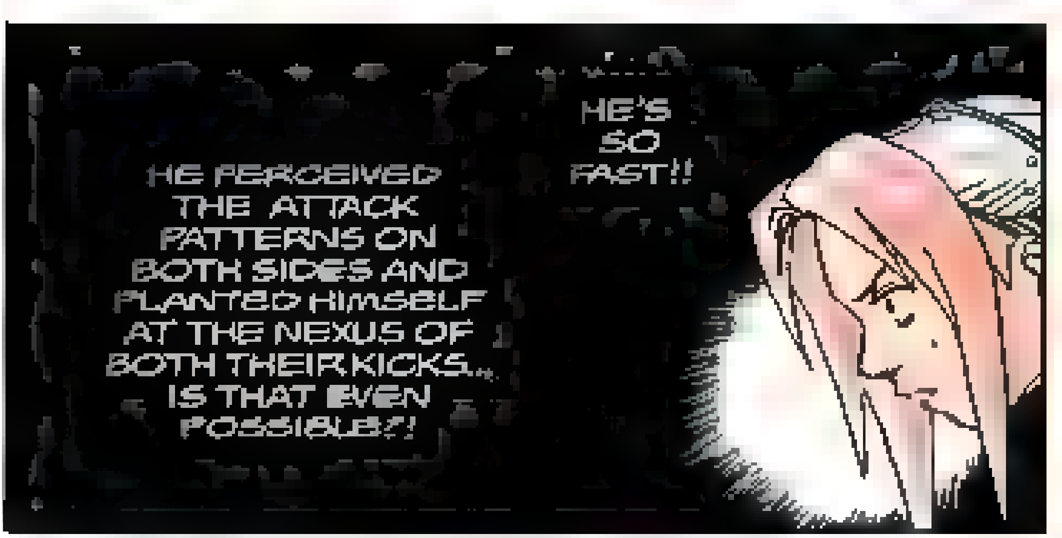

20!


30!

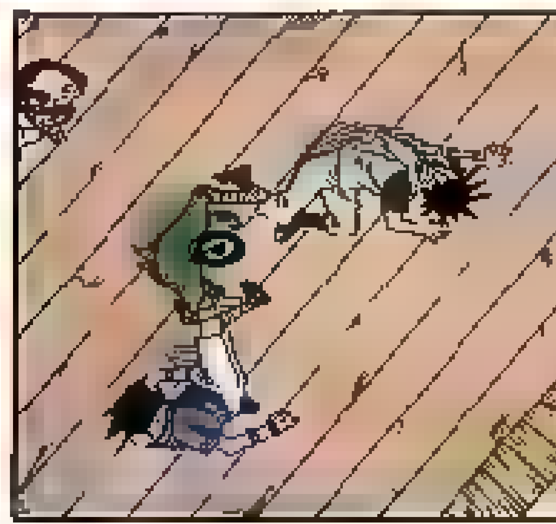



!!



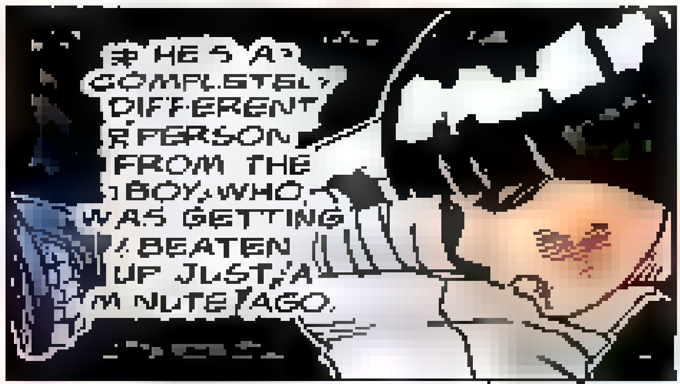


HE'S SO FAST!!
HE PERCEIVED THE ATTACK PATTERNS ON BOTH SIDES AND PLANTED HIMSELF AT THE NEXUS OF BOTH THEIR KICKS... IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?!





FWWD
ガク



HE'S A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON FROM THE BOY WHO WAS GETTING BEATEN UP JUST A MINUTE AGO.

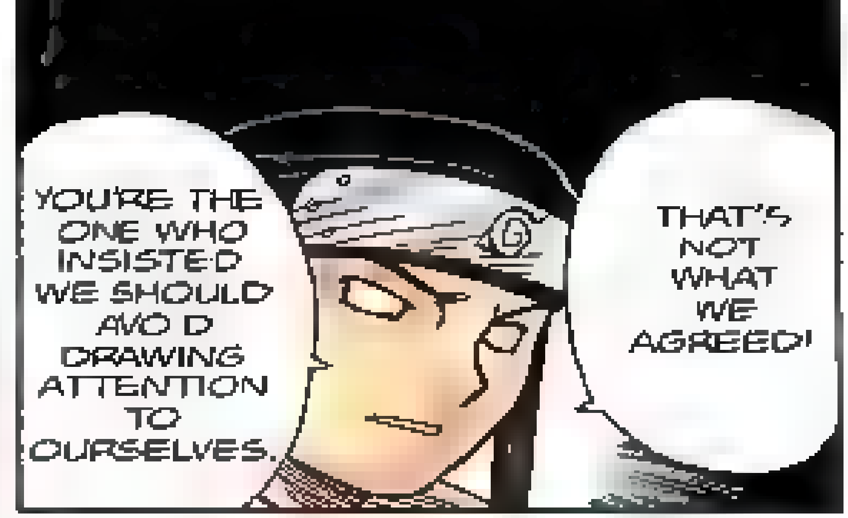


WHEW
HEY...

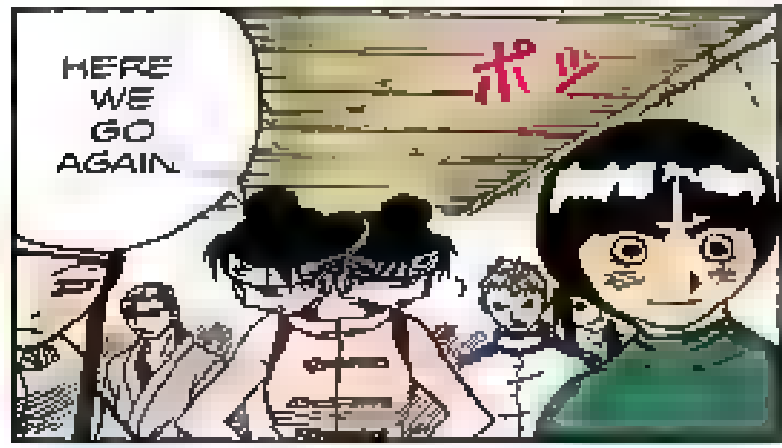


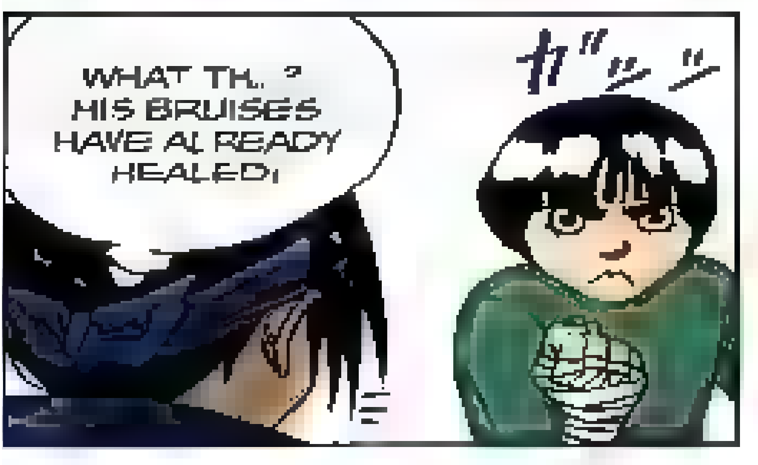
HE BLOCKED MY KICK.
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT HIS CHAKRA.

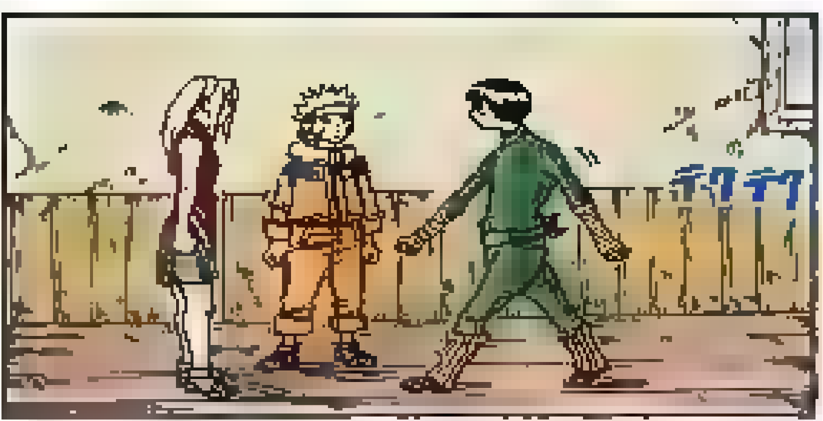


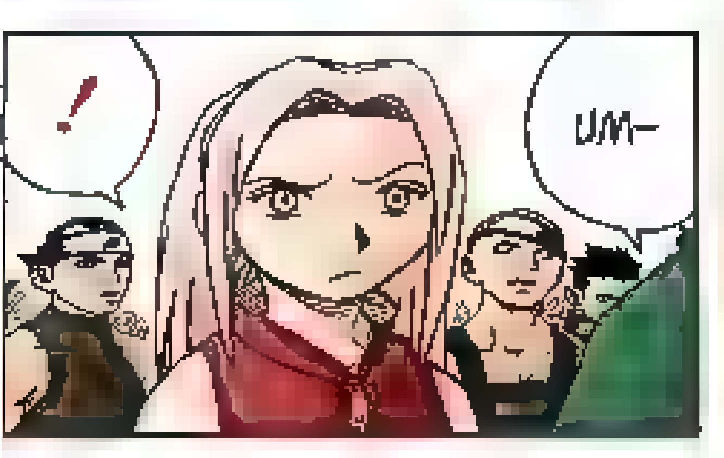

THAT'S NOT WHAT WE AGREED!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO INSISTED WE SHOULD AVO D DRAWING ATTENTION TO OURSELVES.

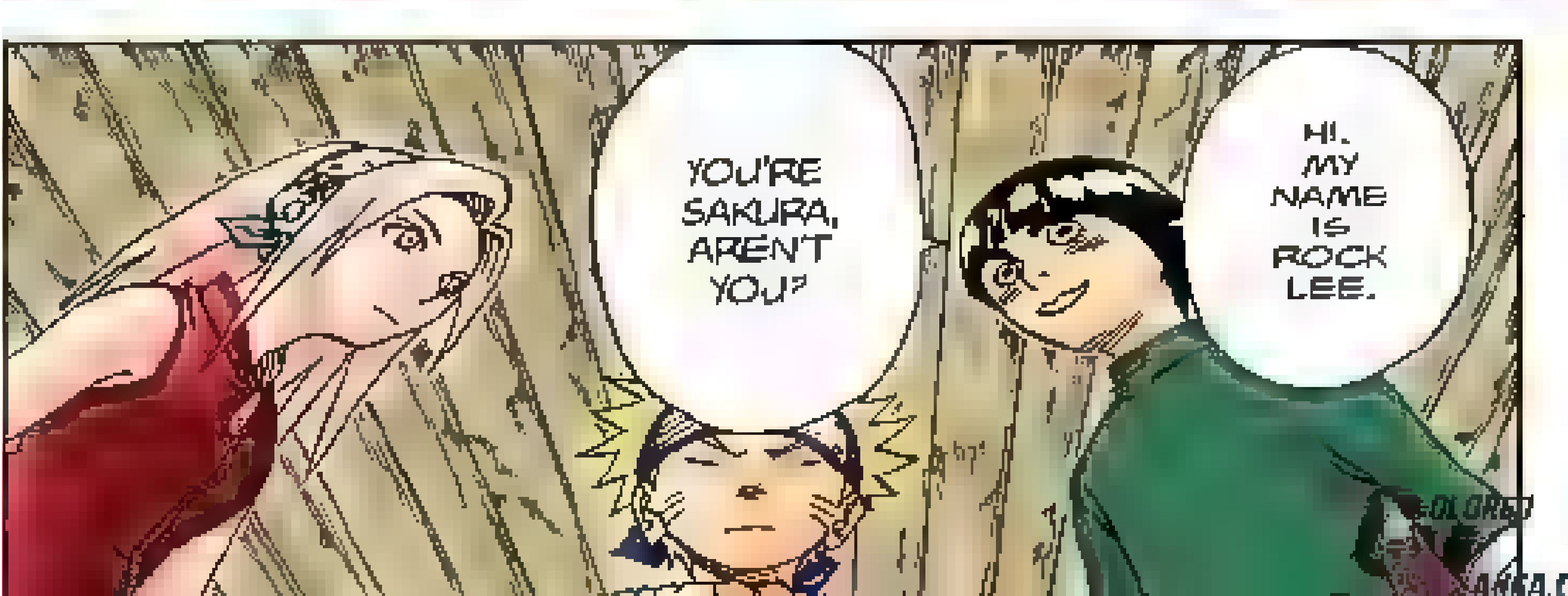

...B... BUT...
!


ポッ
HERE WE GO AGAIN.

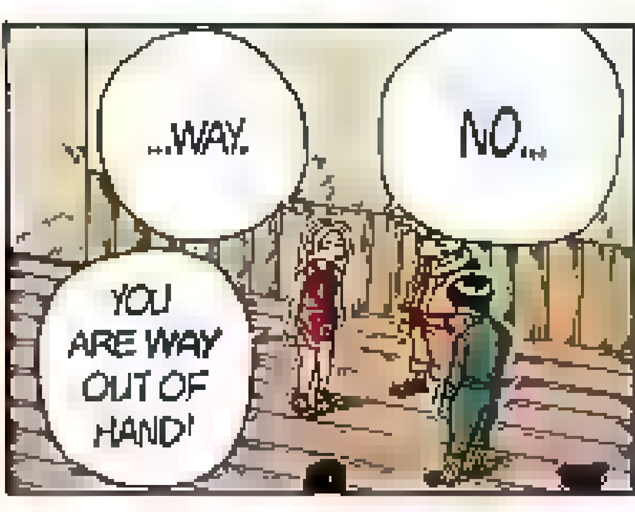

WHAT TH...? HIS BRUISES HAVE ALREADY HEALED!

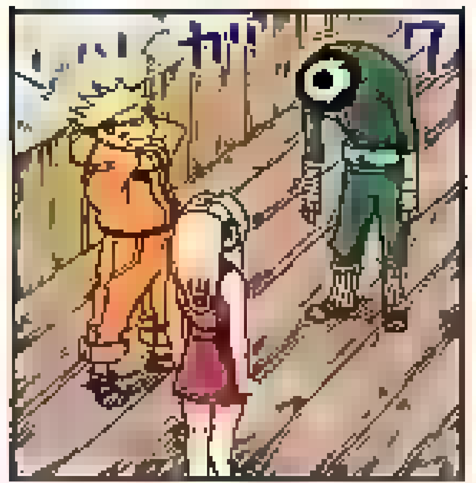

テクテク


UM–
!

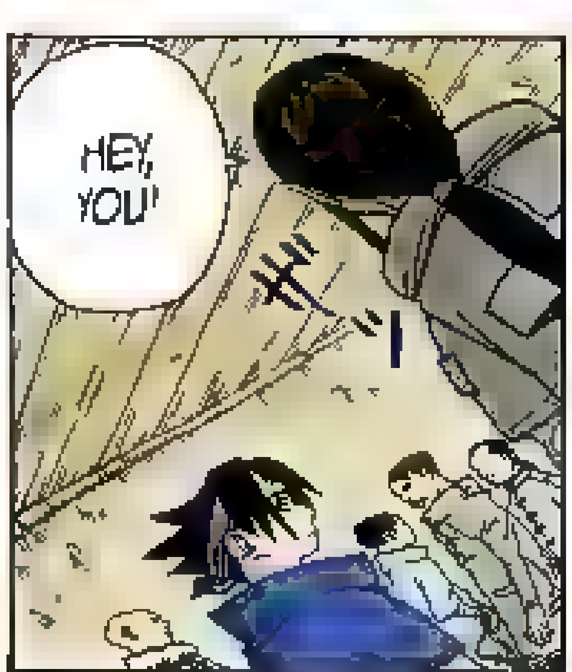

HI. MY NAME IS ROCK LEE.
YOU'RE SAKURA, AREN'T YOU?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO OUT WITH ME?
I'LL PROTECT YOU WITH MY LIFE!


NO...
...WAY.
YOU ARE WAY OUT OF HAND!

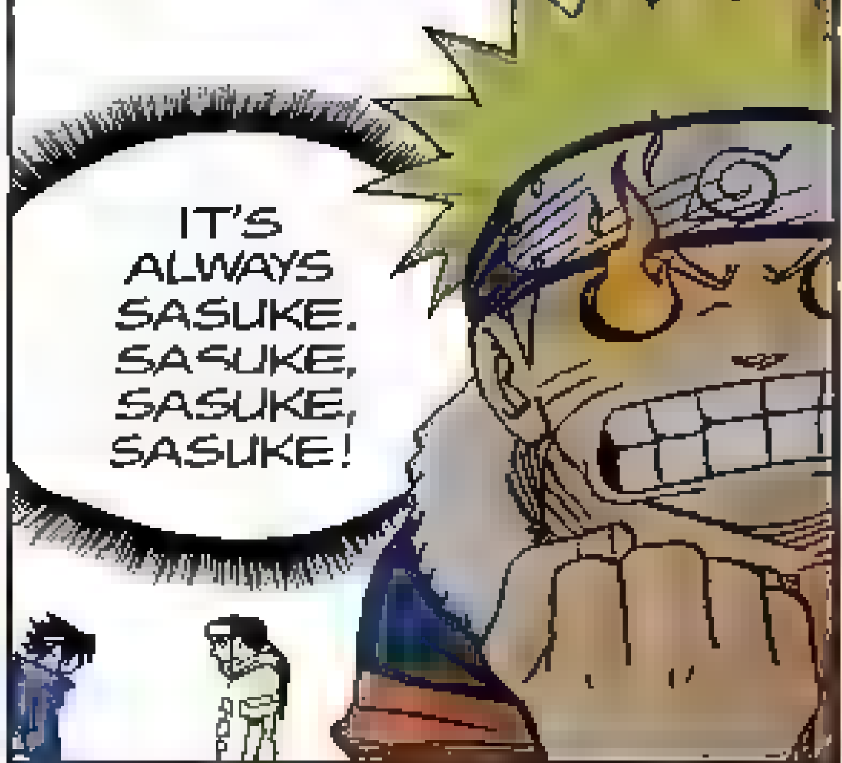




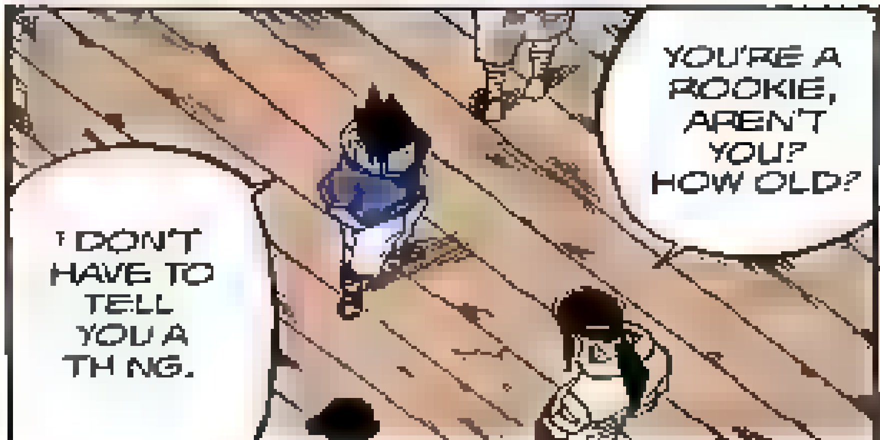

HEY, YOU!


WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

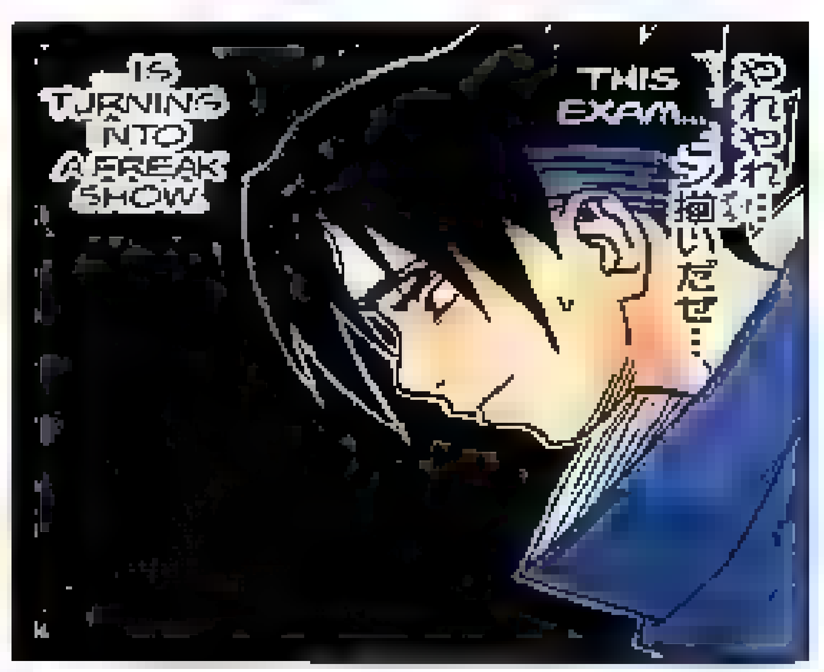

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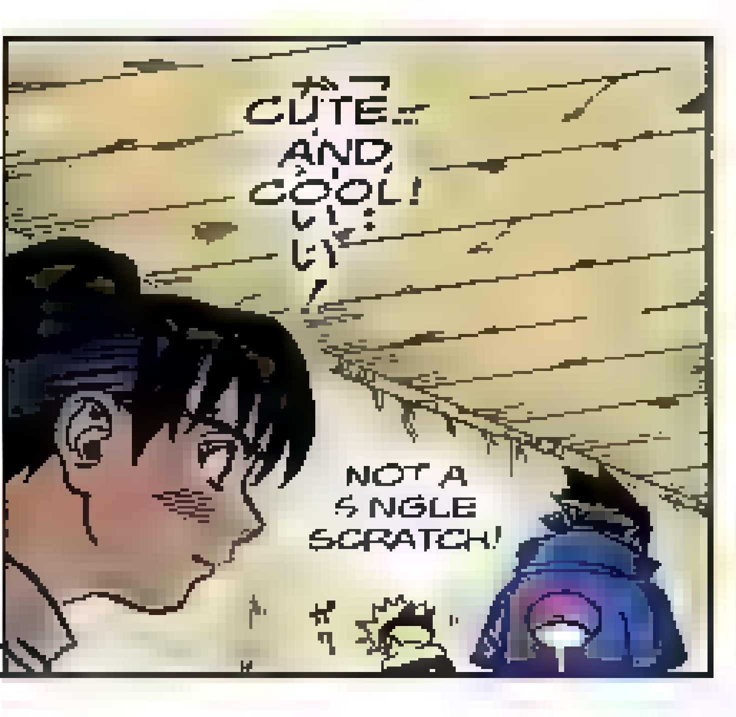

IT'S ALWAYS SASUKE. SASUKE, SASUKE, SASUKE!


T'S COMMON COURTESY TO GIVE YOUR OWN NAME FIRST.

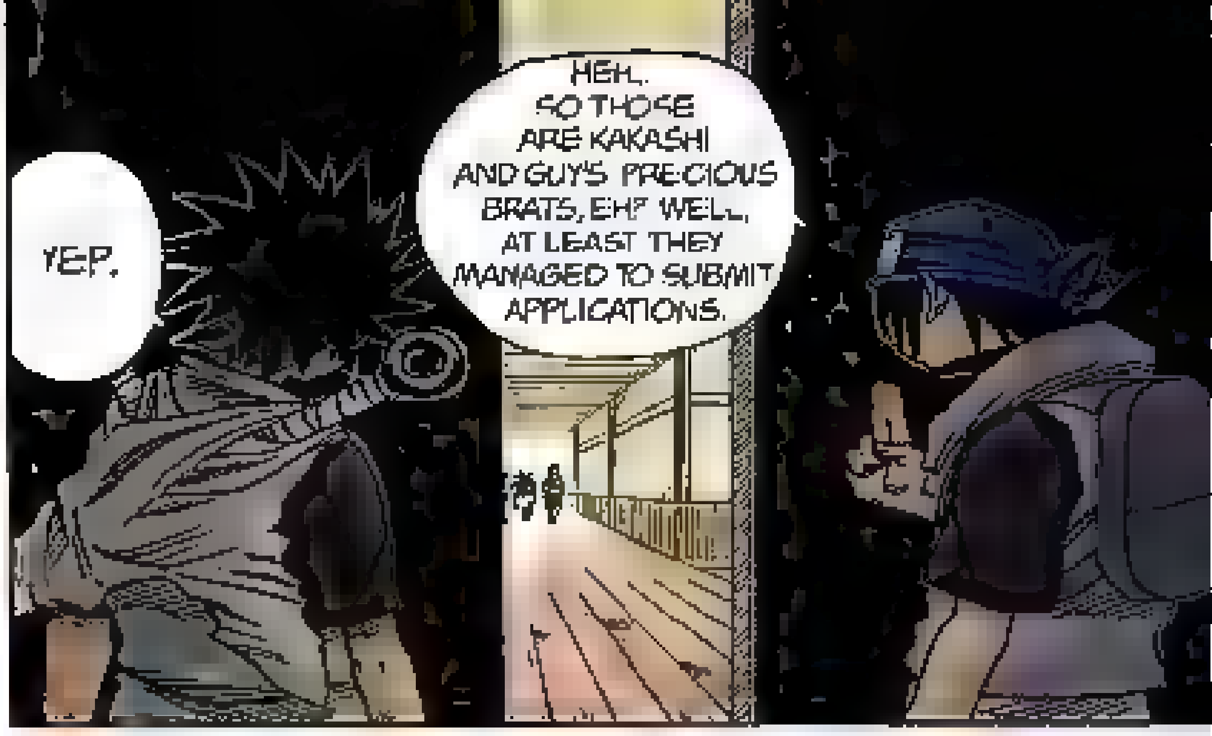

YOU'RE A ROOKIE, AREN'T YOU? HOW OLD?
I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU A TH NG.



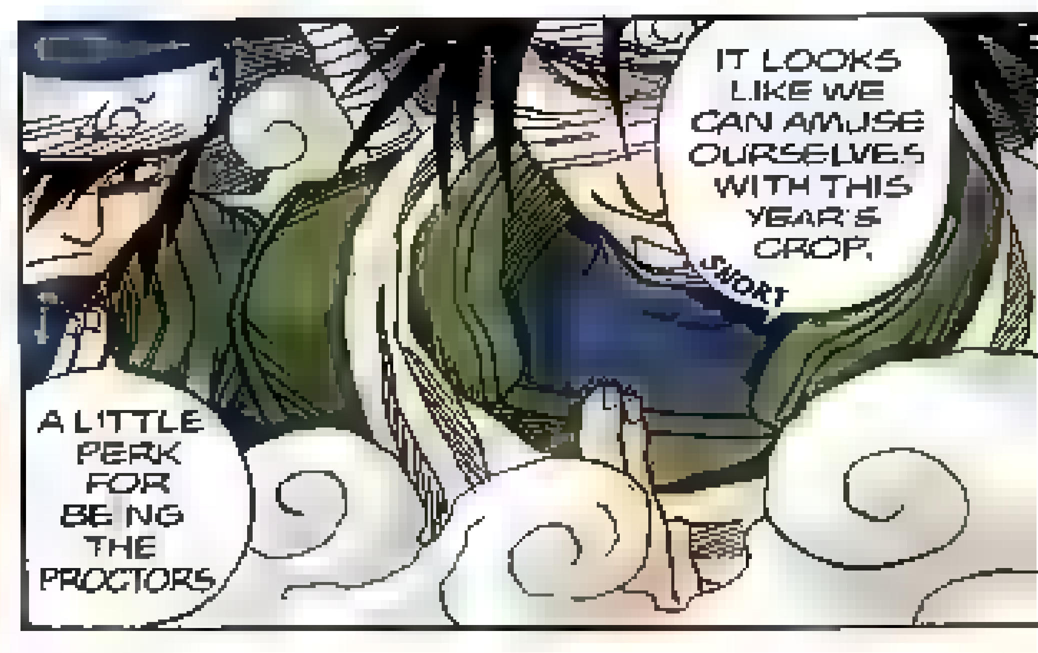

THIS EXAM...
IS TURNING INTO A FREAK SHOW.

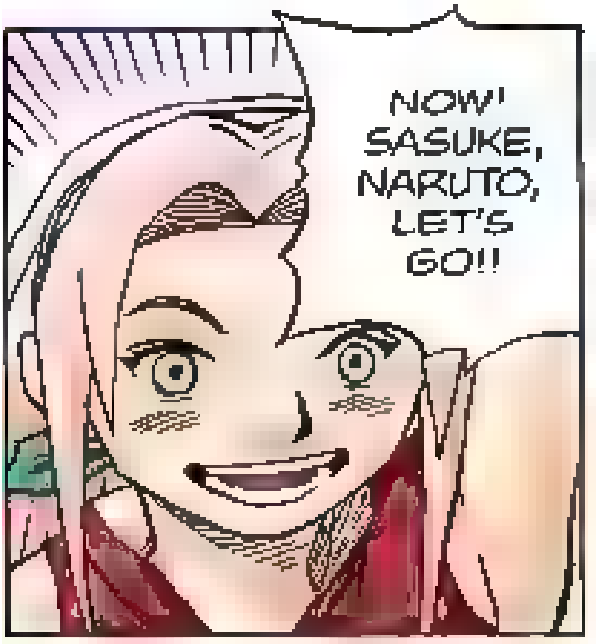

CUTE... AND COOL!
NOT A SINGLE SCRATCH!

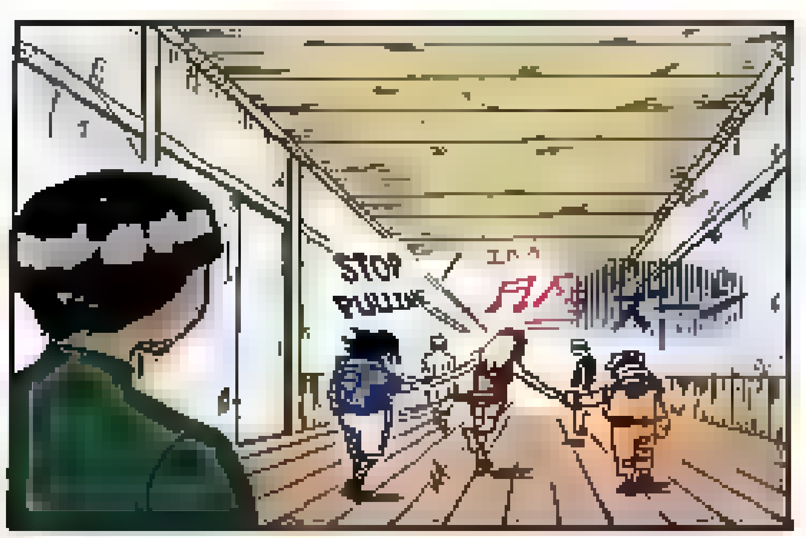

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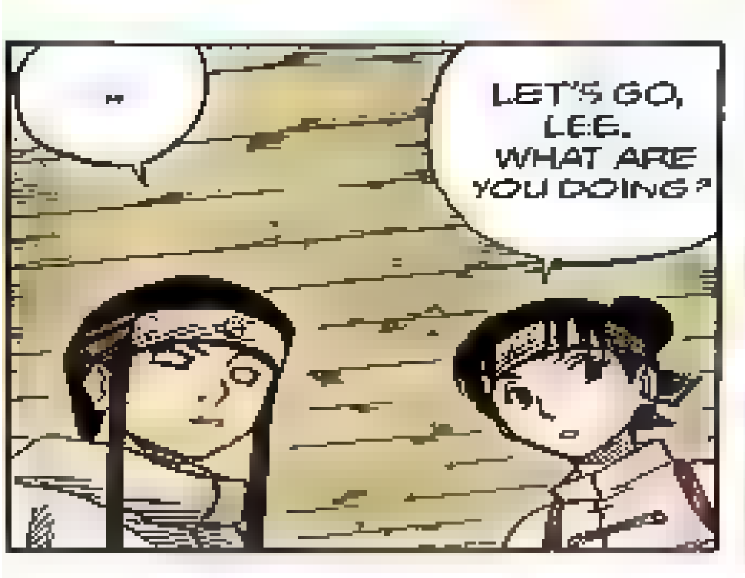

HEH. SO THOSE ARE KAKASHI AND GUY'S PRECIOUS BRATS, EH? WELL, AT LEAST THEY MANAGED TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS.
YEP.

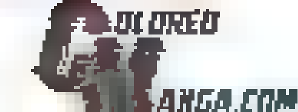

ポン


IT LOOKS LIKE WE CAN AMUSE OURSELVES WITH THIS YEAR'S CROP.
SHORT
A LITTLE PERK FOR BEING THE PROCTORS.


NOW! SASUKE, NARUTO, LET'S GO!!

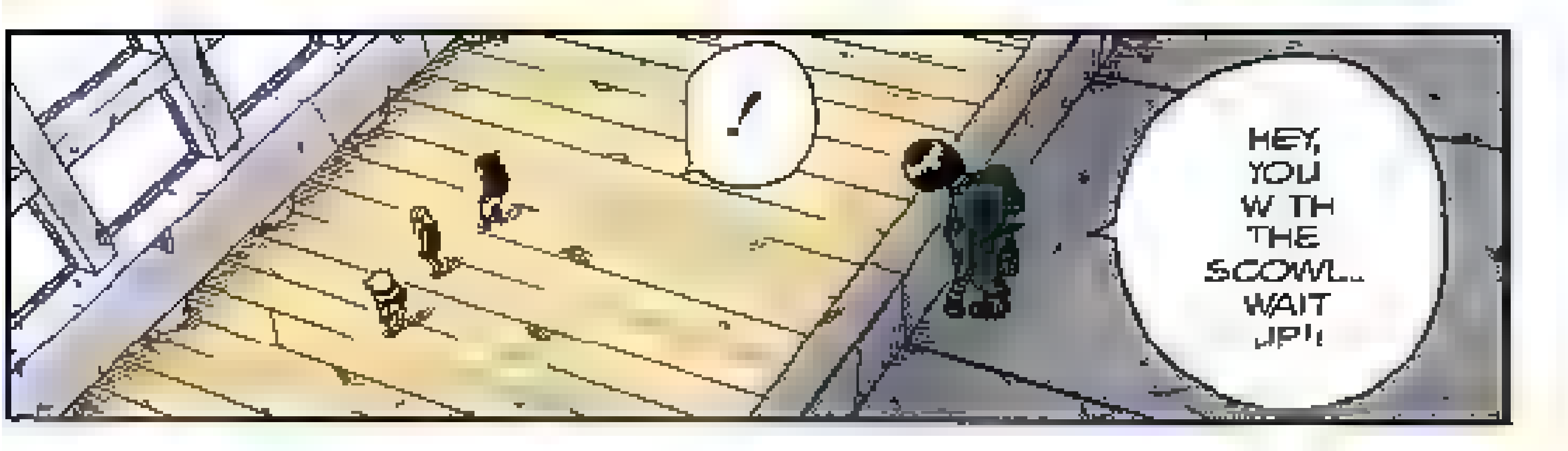

STOP PULLING

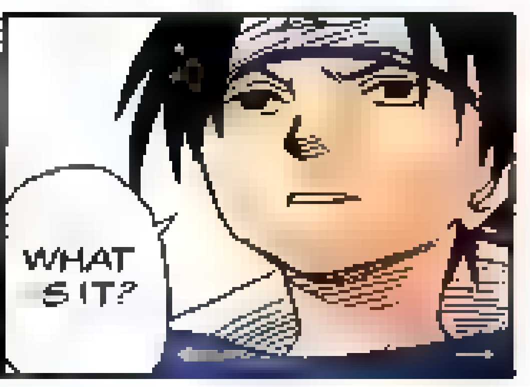

LET'S GO, LEE. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
..



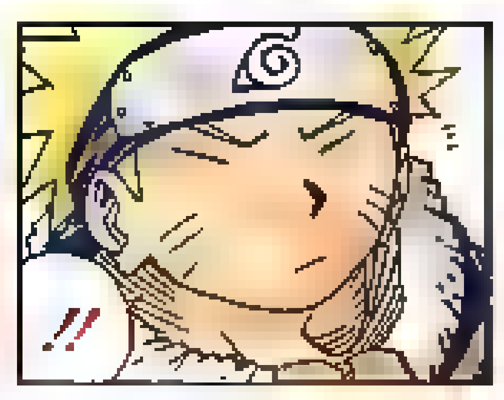


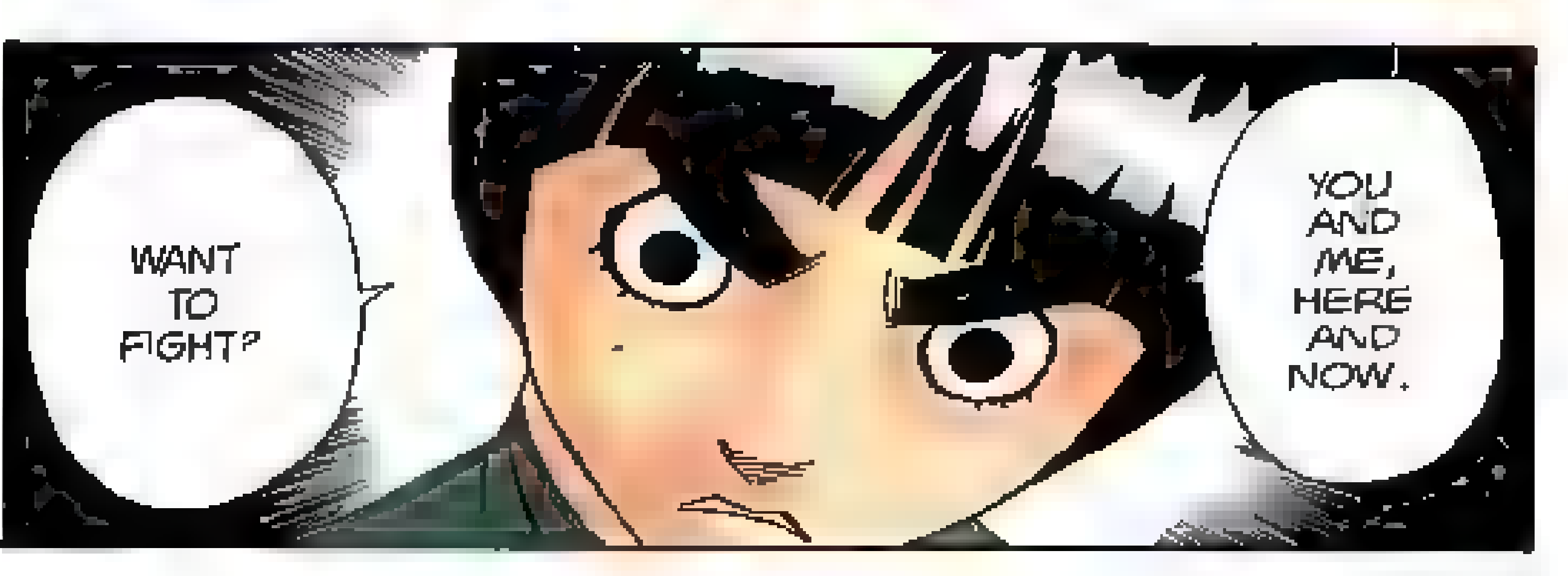

YOU GUYS... GO ON AHEAD
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO CHECK FIRST.


!
HEY, YOU WITH THE SCOWL... WAIT UP!!


WHAT IS IT?

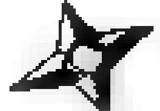

!!
EEP!!

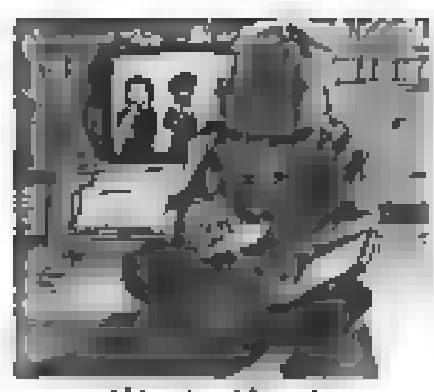

!!


YOU AND ME, HERE AND NOW.
WANT TO FIGHT?


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JUMP COMICS
NARUTO
巻ノ五
NARUTO
ナルト
岸本斉史





岸本斉史

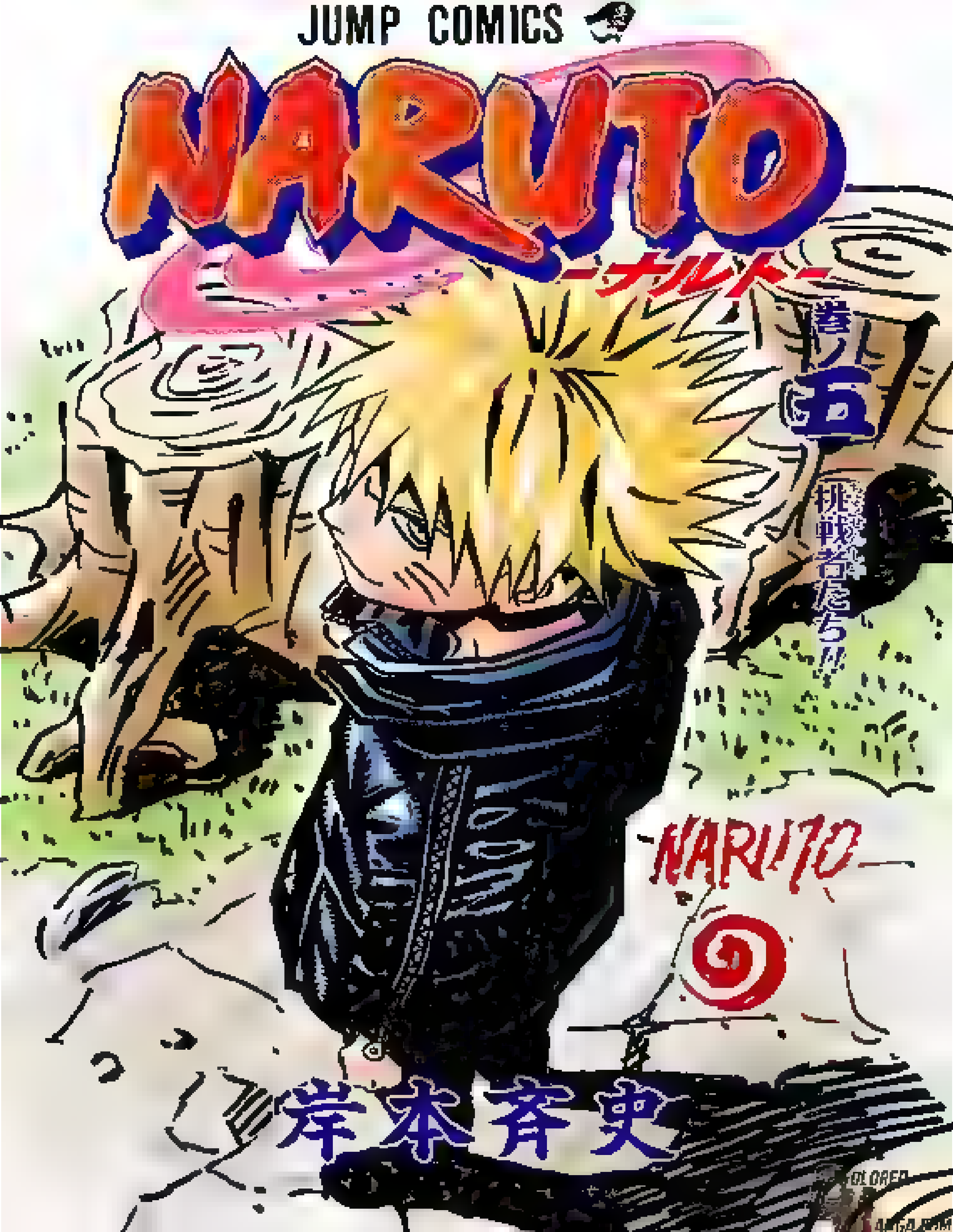
I love movies, so I go see them pretty often. And since I watch movies often, I decided to spend what little money I had to purchase a DVD player. Ho ho ho...now I can enjoy movies with incredibly high image quality and Dolby Digital sound! Or so I thought, except that the movies I wanted to watch hardly ever came out on DVD, so I couldn't watch them anyway.

Recently, however, the popularity of DVDs has finally risen, and more and more DVDs are coming out!! Yes! Except...now I'm so busy drawing manga that I don't have time to watch them, even though I want to! Waah!

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2000

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** ("Mechanism"). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.




JUMP COMICS
NARUTO
ーナルトー
巻ノ五
挑戦者たち!!
NARUTO
岸本斉史



主な登場人物
うちはサスケ
うずまきナルト
ガイ
春野サクラ
日向ネジ
ロック・リー
テンテン
カブト
奈良シカマル
犬塚キバ&赤丸
日向ヒナタ
油女シノ
秋道チョウジ
山中いの

















THE STORY SO FAR

Twelve years ago, a destructive nine-tailed fox spirit attacked the ninja village of Konohagakure The Hokage, or village champion, defeated the fox by sealing its soul into the body of a baby boy. Now that boy, Uzumaki Naruto, has grown up to become a ninja-in-training, learning the art of ninjutsu with his classmates Sakura and Sasuke. Naruto, Sasuke and Sakura have been nominated by their instructor Kakashi to take the Junior Ninja Selection Exams, which they must pass to advance to the next level of ninja training. The village is crawling with student ninja from villages near and far, who are all determined to ace the exams. On their way to turn in the applications, they observe their fellow students' advanced skill and training, and Naruto and his class mates begin to suspect that they're in way over their heads...

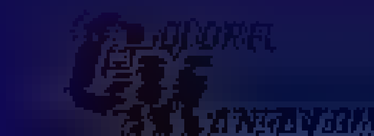




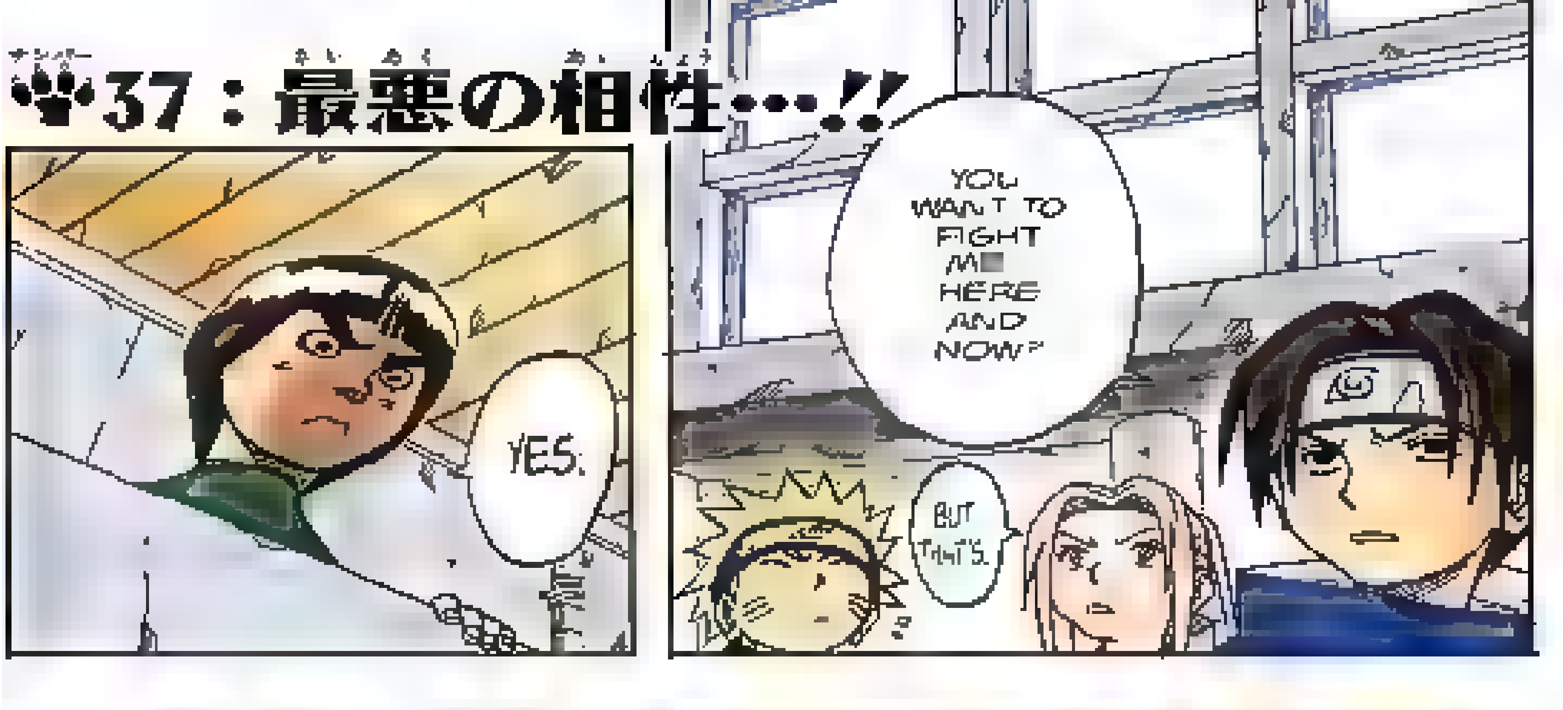


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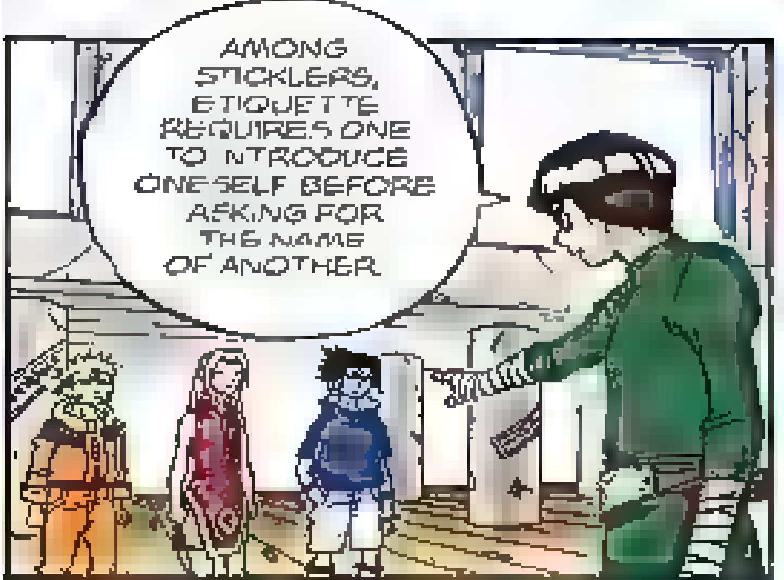
37：最悪の相性…!!



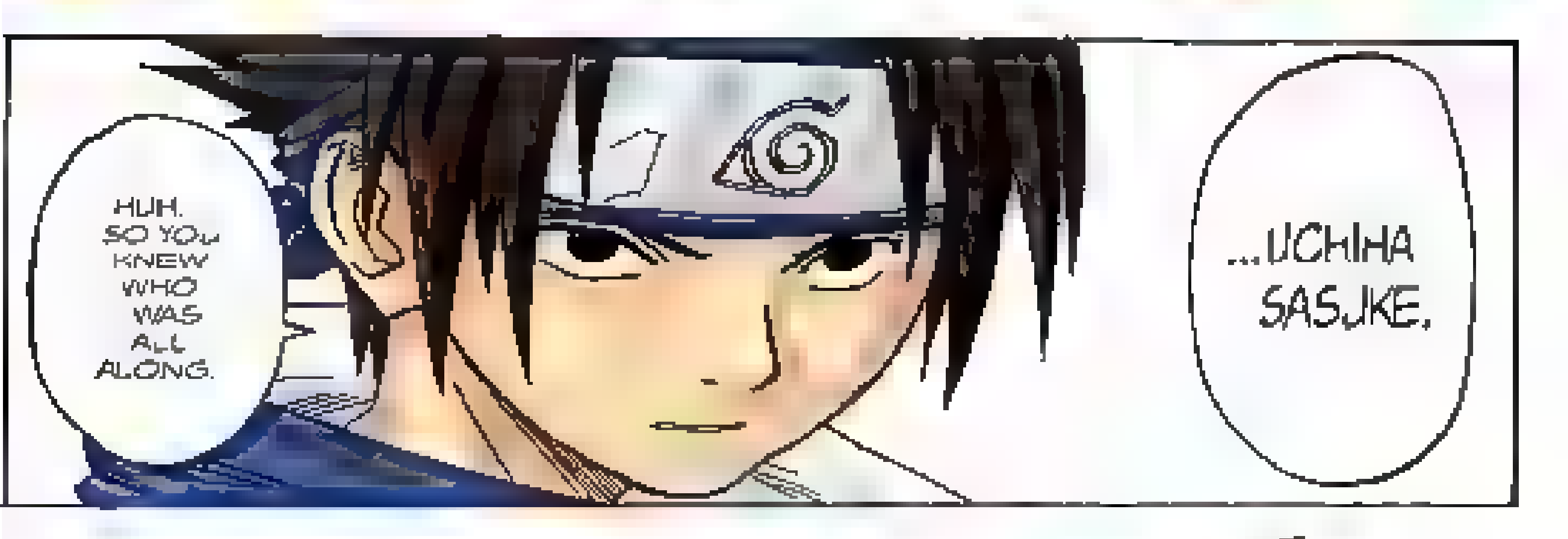


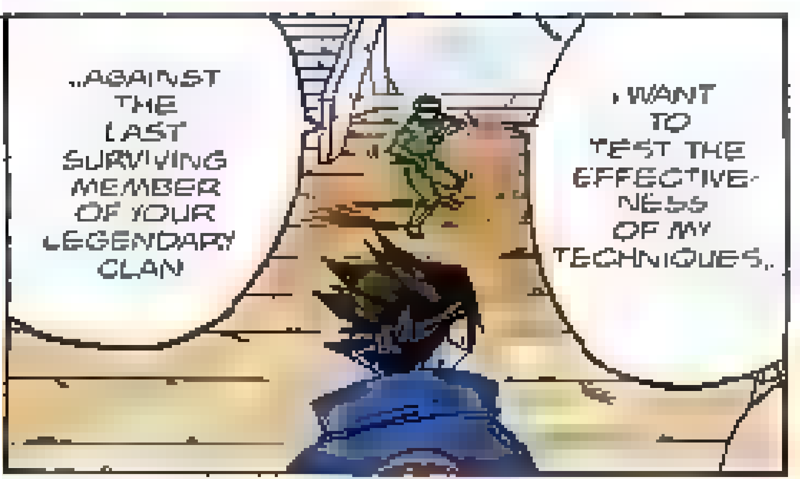
37
最悪の相性…!!
A TOTAL MISMATCH...!!

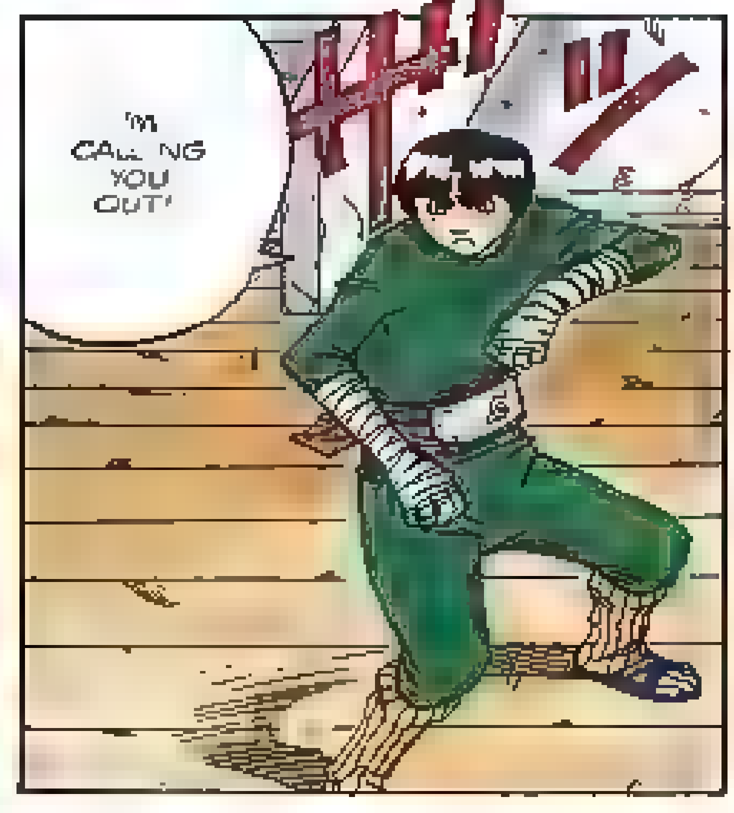



AMONG STICKLERS, ETIQUETTE REQUIRES ONE TO INTRODUCE ONESELF BEFORE ASKING FOR THE NAME OF ANOTHER.


MY NAME IS ROCK LEE.


...UCHIHA SASUKE.
HUH. SO YOU KNEW WHO WAS ALL ALONG.


I WANT TO TEST THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MY TECHNIQUES...
...AGAINST THE LAST SURVIVING MEMBER OF YOUR LEGENDARY CLAN.


I'M CALLING YOU OUT!

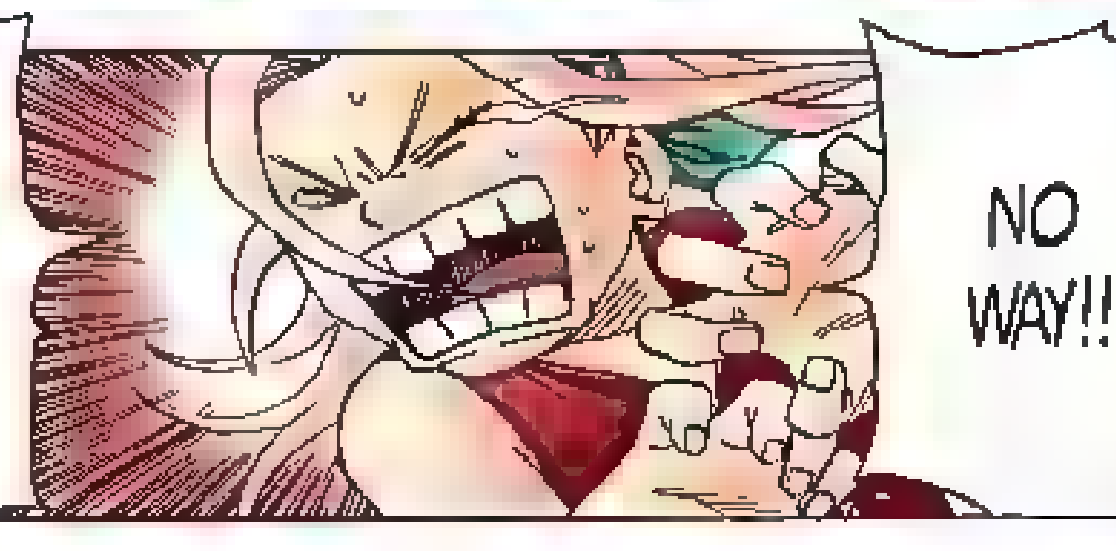

BESIDES.

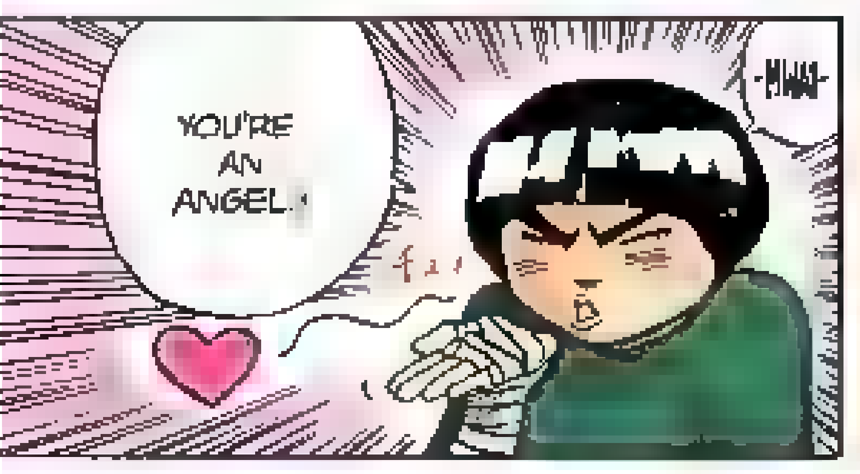


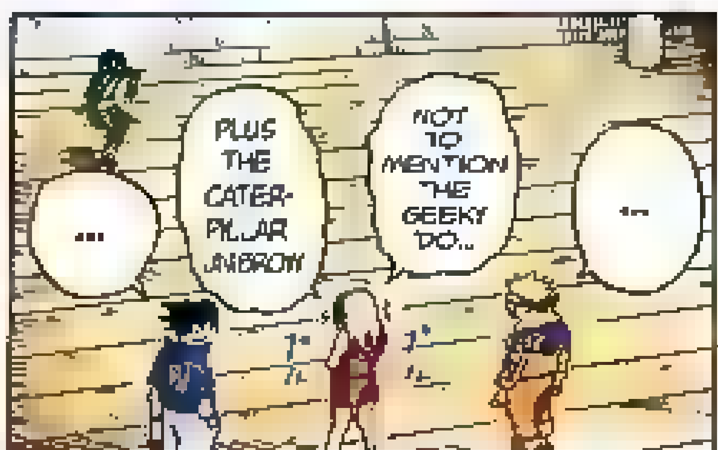

WINK

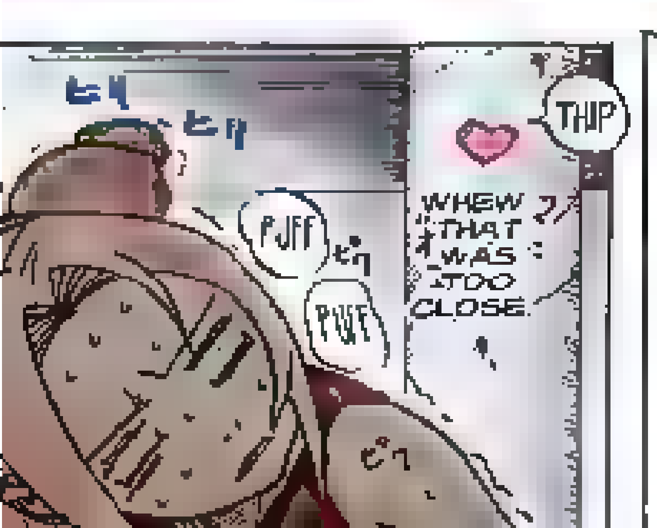


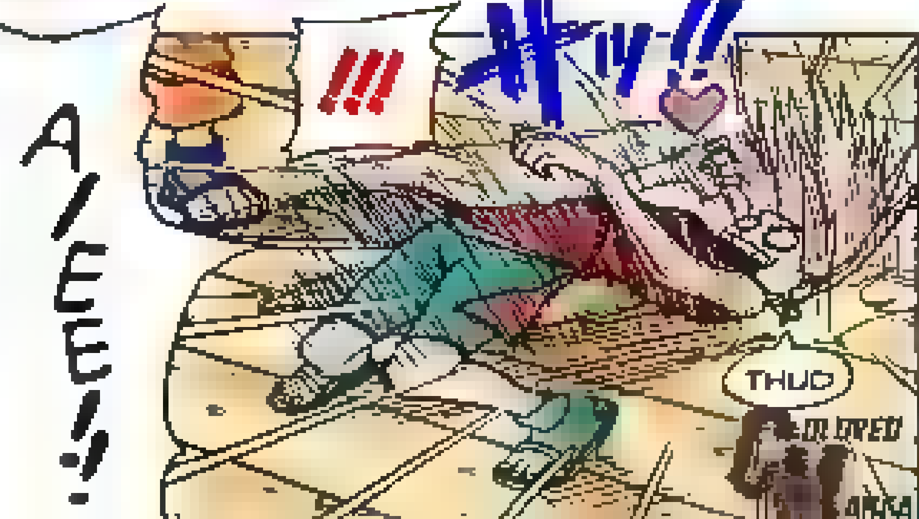



THOSE EYELASHES CREEP ME OUT!
NO WAY!!


-MWA-
YOU'RE AN ANGEL!


...
PLUS THE CATER-PILLAR UNIBROW
NOT TO MENTION THE GEEKY 'DO...
...


THIP
PUFF
PUFF
WHEW THAT WAS TOO CLOSE.


AIEE!!
!!!
THUD


SASUKE, SASUKE! IT'S ALL ABOUT SASUKE! BLEAH!
YOU KEEP YOUR WEIRD KISSES TO YOURSELF, CREEP!
I COULD HAVE DIED, DODGING THAT!
AW... DON'T BE LIKE THAT...
SO YOU'RE CHALLENGING ME, EVEN KNOWING MY LINEAGE?
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE A FOOL.
OH, YEAH!
SO, DOG BROW... DO YOU REALLY WANT TO LEARN
WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN UCHIHA?
ABSOLUTELY.
I'M GOING TOE-TO-TOE WITH THE CREAM OF THE ROOKIE CROP, FIRST TIME OUT!
I CAN HARDLY WAIT!
NOW YOU'LL GET THE PROOF YOU REQUIRE MASTER GUY!
HOLD IT.

LET ME HANDLE DOG-BROW. HE'LL BE TOAST

JUST GIVE ME FIVE MINUTES...

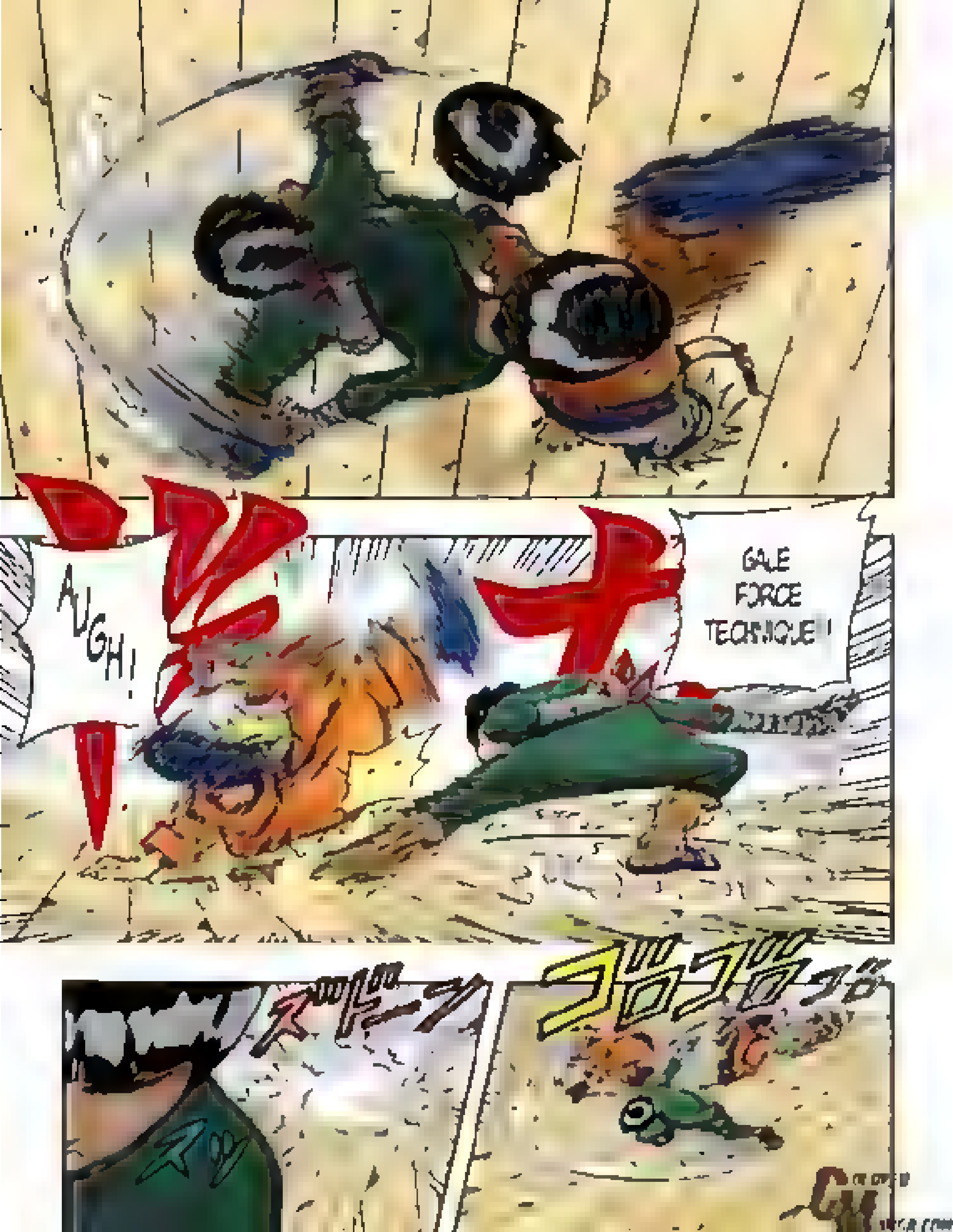
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN FIGHTING YOU

ONLY UCHIHA.

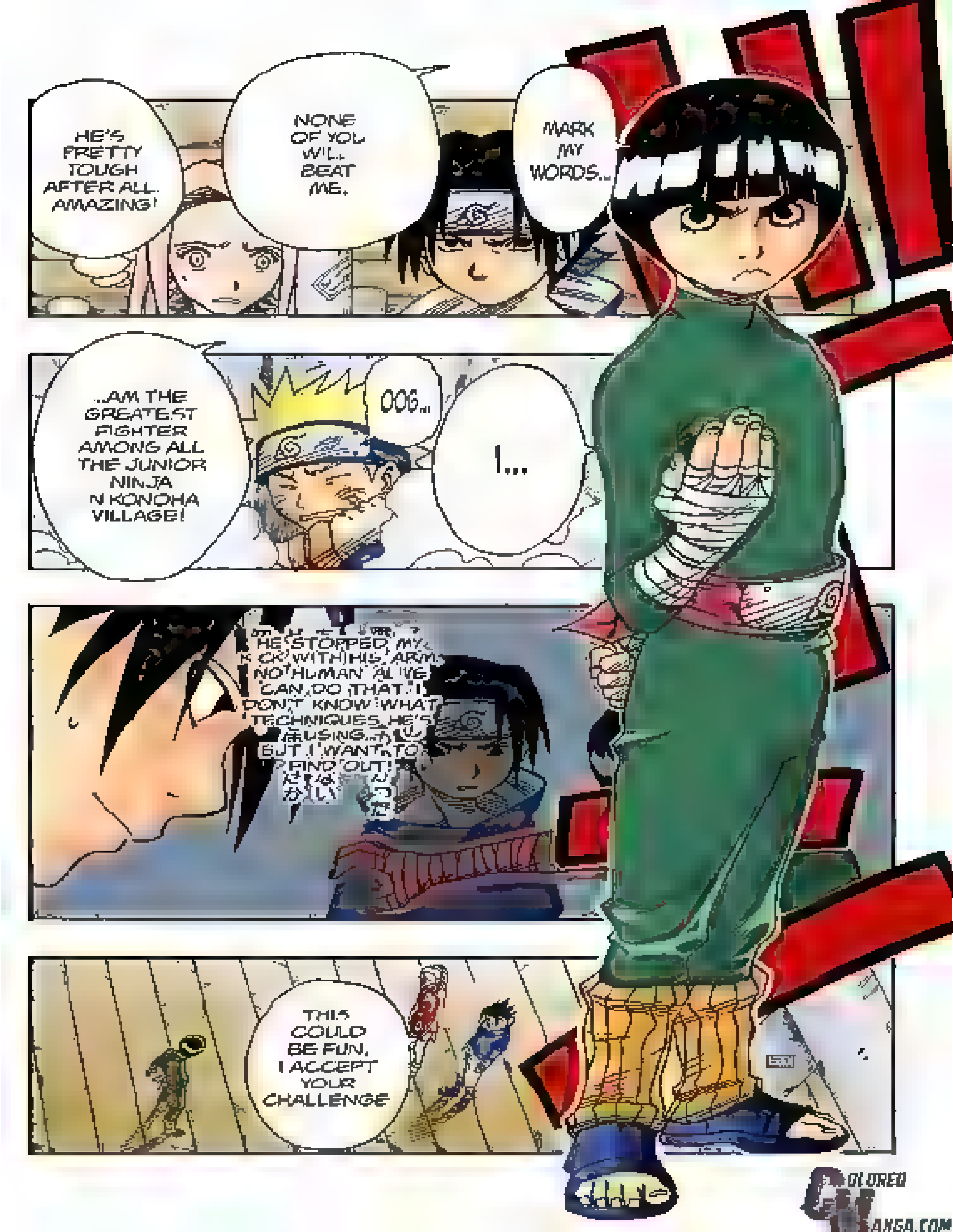
STORY OF MY FREAKIN' LIFE! IT'S "SASUKE THIS!" AND "SASUKE, THAT!" TILL COULD JUST PUKE!



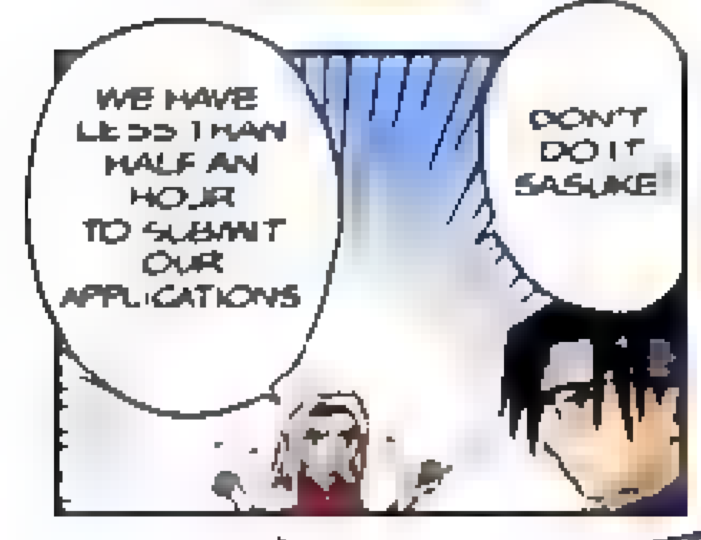

GA!



AUGH!
GALE FORCE TECHNIQUE!!

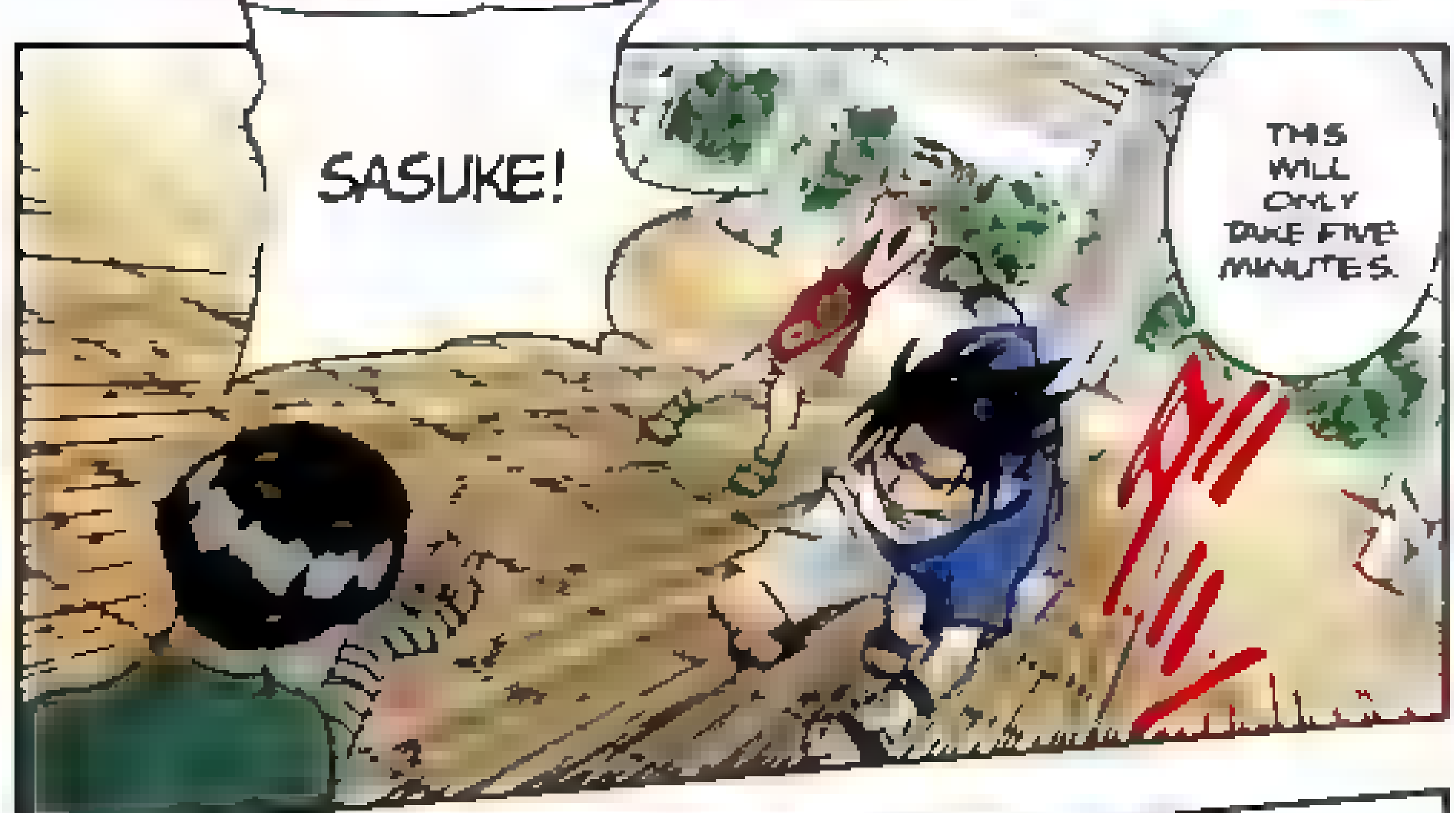


HE'S PRETTY TOUGH AFTER ALL. AMAZING!
MARK MY WORDS...
NONE OF YOU WILL BEAT ME.
I...
OOG...
...AM THE GREATEST FIGHTER AMONG ALL THE JUNIOR NINJA IN KONOHA VILLAGE!
HE STOPPED MY KICK WITH HIS ARM. NO HUMAN ALIVE CAN DO THAT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TECHNIQUES HE'S USING... BUT I WANT TO FIND OUT!
THIS COULD BE FUN, I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE


WE HAVE LESS THAN HALF AN HOUR TO SUBMIT OUR APPLICATIONS
DON'T DO IT SASUKE!




!
OH!

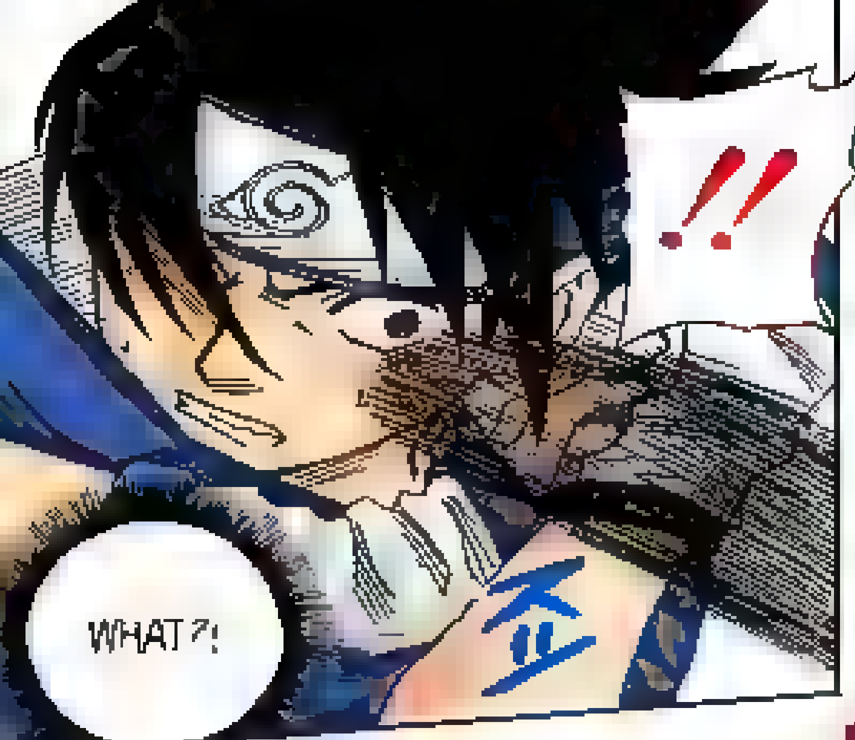

SASUKE!
THIS WILL ONLY TAKE FIVE MINUTES.


I'M SORRY MASTER GUY. I MAY HAVE TO BREAK THE
I MIGHT NEED THAT


HERE GOES!!

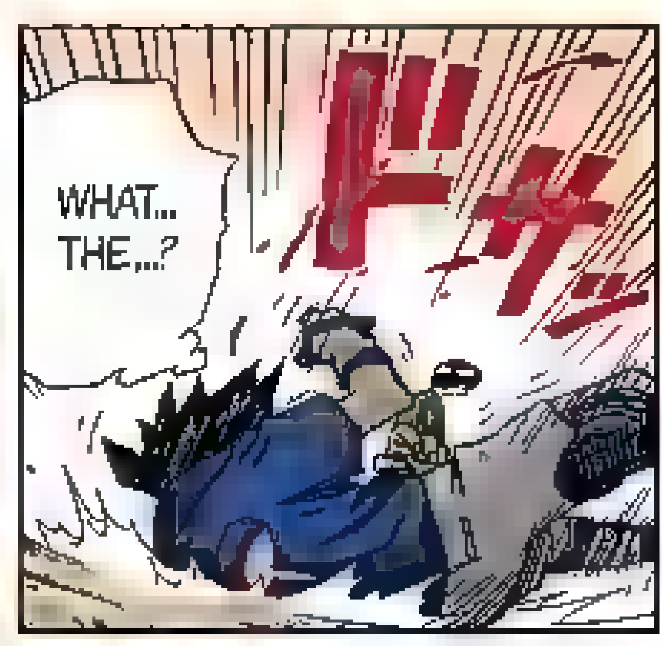





!!
WHAT?!


ドカ


SASUKE!!!

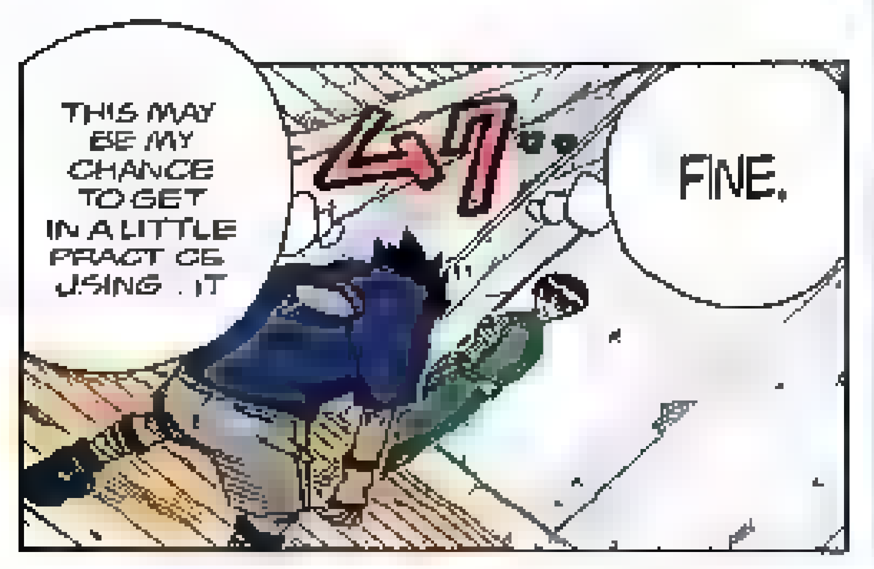

WHAT... THE...?

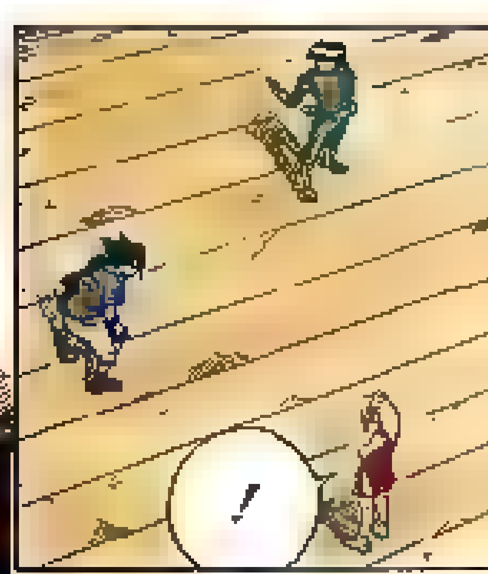

I THOUGHT SASUKE BLOCKED THAT!

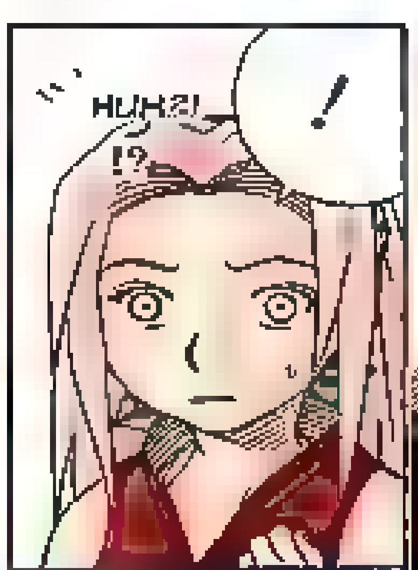

IS THIS MARTIAL ARTS... OR... MAGIC... ILLUSION?
HOW'D HE GET UNDER MY GUARD?
WHOA

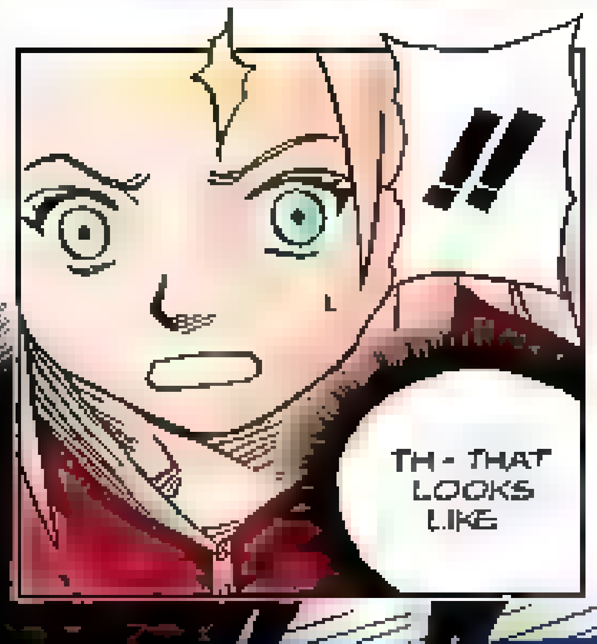

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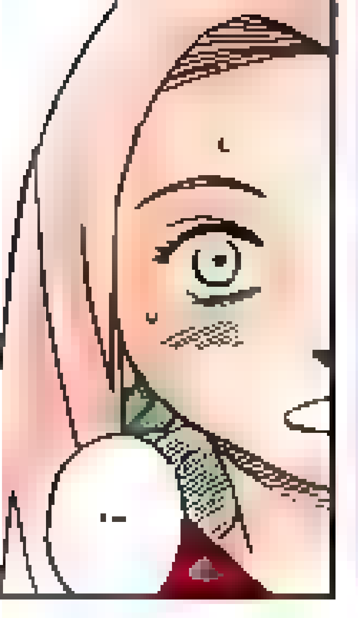


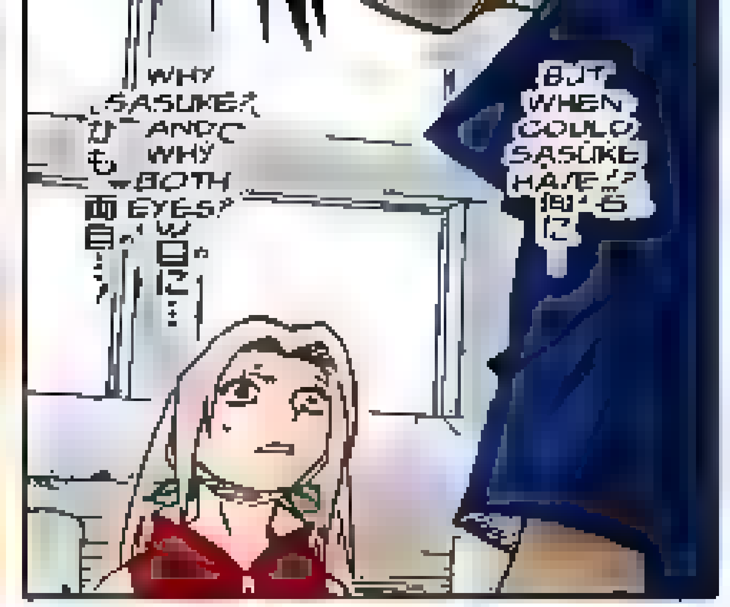
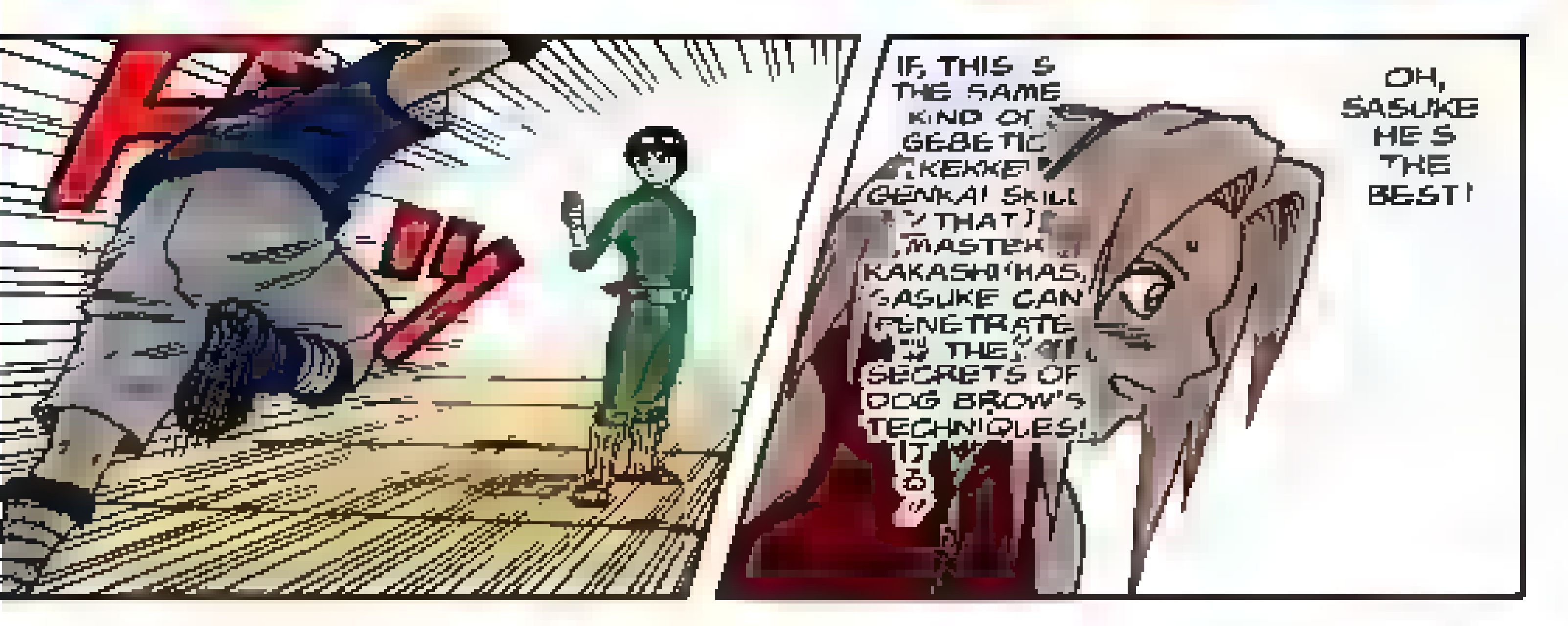
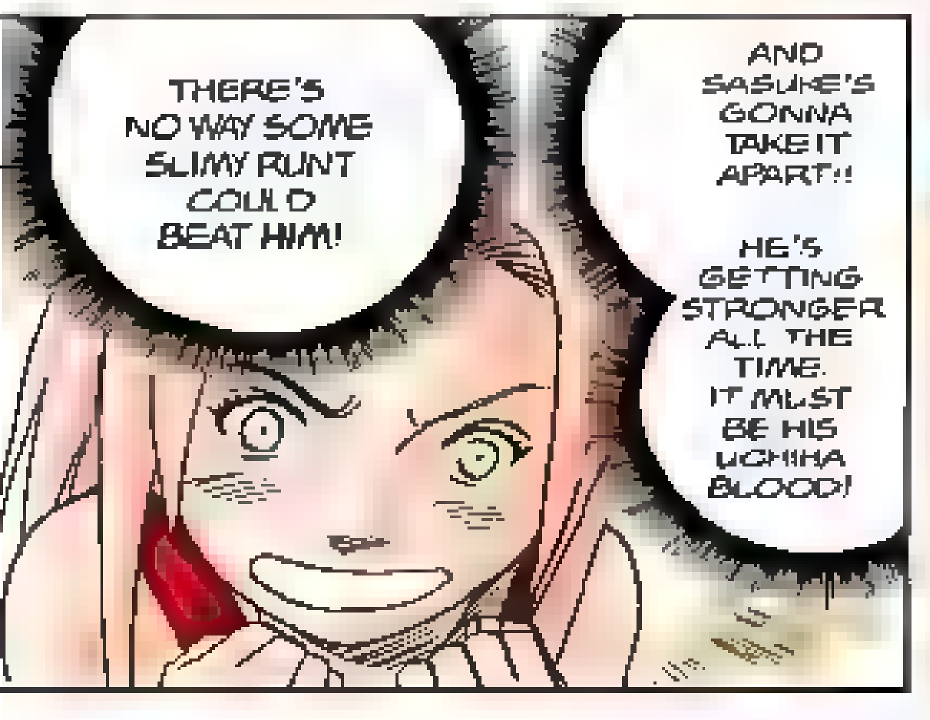
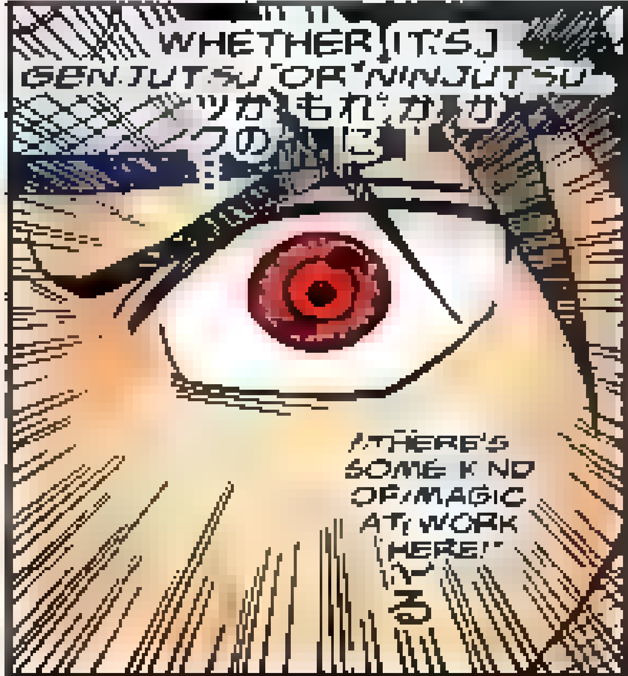






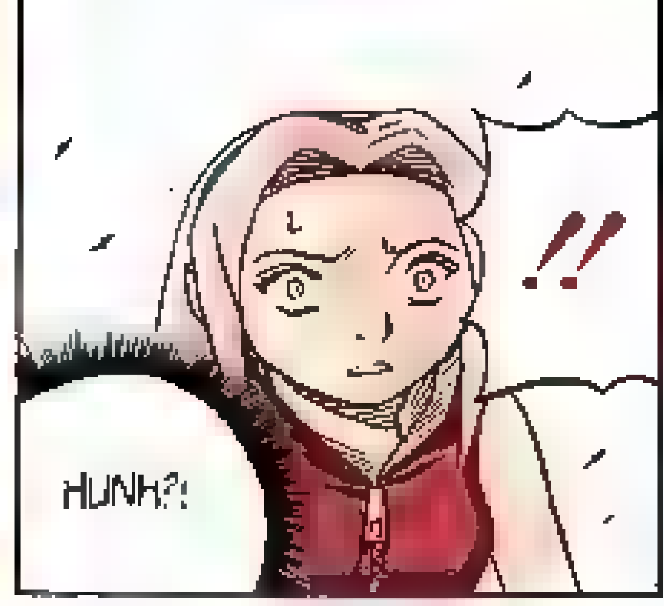
THE SHARINGAN MIRROR-WHEEL EYE!!

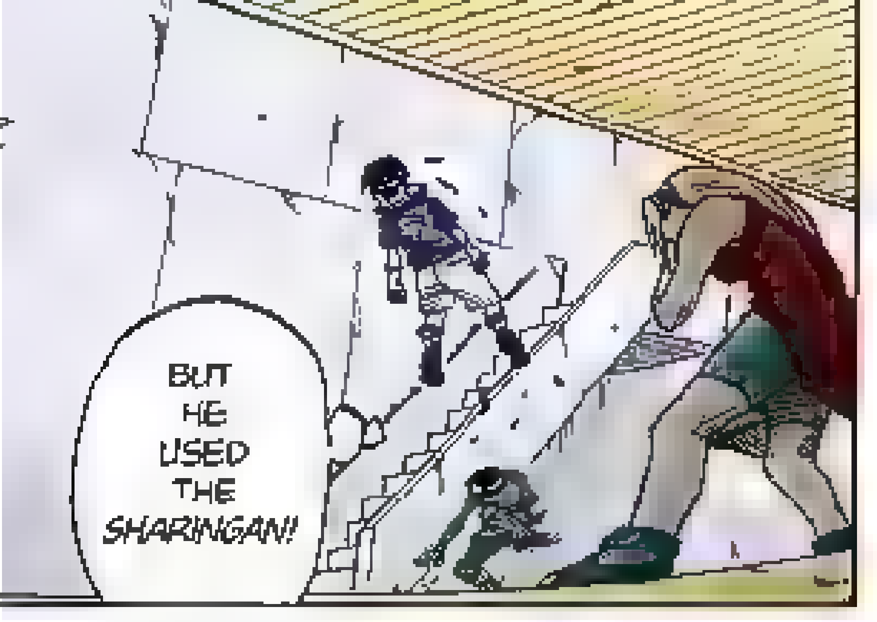


SO THAT'S THE FAMOUS SHARINGAN...

BUT WHEN COULD SASUKE HAVE!?
WHY SASUKE? AND WHY BOTH EYES?

OH, SASUKE HE'S THE BEST!
IF THIS IS THE SAME KIND OF GENETIC (KEKKEI GENKAI) SKILL THAT MASTER KAKASHI HAS, SASUKE CAN PENETRATE THE SECRETS OF DOG BROW'S TECHNIQUES!

AND SASUKE'S GONNA TAKE IT APART!!
HE'S GETTING STRONGER ALL THE TIME. IT MUST BE HIS UCHIHA BLOOD!
THERE'S NO WAY SOME SLIMY RUNT COULD BEAT HIM!

WHETHER IT'S GENJUTSU OR NINJUTSU
THERE'S SOME KIND OF MAGIC AT WORK HERE!

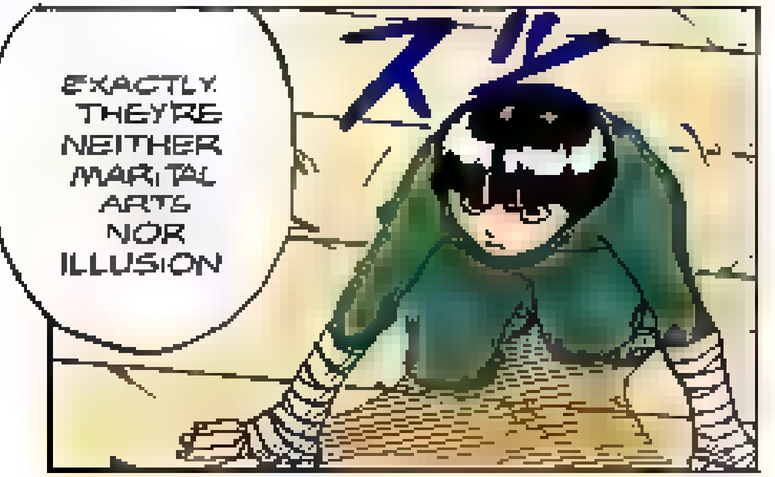


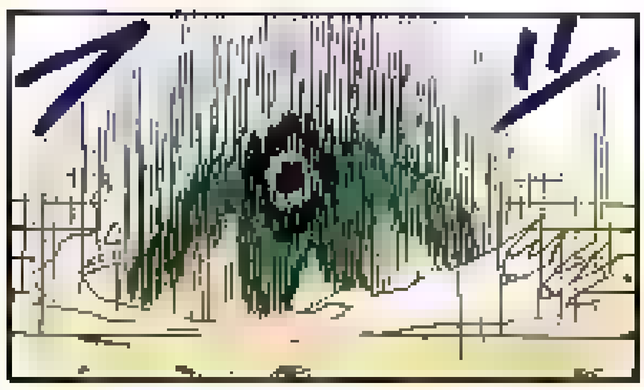
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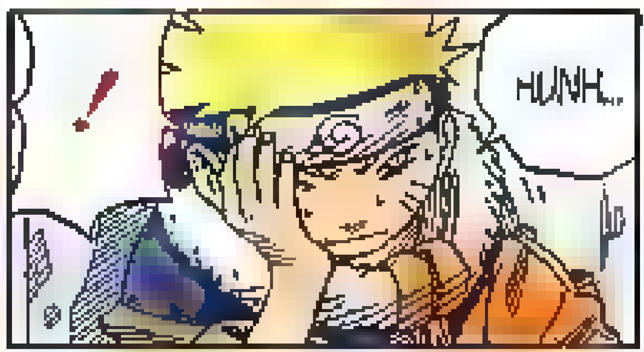


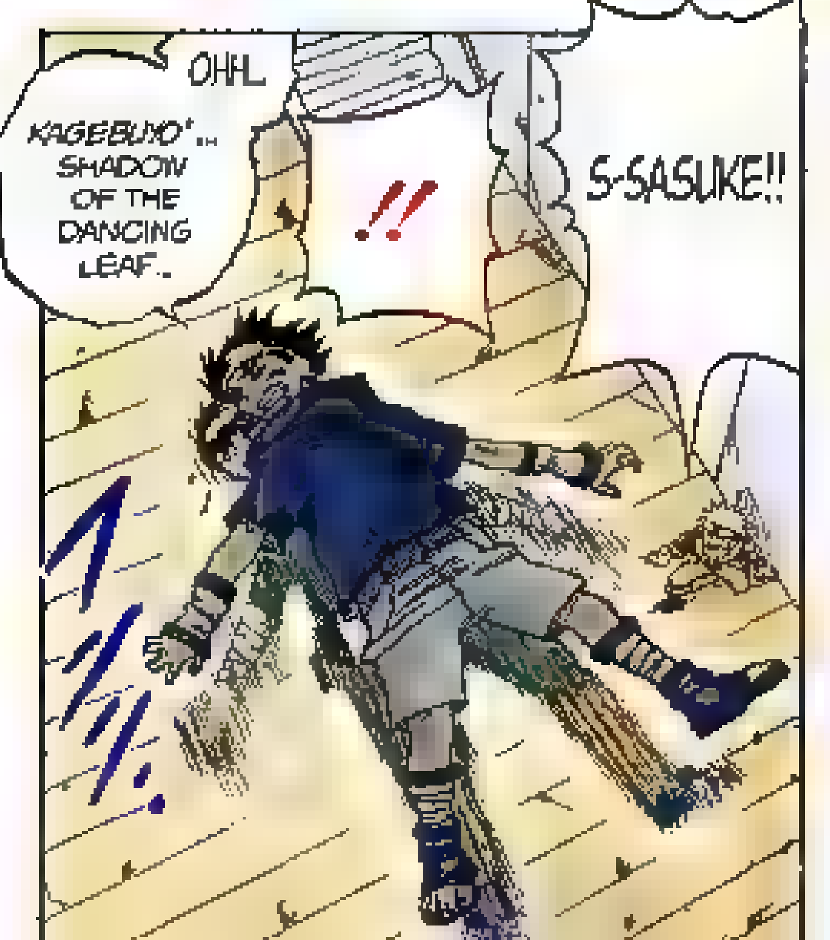






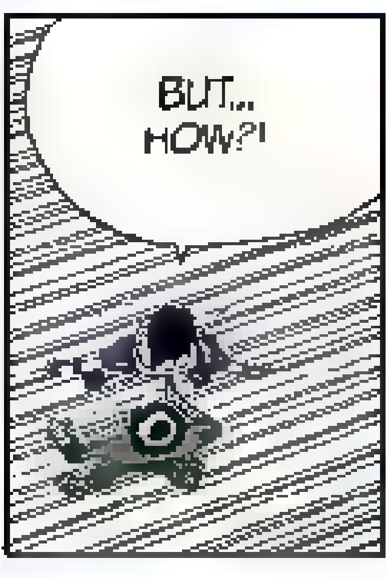


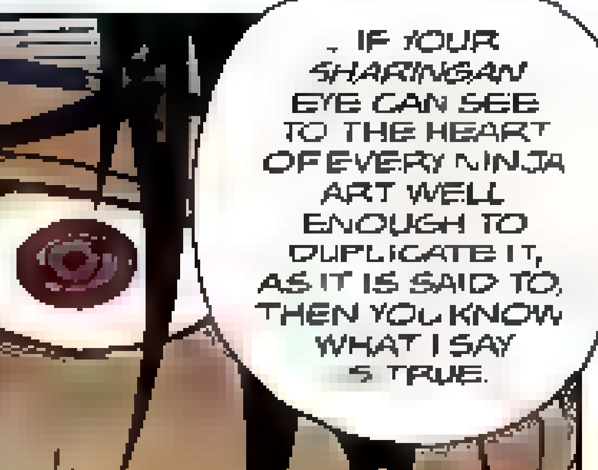


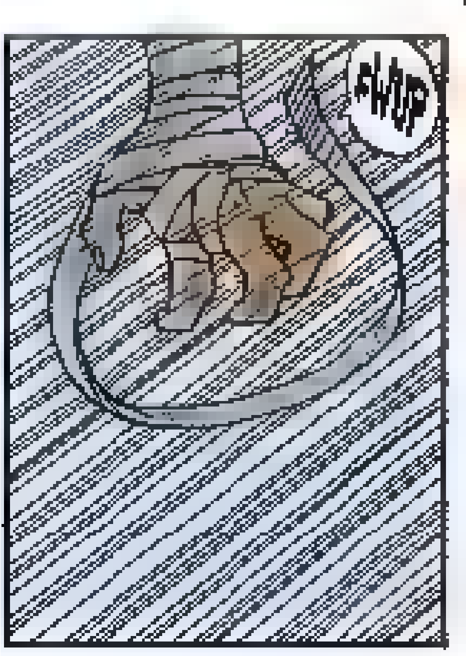


ONE OF KONOHA STYLE'S TAIJUTSU PHYSICAL ARTS. THE WARRIOR VISUALIZES HIS OPPONENT AS A WIND-TOSSED LEAF, AND THE WARRIOR PURSUES THAT LEAF, MOVING AS THOUGH HE WERE SHADOW.


HARD AS YOU MAY FIND IT TO ACCEPT...
THAT'S RIGHT. NO NINJUTSU. NO TRICKERY. MY MOVES ARE STRICTLY PHYSICAL.


BUT... HOW?!


I'M SURE YOUR *SHARINGAN* IS INVALUABLE AGAINST ARTS LIKE NINJUTSU AND GENJUTSU, WITH THEIR FORMALIZED RULES, SIGN-CASTING, AND CHAKRAS...
BUT PHYSICAL *TAIJUTSU* ARTS IN THEIR PURE FORM ARE A VERY DIFFERENT STORY.
...IF YOUR *SHARINGAN* EYE CAN SEE TO THE HEART OF EVERY NINJA ART WELL ENOUGH TO DUPLICATE IT, AS IT IS SAID TO, THEN YOU KNOW WHAT I SAY IS TRUE.


FWIP

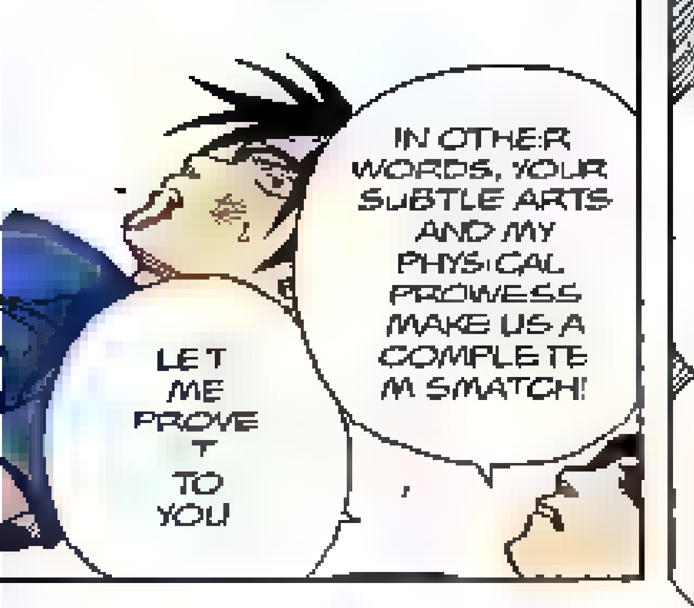

EVEN IF YOU CAN PERFECTLY PERCEIVE AND UNDERSTAND MY MOVEMENTS, YOU LACK THE SPEED AND STRENGTH TO COUNTER THEM. YOU HAVEN'T HAD THE PHYSICAL TRAINING NECESSARY TO KEEP UP WITH ME!
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOUR EYE CAN SEE IF YOUR BODY'S TOO WEAK TO ACT!



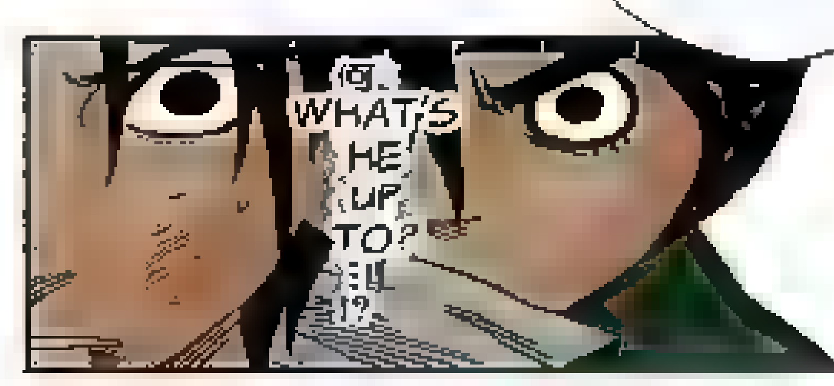
THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF STRENGTH. THE KIND YOU'RE BORN WITH... AND THE KIND YOU ONLY GET FROM BACK-BREAKING WORK.

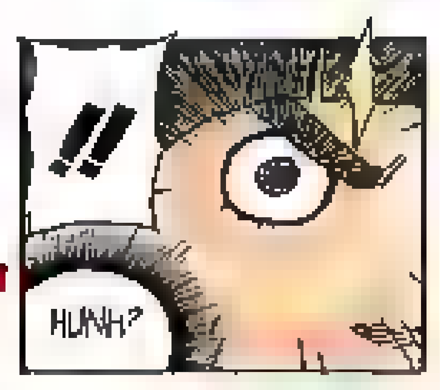
YOUR SHARINGAN IS NATURAL BORN GENIUS. I HEAR IT RUNS IN YOUR FAMILY.

WHAT I HAVE, I GOT THROUGH BLOOD, SWEAT, AND TEARS!



THIS PARTICULAR MOVE OF MINE EXCEEDS YOUR GENIUS... COMPLETELY!

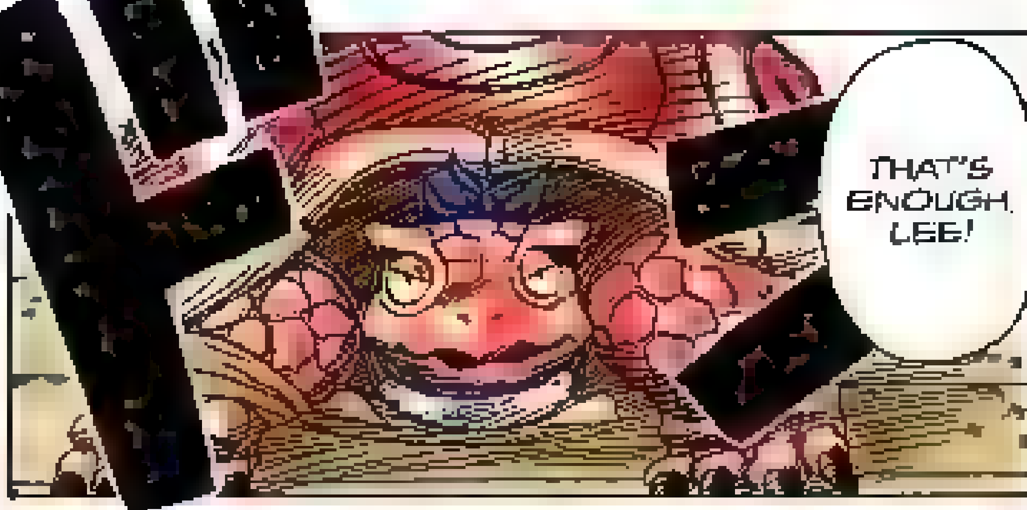










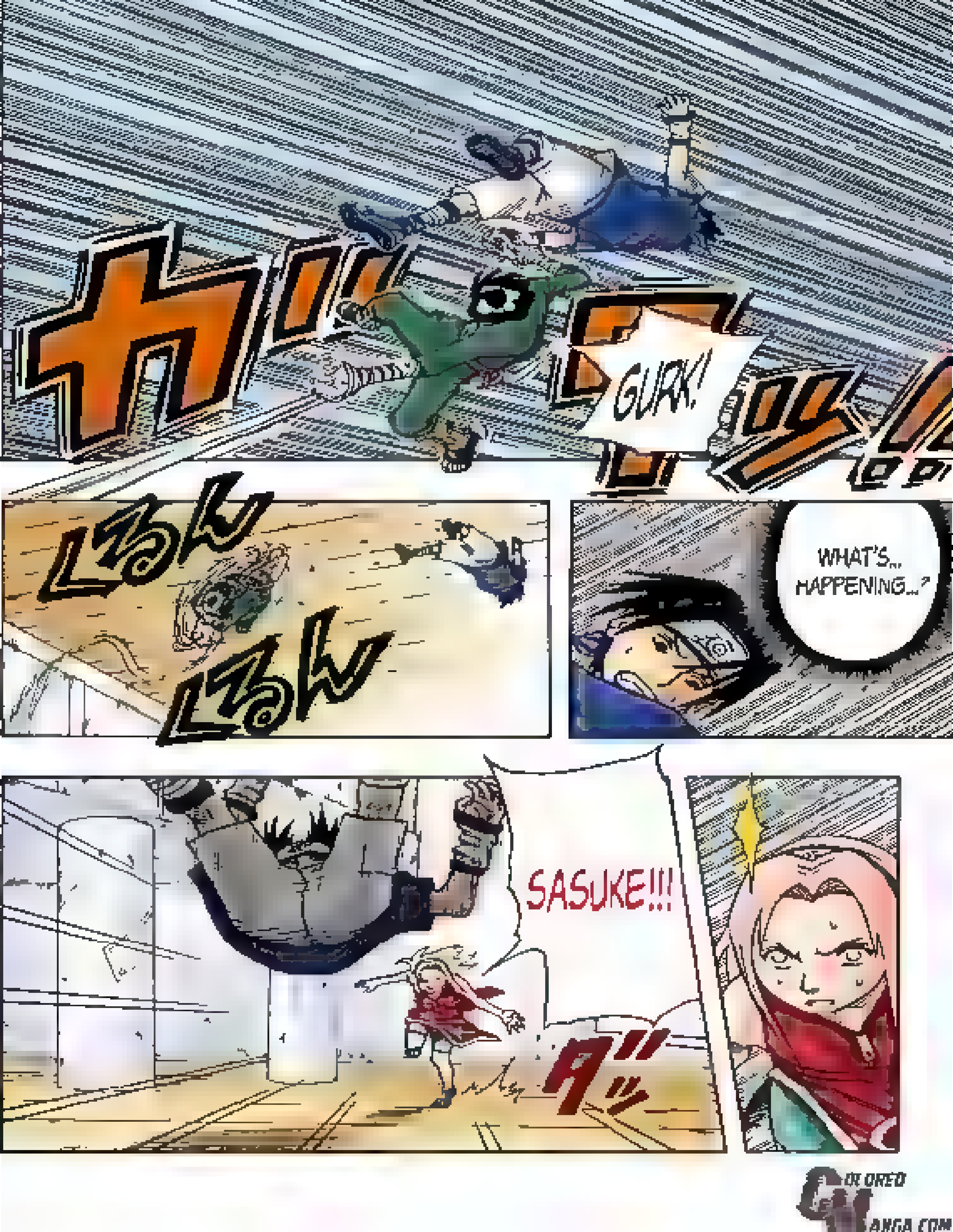








#38: START...!!
THAT'S ENOUGH, LEE!


GURK!
WHAT'S... HAPPENING...?
SASUKE!!!

スタッ

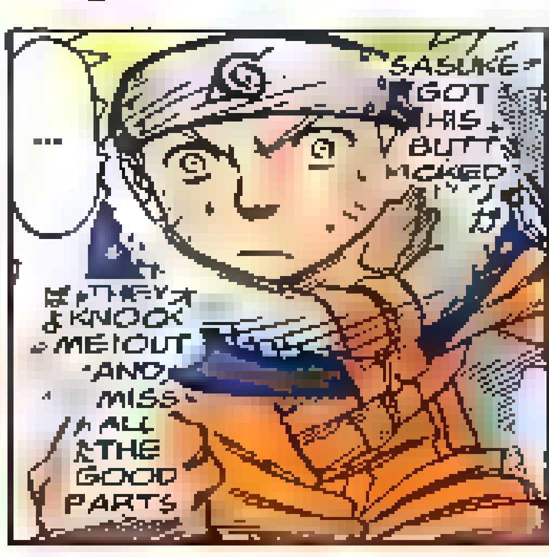
AIEE!!



YOU... YOU SAW?



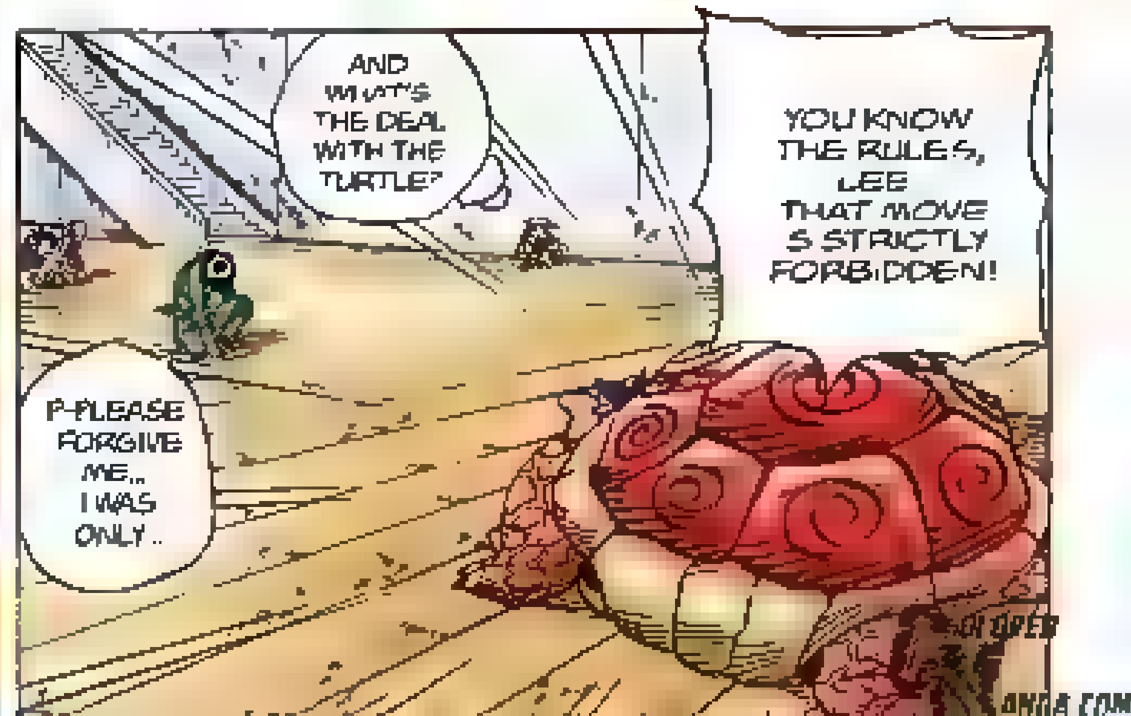
SASUKE ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HE'S TREMBLING... HE CAN'T EVEN DEFEND HIMSELF



SASUKE GOT HIS BUTT KICKED
...
THEY KNOCK ME OUT AND MISS ALL THE GOOD PARTS

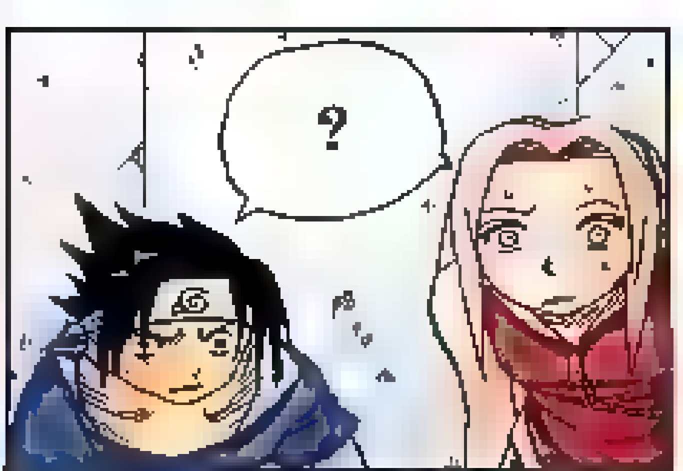


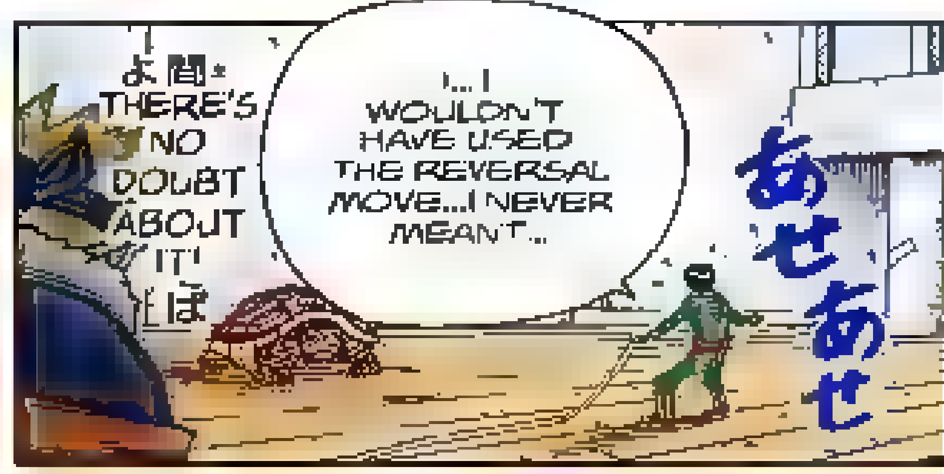
HE'S GETTING CHEWED OUT
AW, MAN! DON'T TELL ME! THE TURTLE...
AHA!

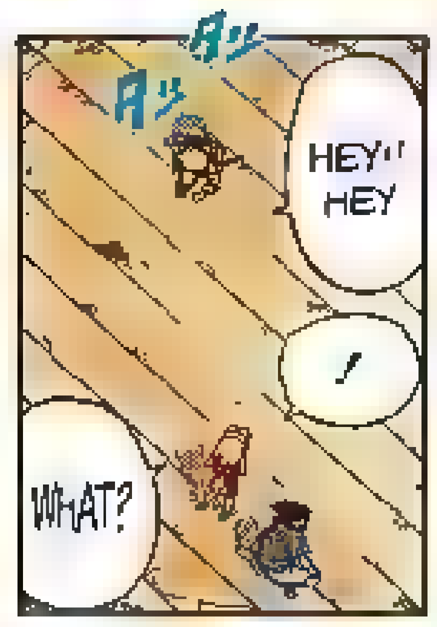


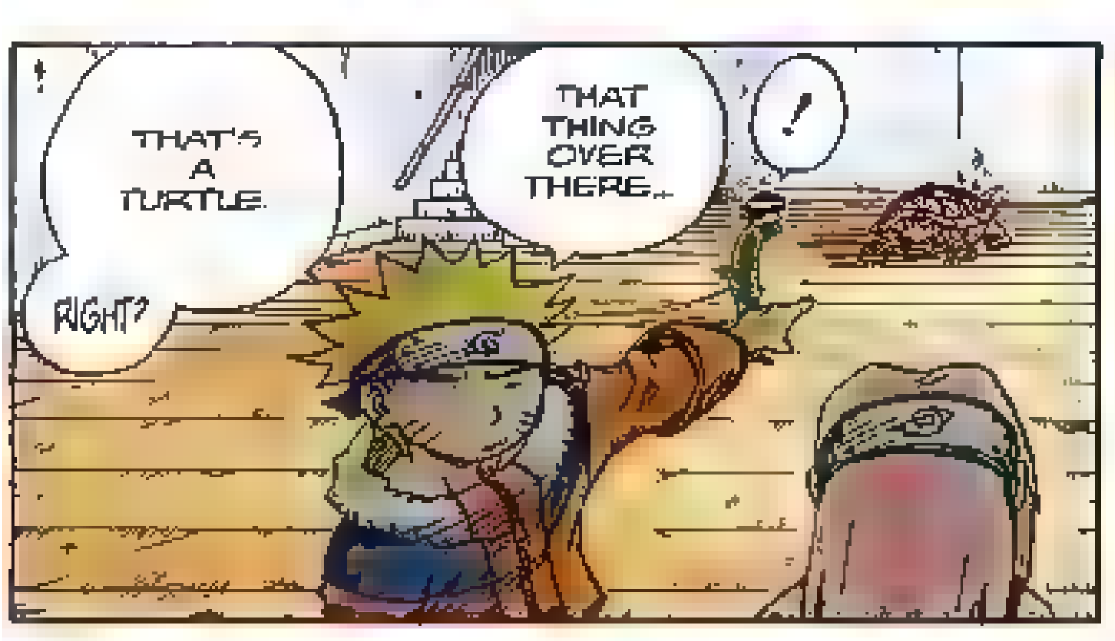
YOU KNOW THE RULES, LEE THAT MOVE S STRICTLY FORBIDDEN!
AND WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE TURTLE?
P-PLEASE FORGIVE ME... I WAS ONLY..

DOG-BROW'S TEACHER?!


?

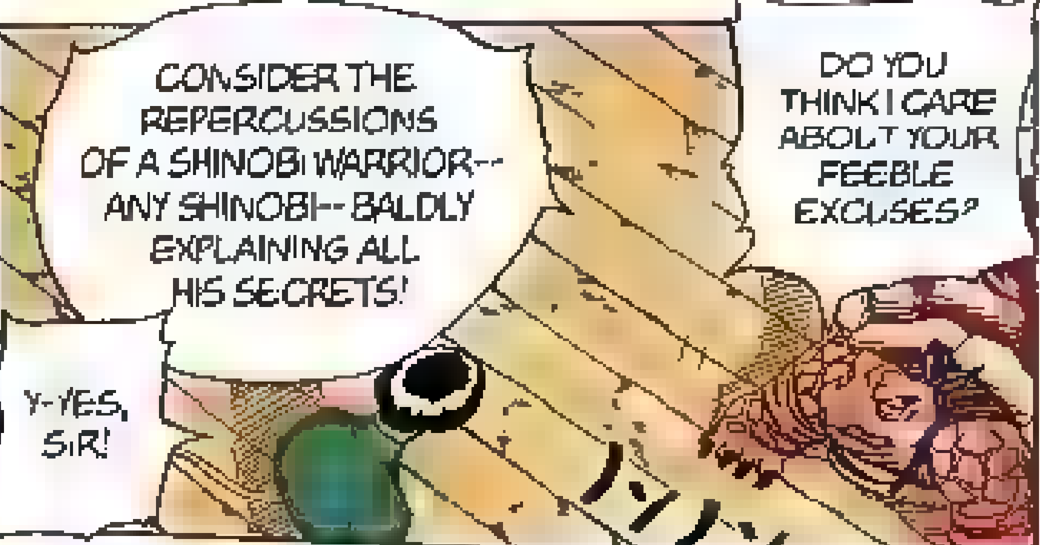

...I WOULDN'T HAVE USED THE REVERSAL MOVE...I NEVER MEANT...
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!


HEY!! HEY
!
WHAT?


!
THAT THING OVER THERE...
THAT'S A TURTLE.
RIGHT?


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OBVIOUSLY!!!
SO WHAT'S THE DEAL HERE? CAN TURTLES BECOME NINJA?
DON'T ASK STUPID QUESTIONS!
YOU FOOL!!



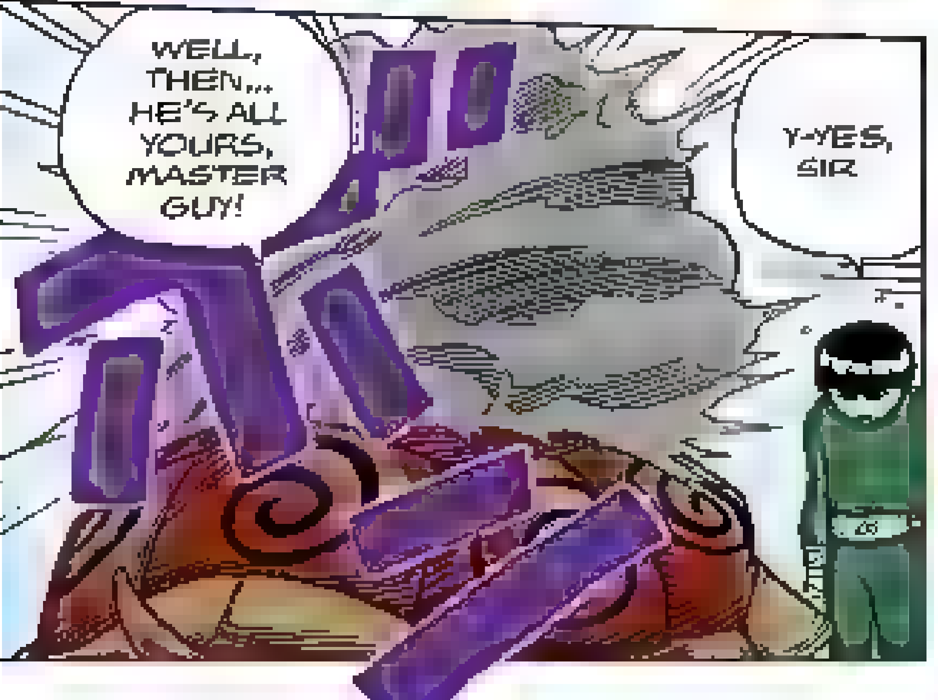
DO YOU THINK I CARE ABOUT YOUR FEEBLE EXCUSES?
CONSIDER THE REPERCUSSIONS OF A SHINOBI WARRIOR-- ANY SHINOBI-- BALDLY EXPLAINING ALL HIS SECRETS!
Y-YES, SIR!



OH...



WHAT A DISGRACE, LOSING TO THAT CLOWN!
I HOPE YOU ARE PROPERLY PREPARED?



Y-YES, SIR
WELL, THEN... HE'S ALL YOURS, MASTER GUY!



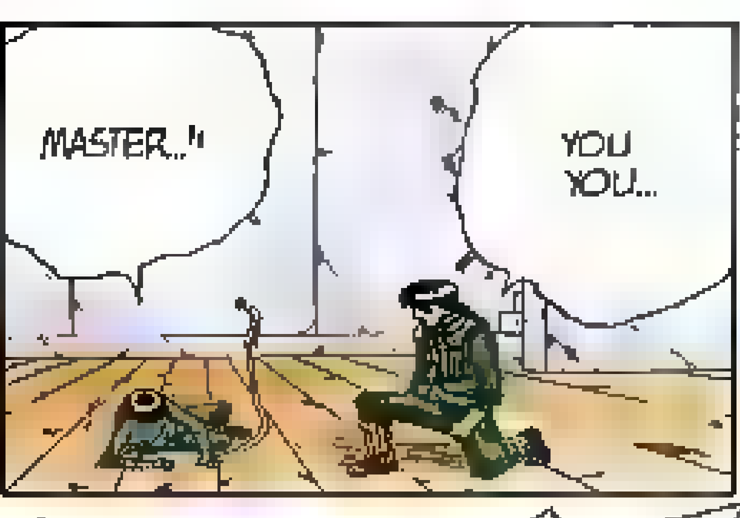

AH, THE EXUBERANCE OF YOUTH. ALL OF YOU ARE FULL OF IT.

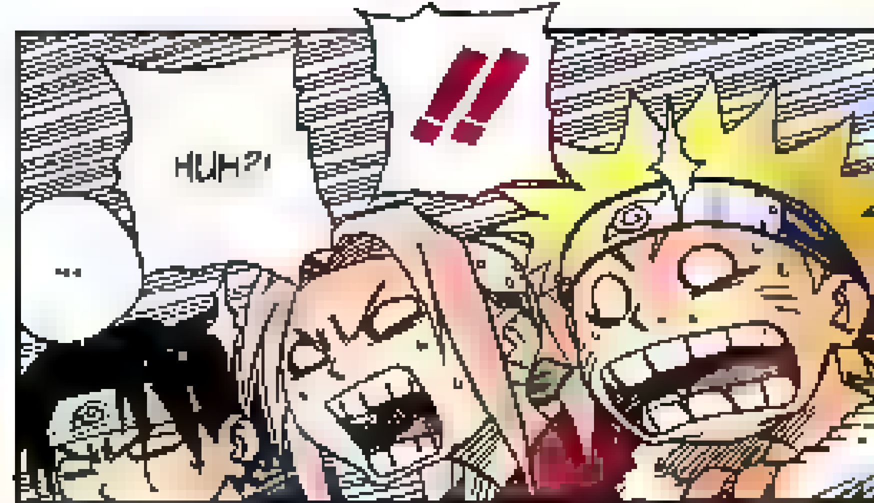


!!
!
THEY'RE ALMOST... AL VE...
HE'S GOT THE BIGGEST EYEBROWS YET!
H-HEY!! DON'T TRY TO MAKE FUN OF MASTER GUY!!
THEY'RE... JBER BROWS!
VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE 'EM!
AND THAT SAME DORKY 'DO...
LEE!
WHAT--
OH! UH, YES, SIR...
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF ALL THE FREAKS WHO KEEP POPPING IN HERE!!
OH, SHUT UP!

IDIOT!!

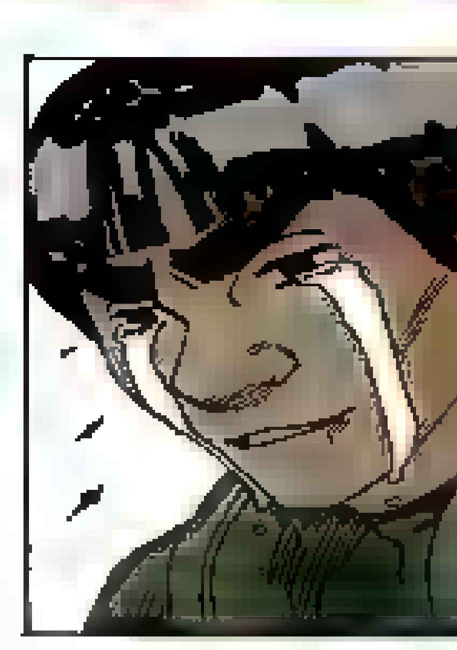
OWW!!


YOU YOU...
MASTER..!!

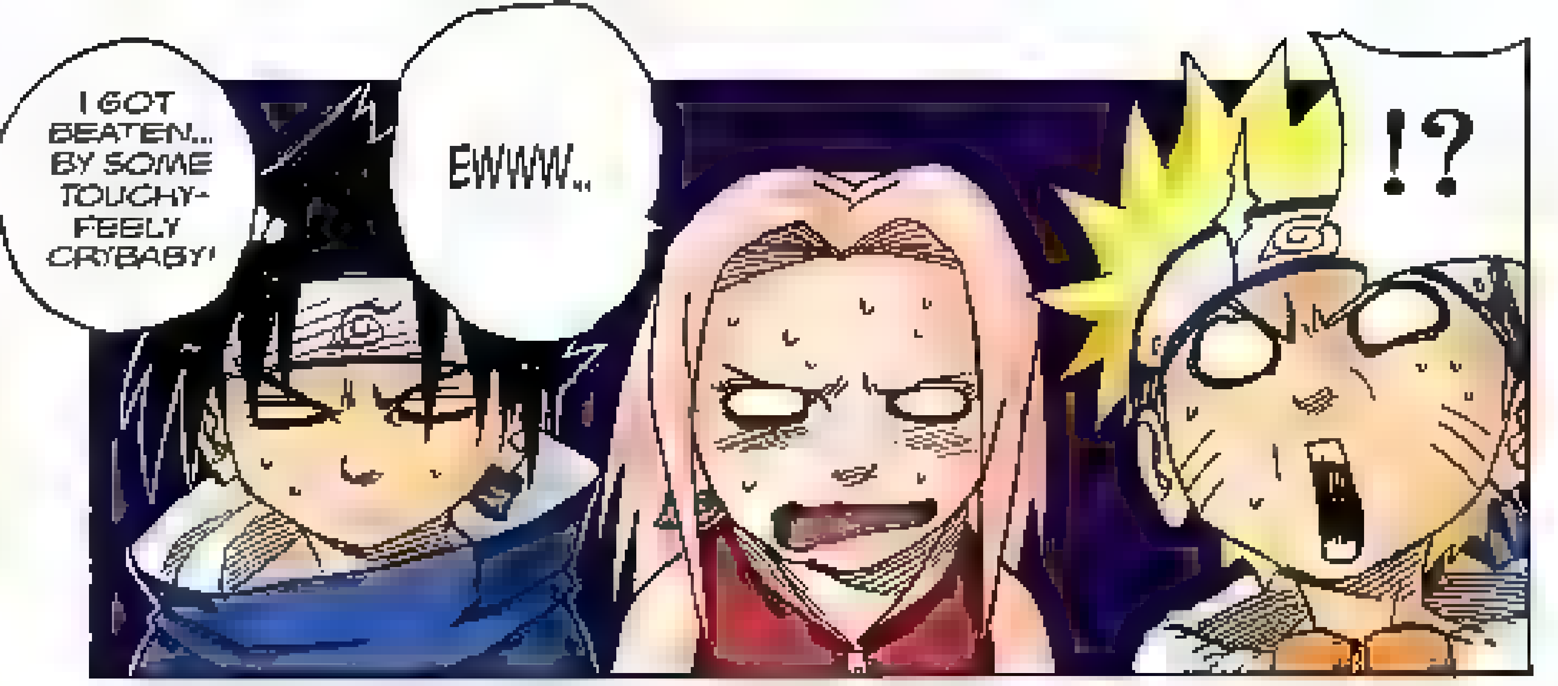

!!
HUH?!
...

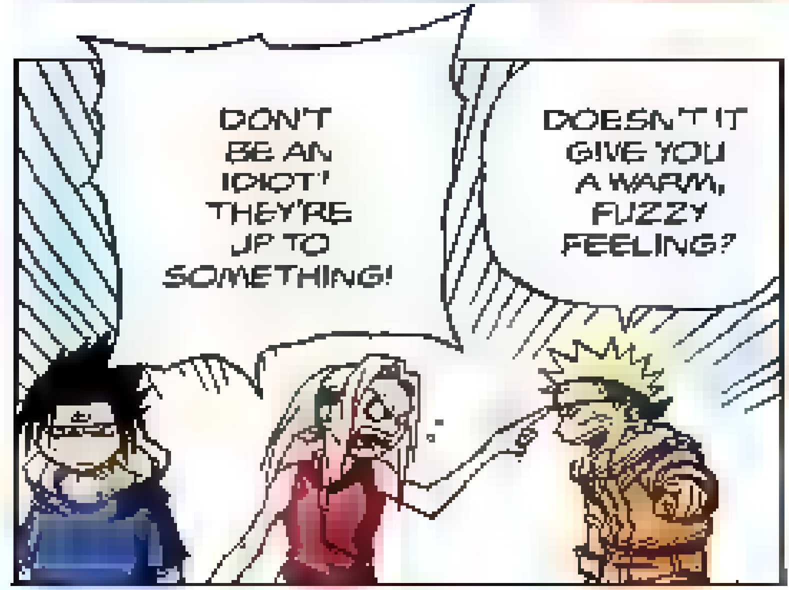

THAT'S ENOUGH, LEE! NOT ONE MORE WORD.
MASTER!

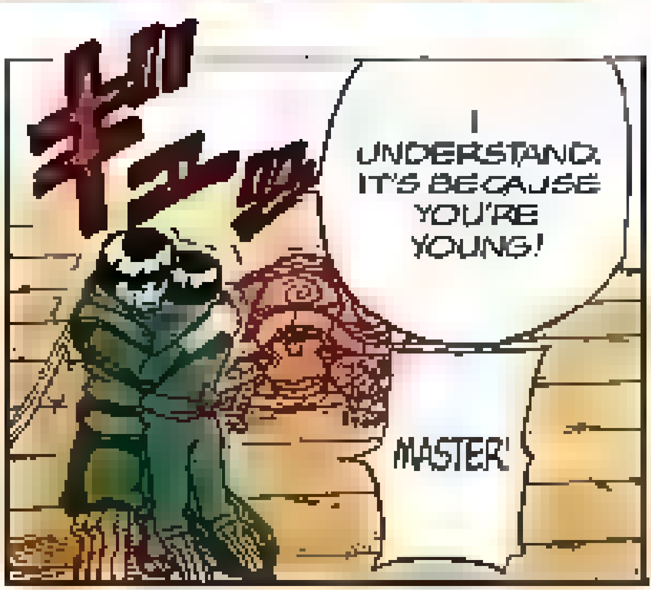

MASTER..
I... I...

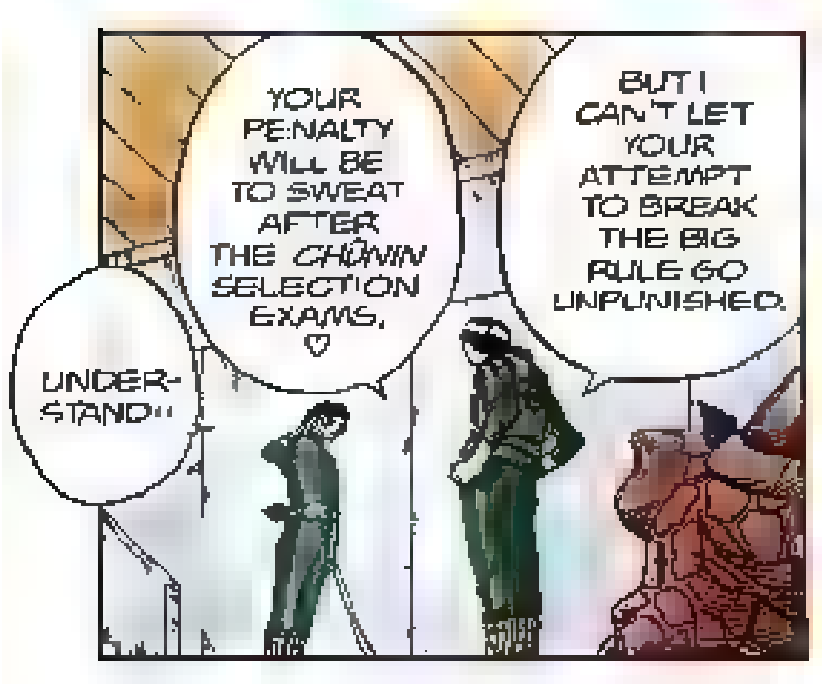


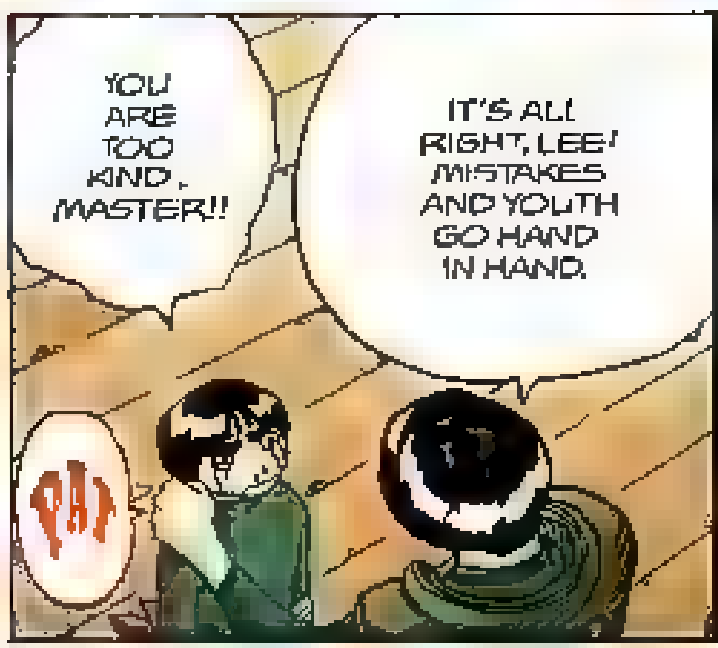



!?
EWWW..
I GOT BEATEN... BY SOME TOUCHY-FEELY CRYBABY!


DOESN'T IT GIVE YOU A WARM, FUZZY FEELING?
DON'T BE AN IDIOT! THEY'RE UP TO SOMETHING!


I UNDERSTAND. IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE YOUNG!
MASTER!

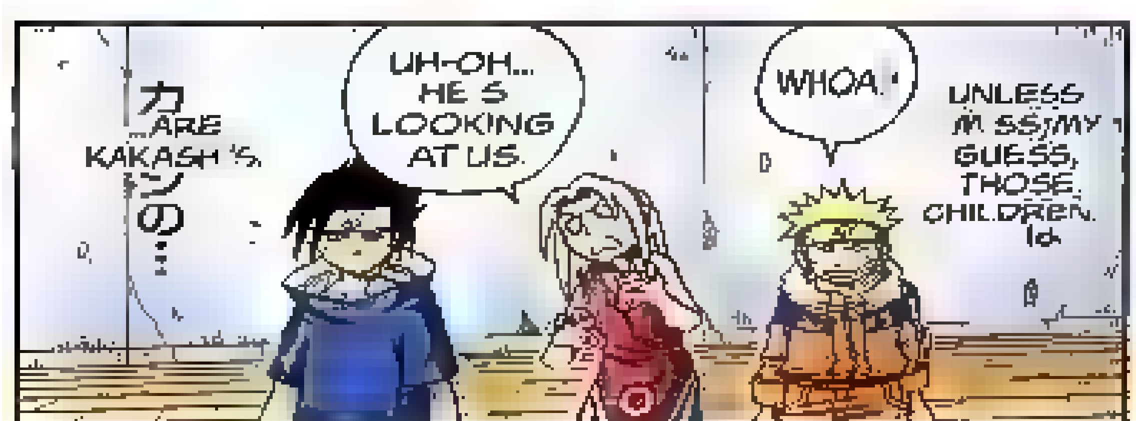

BUT I CAN'T LET YOUR ATTEMPT TO BREAK THE BIG RULE GO UNPUNISHED.
YOUR PENALTY WILL BE TO SWEAT AFTER THE CHŪNIN SELECTION EXAMS. ♡
UNDER-STAND!!

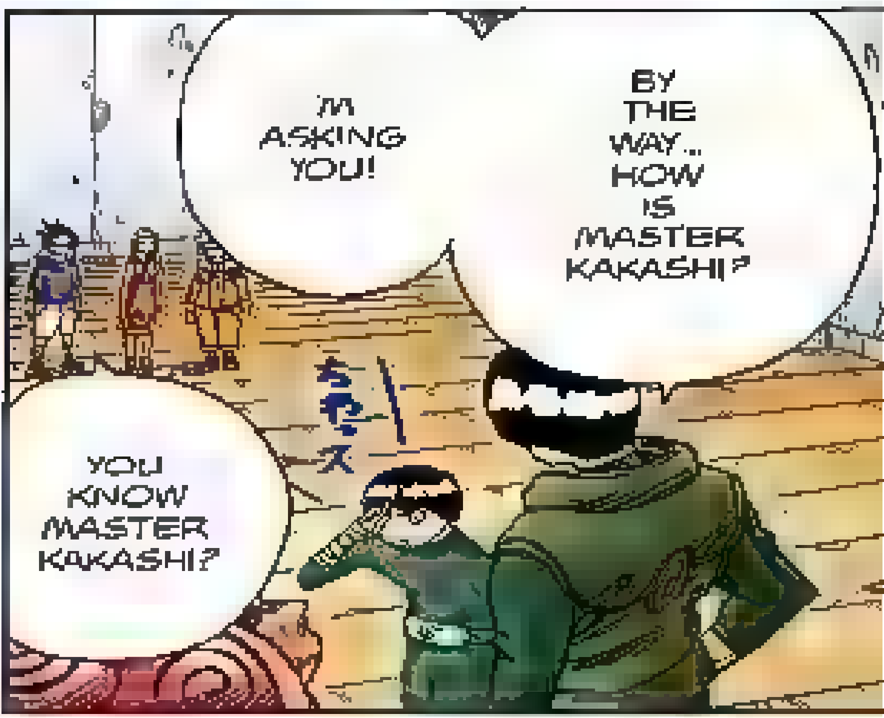

IT'S ALL RIGHT, LEE! MISTAKES AND YOUTH GO HAND IN HAND.
YOU ARE TOO KIND, MASTER!!
PAT


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FIVE HUNDRED LAPS AROUND THE PRACTICE ARENA!!
YES, SIR!!
..
WHAT A DIP.
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THAT TURTLE THING, ANYWAY?



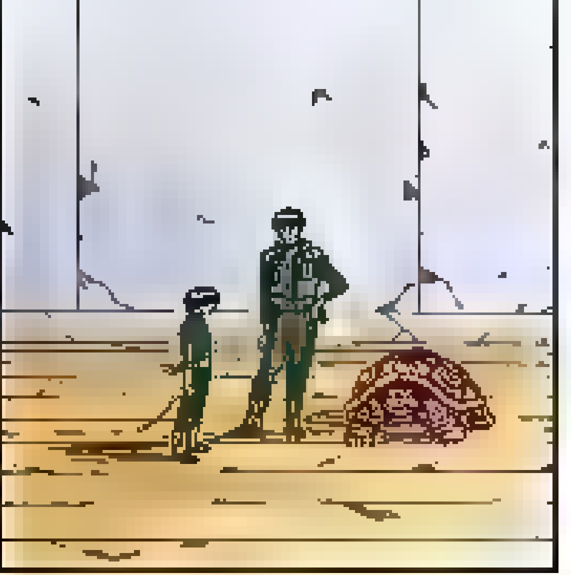

UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, THOSE CHILDREN...
WHOA!
UH-OH... HE'S LOOKING AT US.
...ARE KAKASHI'S...
カカシの…


BY THE WAY... HOW IS MASTER KAKASHI?
I'M ASKING YOU!
YOU KNOW MASTER KAKASHI?

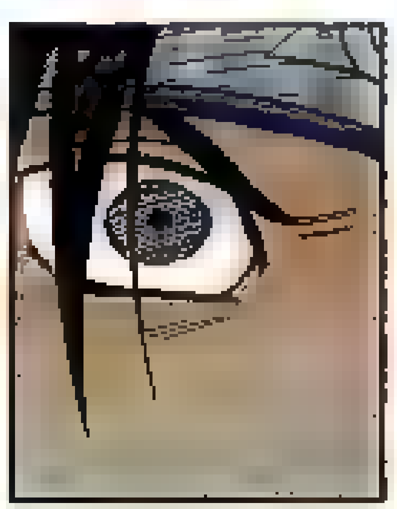

DO I KNOW HIM?
HEH HEH..

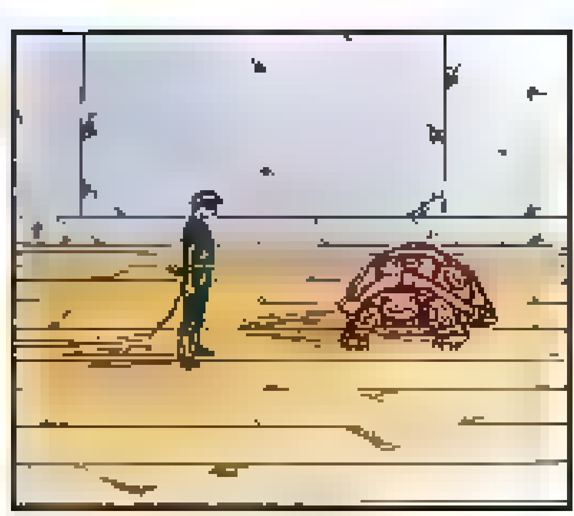








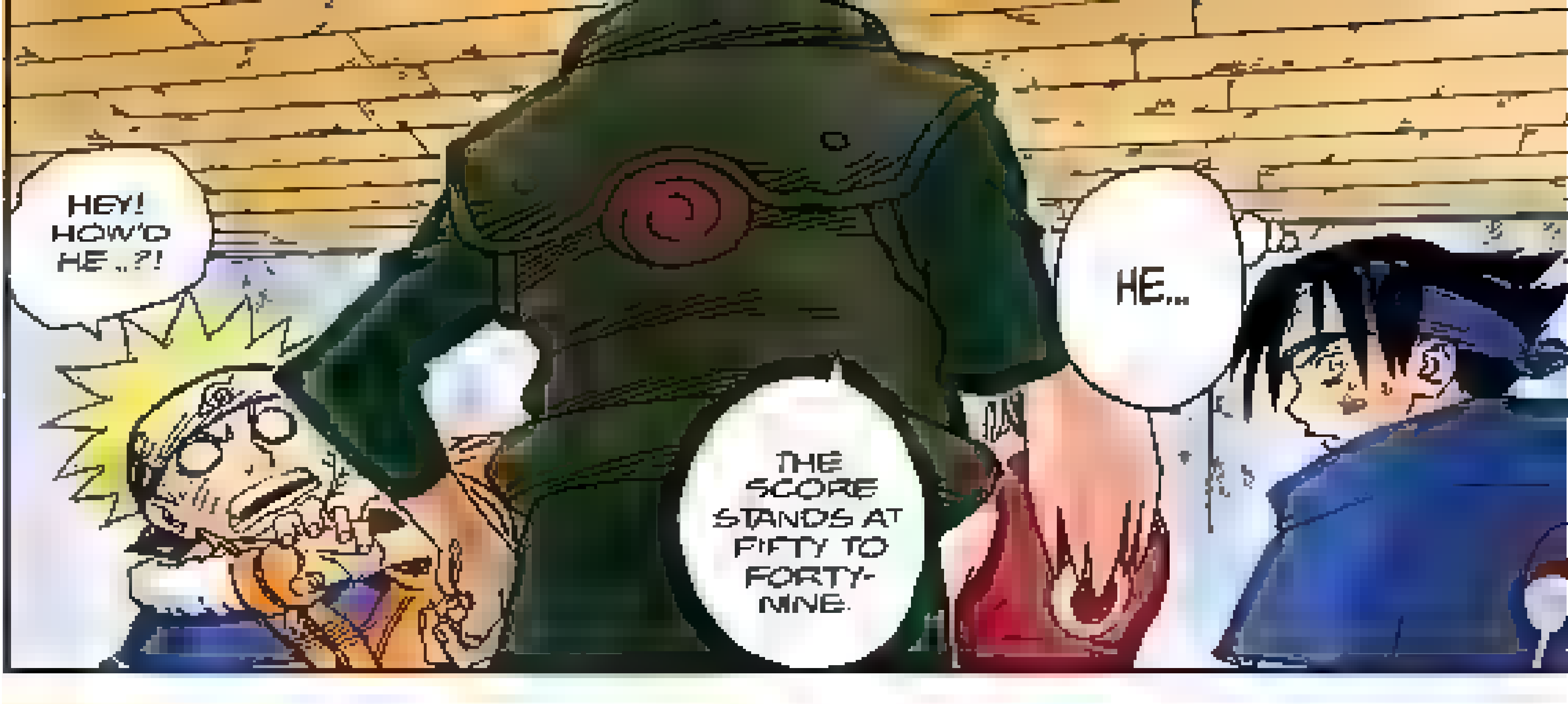




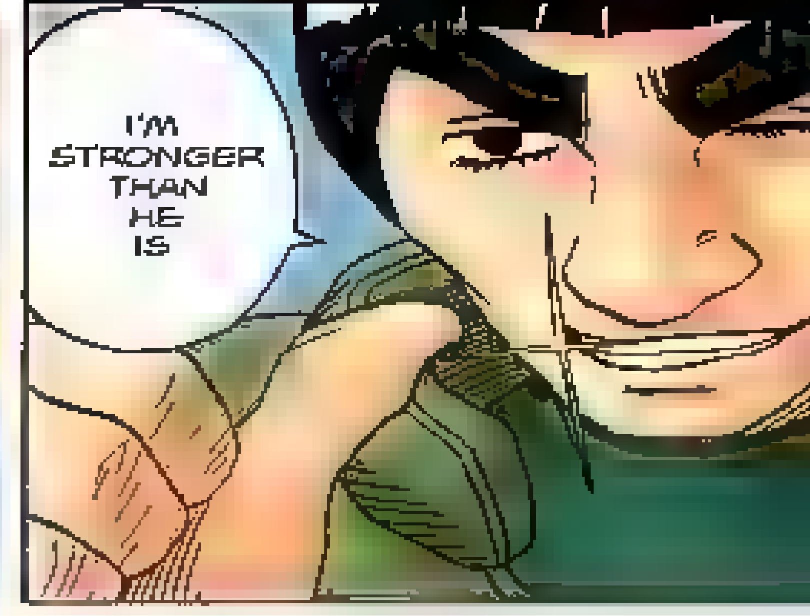


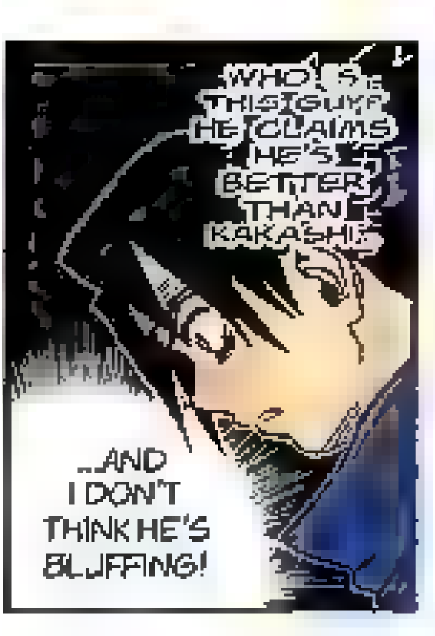
!!!

I SHOULD SAY SO! WE'RE ARCH-RIVALS!

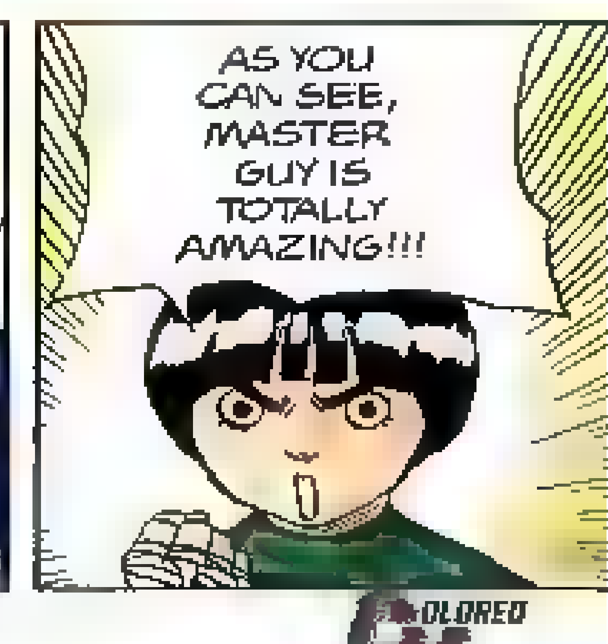

HEY! HOW'D HE..?!
THE SCORE STANDS AT FIFTY TO FORTY-NINE.
HE...

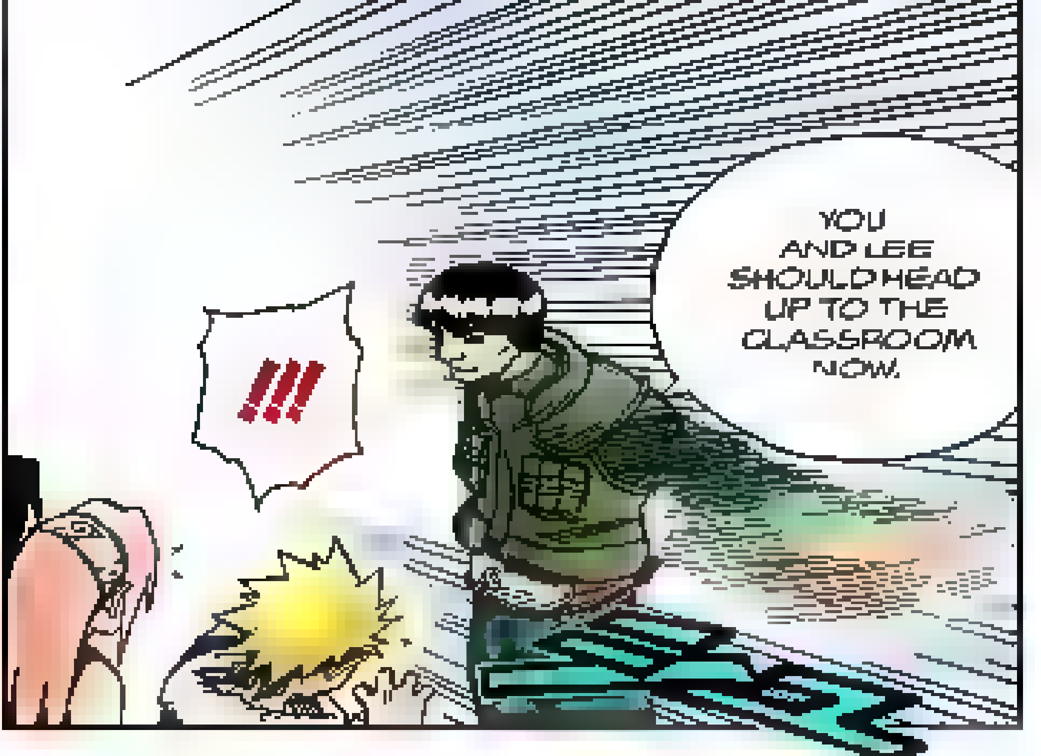
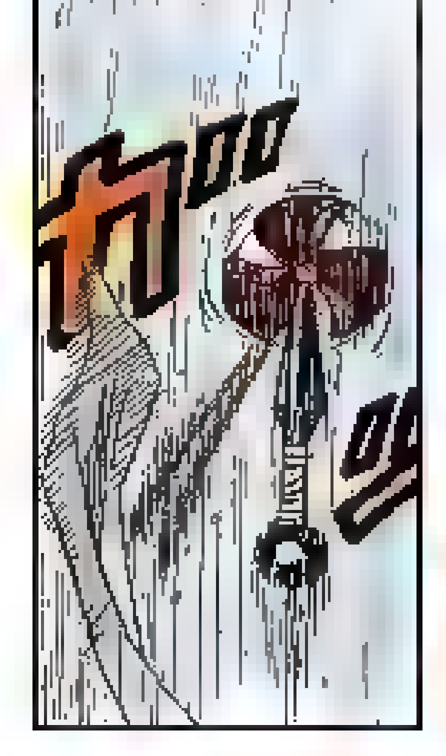

HE'S SO FAST. HIS SPEED IS MUCH GREATER THAN KAKASHI'S!!
IS HE EVEN HUMAN...?!


I'M STRONGER THAN HE IS


WHO IS THIS GUY? HE CLAIMS HE'S BETTER THAN KAKASHI
...AND I DON'T THINK HE'S BLUFFING!


KNOW LEE STARTED THIS FIGHT, BUT TAKE PITY ON HIS OLD TEACHER. FOR THE SAKE OF MY OWN SELF-RESPECT, FORGIVE HIM
GOTTA SAVE FACE... IT'S JUST SO HANDSOME!
GEEZ ...

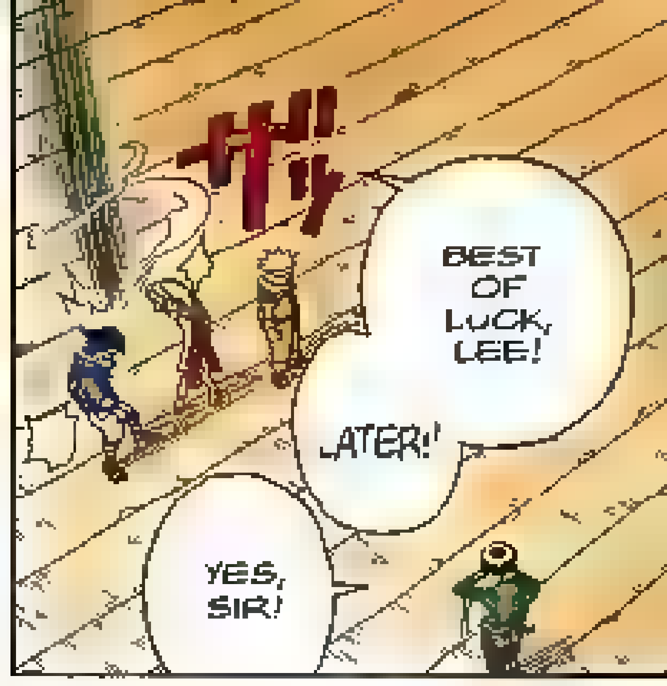

AS YOU CAN SEE, MASTER GUY IS TOTALLY AMAZING!!!


YOU AND LEE SHOULD HEAD UP TO THE CLASSROOM NOW.
!!!


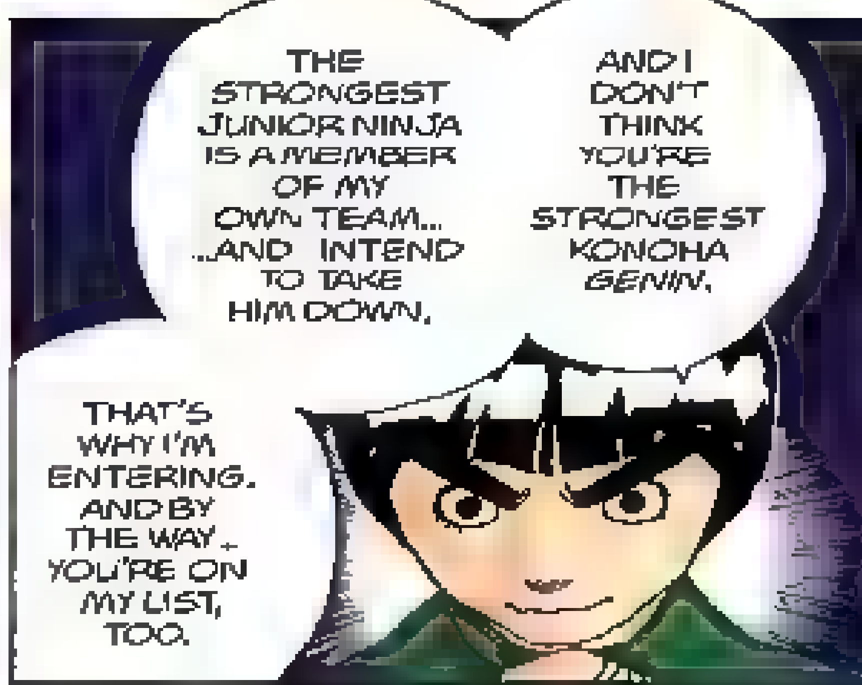
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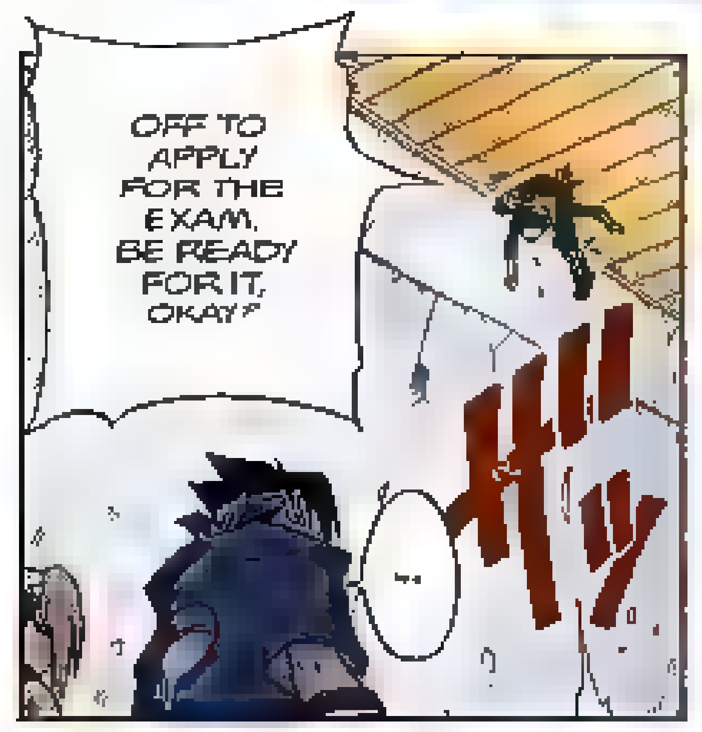


!!
HE'S...

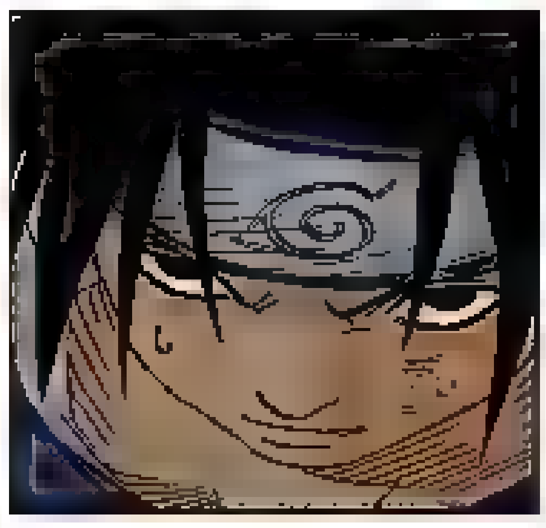


BEST OF LUCK, LEE!
LATER!
YES, SIR!

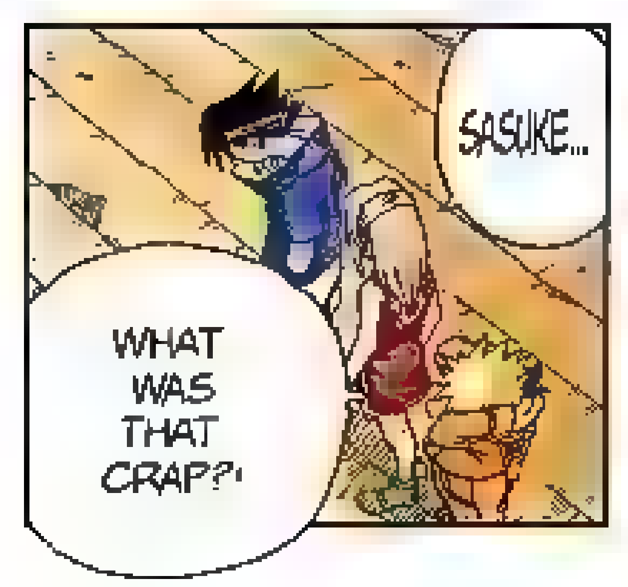

BY THE WAY, SASUKE...
...I WAS BLOWING SMOKE BEFORE.
I'M REALLY HERE TO PROVE MY OWN STRENGTH IN COMBAT.

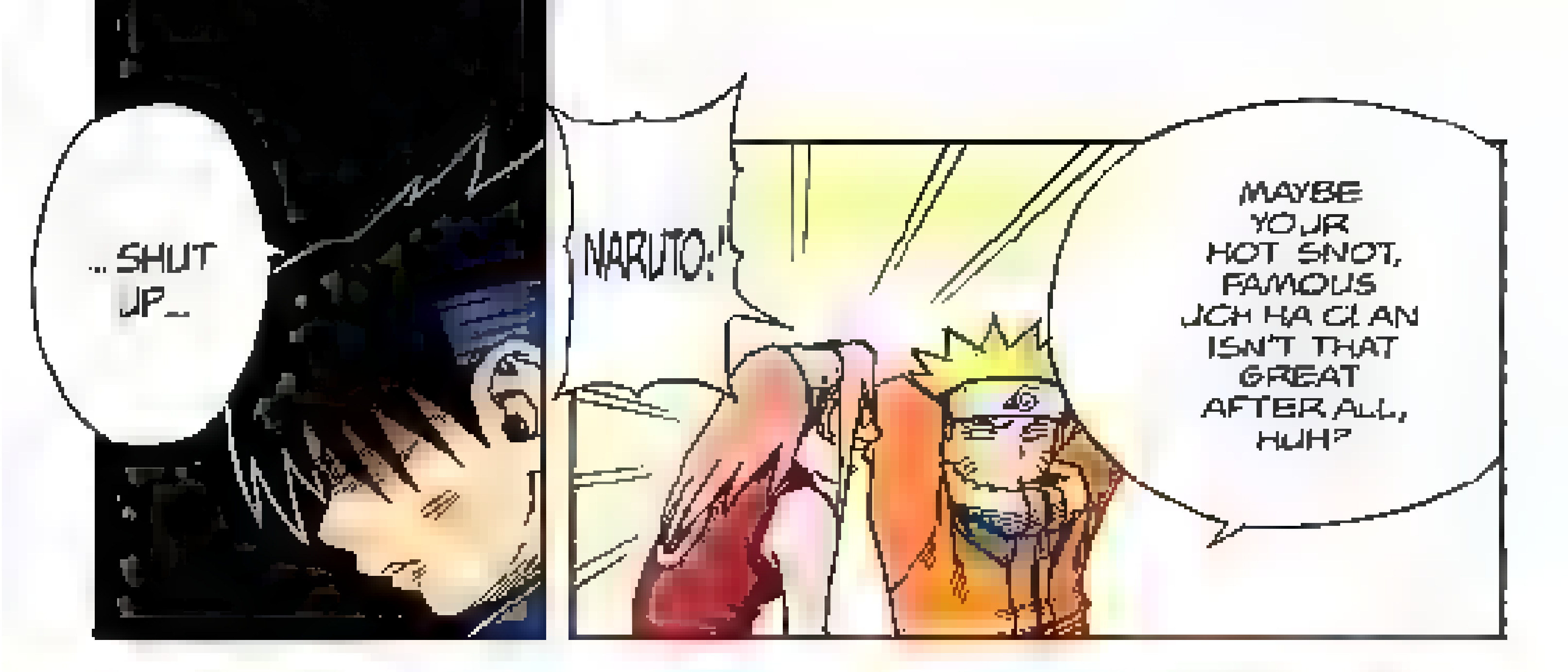

AND I DON'T THINK YOU'RE THE STRONGEST KONOHA GENIN.
THE STRONGEST JUNIOR NINJA IS A MEMBER OF MY OWN TEAM... ...AND I INTEND TO TAKE HIM DOWN.
THAT'S WHY I'M ENTERING. AND BY THE WAY... YOU'RE ON MY LIST, TOO.

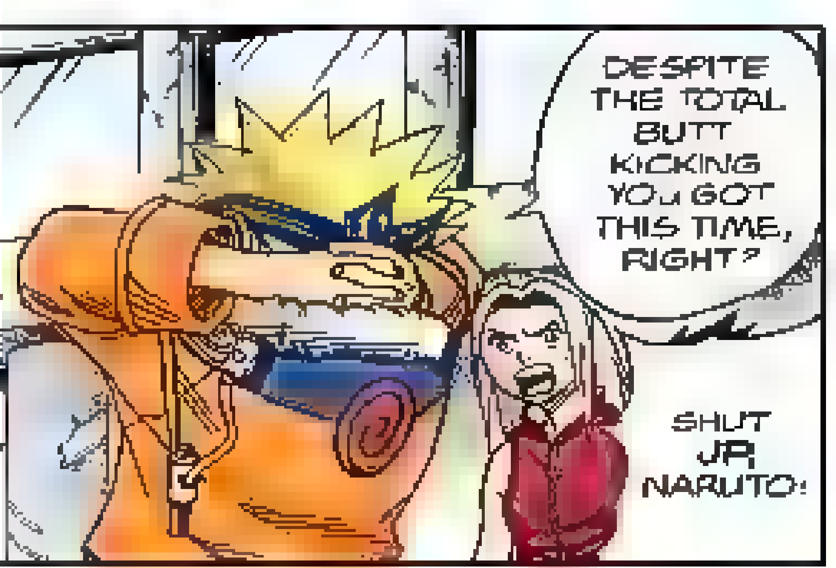

OFF TO APPLY FOR THE EXAM. BE READY FOR IT, OKAY?
...



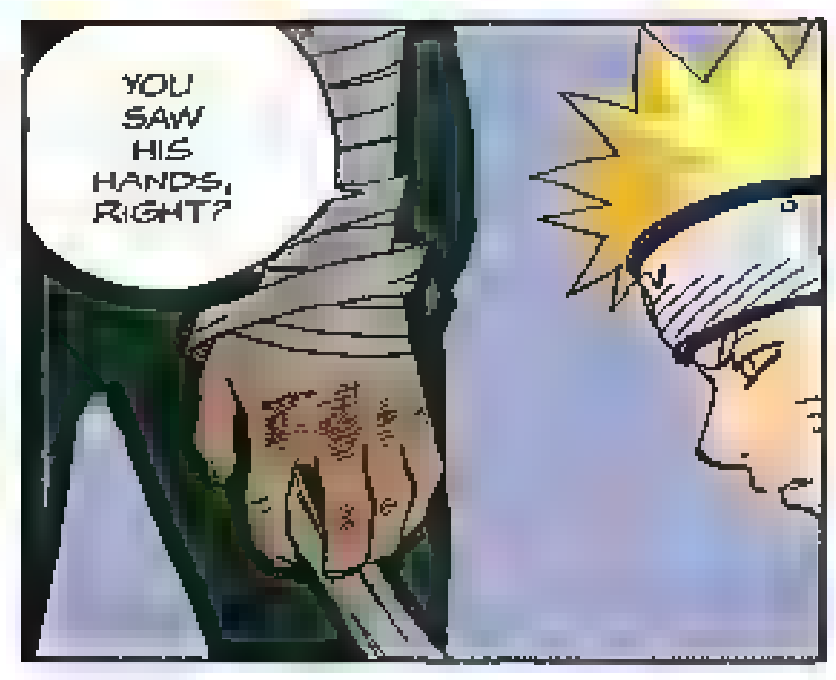


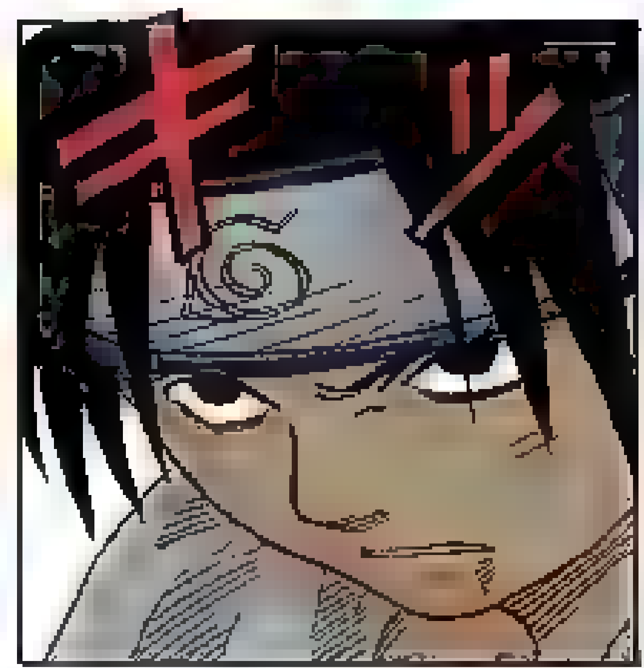

SASUKE...
WHAT WAS THAT CRAP?!


...SHUT UP...
NARUTO!!
MAYBE YOUR HOT SNOT, FAMOUS UCHIHA CLAN ISN'T THAT GREAT AFTER ALL, HUH?


DESPITE THE TOTAL BUTT KICKING YOU GOT THIS TIME, RIGHT?
SHUT UP NARUTO!


NEXT TIME, HE'S DEAD MEAT.


YOU SAW HIS HANDS, RIGHT?

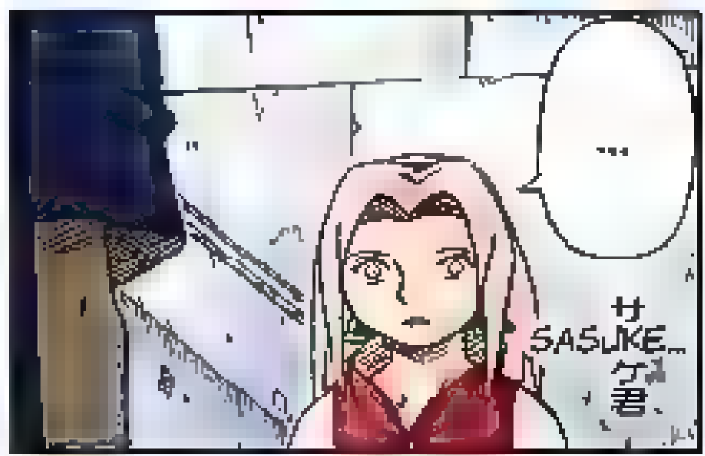




OLD DOGGY BROWS PROBABLY GETS SOME KIND OF SUPER-DUPER EXTRA SPECIAL TRAINING DAY AFTER DAY!

EVEN MORE THAN YOU GOT.

YOU'RE TOAST, PAL!



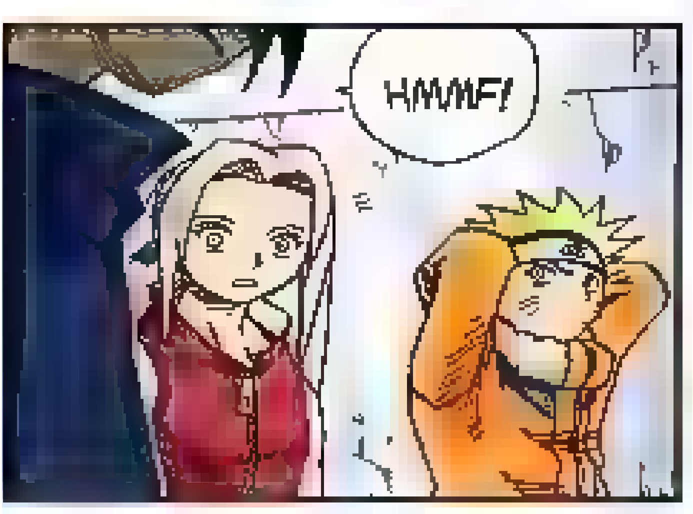




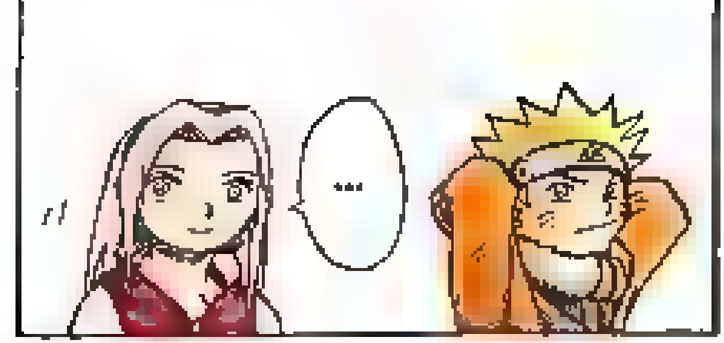


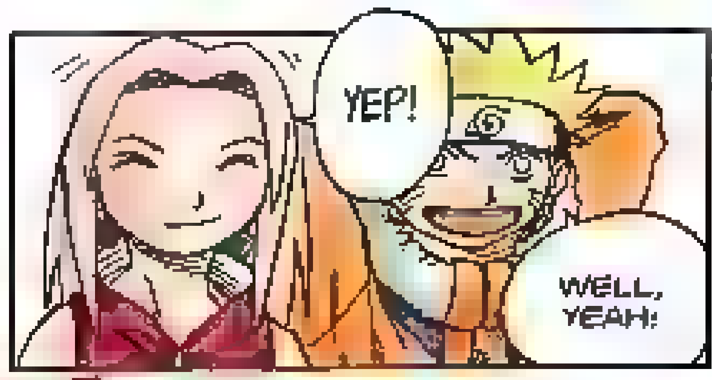








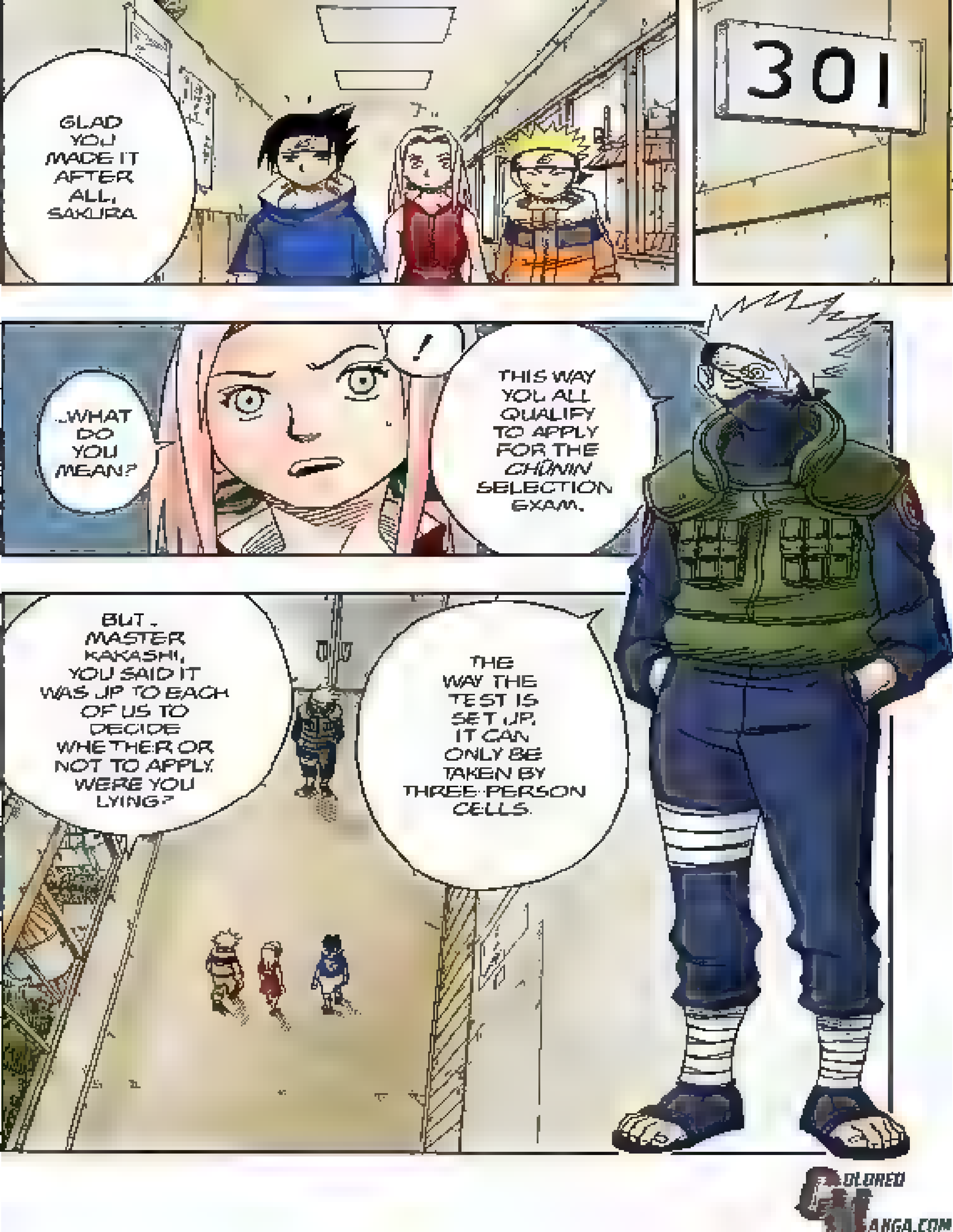






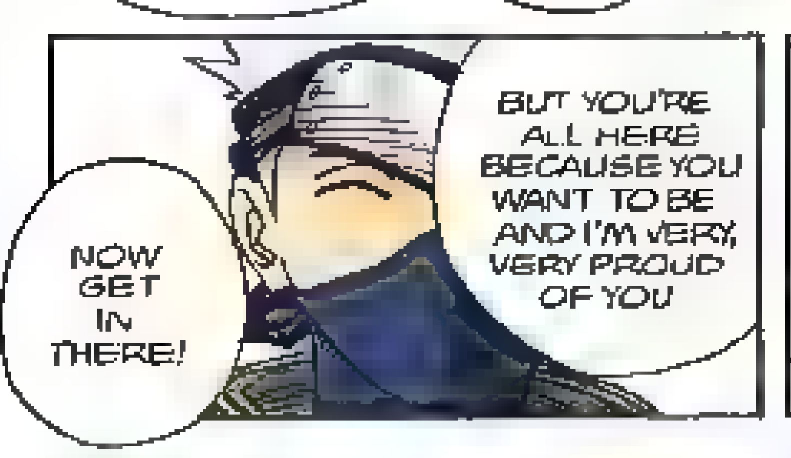
NARUTO? SAKURA? LET'S GO!

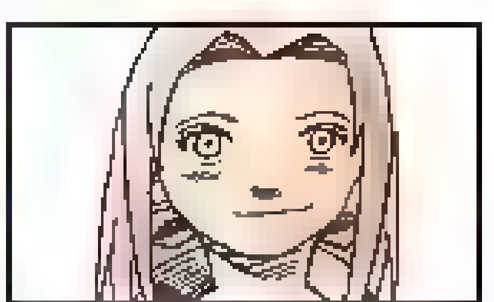
YEAH!!


301
GLAD YOU MADE IT AFTER ALL, SAKURA
!
THIS WAY YOU ALL QUALIFY TO APPLY FOR THE CHŪNIN SELECTION EXAM.
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THE WAY THE TEST IS SET UP, IT CAN ONLY BE TAKEN BY THREE-PERSON CELLS.
BUT... MASTER KAKASHI, YOU SAID IT WAS UP TO EACH OF US TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO APPLY. WERE YOU LYING?


30
I SAID WHAT I HAD TO TO KEEP YOUR PARTNERS FROM PRESSURING YOU INTO COMING ALONG.
EVEN IF YOU HAD NO INTEREST IN APPLYING, ONE WORD FROM SASUKE..
..AND YOU'D HAVE COME ALONG AND GONE THROUGH THE MOTIONS, THOUGH YOUR HEART WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN IN IT.


WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF SASUKE AND NARUTO HAD SHOWN UP WITHOUT ME?
I'D HAVE WASHED THEM OUT RIGHT HERE. NONE OF YOU WOULD HAVE GOTTEN PAST THIS POINT WITHOUT BOTH OF THE OTHERS.


BUT YOU'RE ALL HERE BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BE AND I'M VERY, VERY PROUD OF YOU
NOW GET IN THERE!








ギイ
LOOK OUT EVERYBODY, 'CAUSE HERE WE COME!!


COLORED MANGA.COM


WINK

39：挑戦者たち!!

THE CHALLENGERS!!

TAK

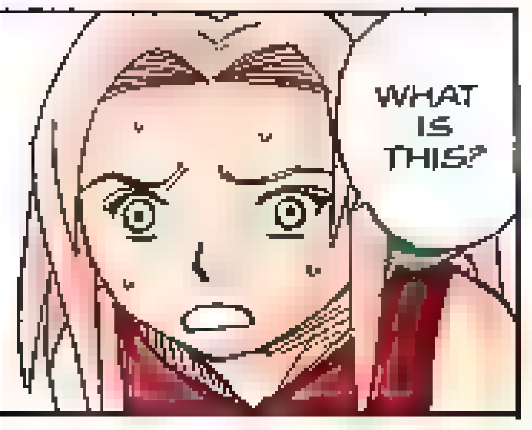
TAK

TAK

!!!







39：

挑戦者たち!!

ARE THEY ALL HERE TO APPLY?

SO MANY PEOPLE...

SASUKE! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN, CUTIE? ♡

!!

...THEY LOOK INCREDIBLE...

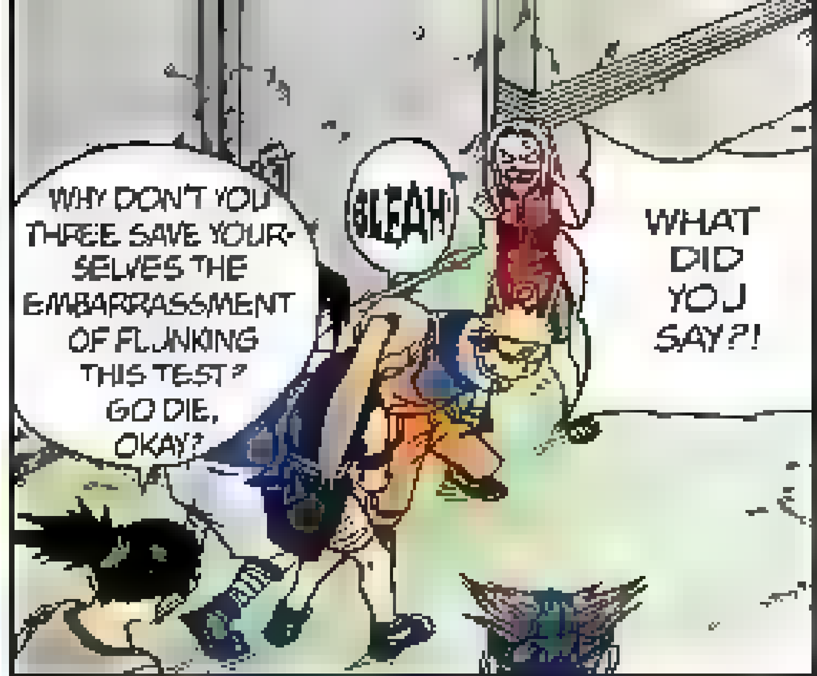
ULP!

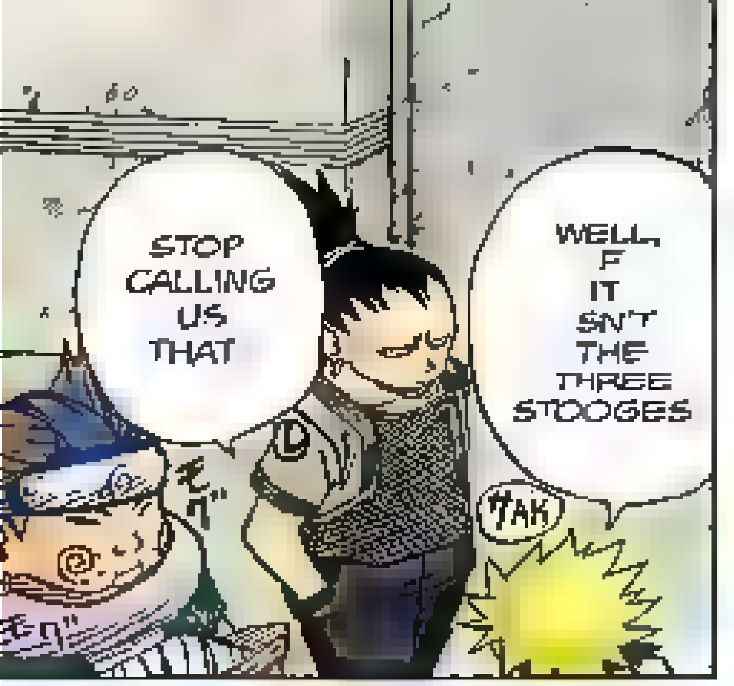
I COULD HARDLY WAIT! IT'S SO EXCITING, SEEING YOU AGAIN AFTER ALL THIS TIME!

INO, YOU PIG!!! GET YOUR HOOVES OFF SASUKE!

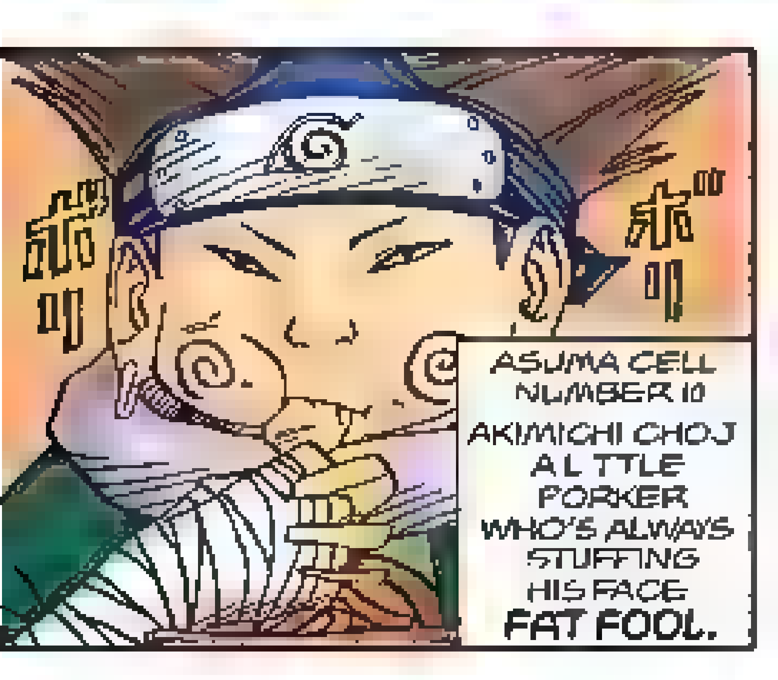
HELLO TO YOU, TOO, SAKURA.

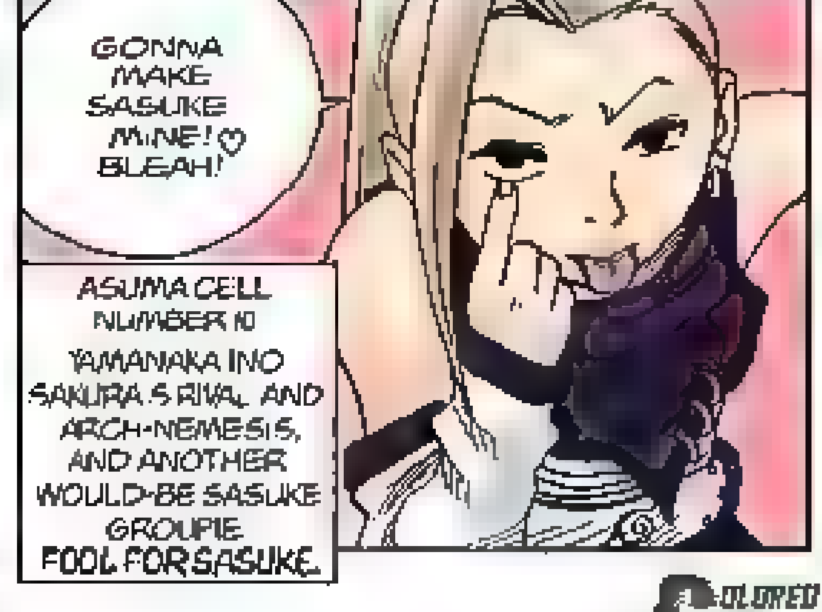
STILL HOPING THE BIG, MUTANT FOREHEAD LOOK IS GOING TO COME INTO FASHION, HUH? HOW SWEET. ♡

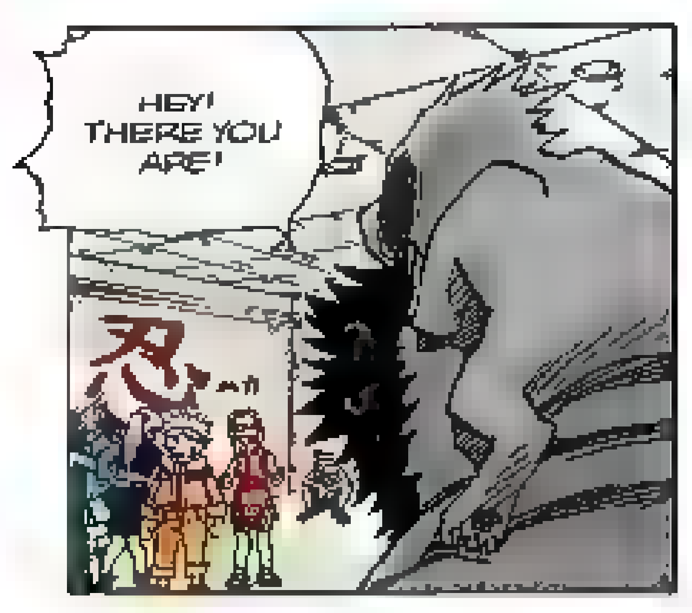

WHY DON'T YOU THREE SAVE YOURSELVES THE EMBARRASSMENT OF FLUNKING THIS TEST? GO DIE, OKAY?
BLEAH!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

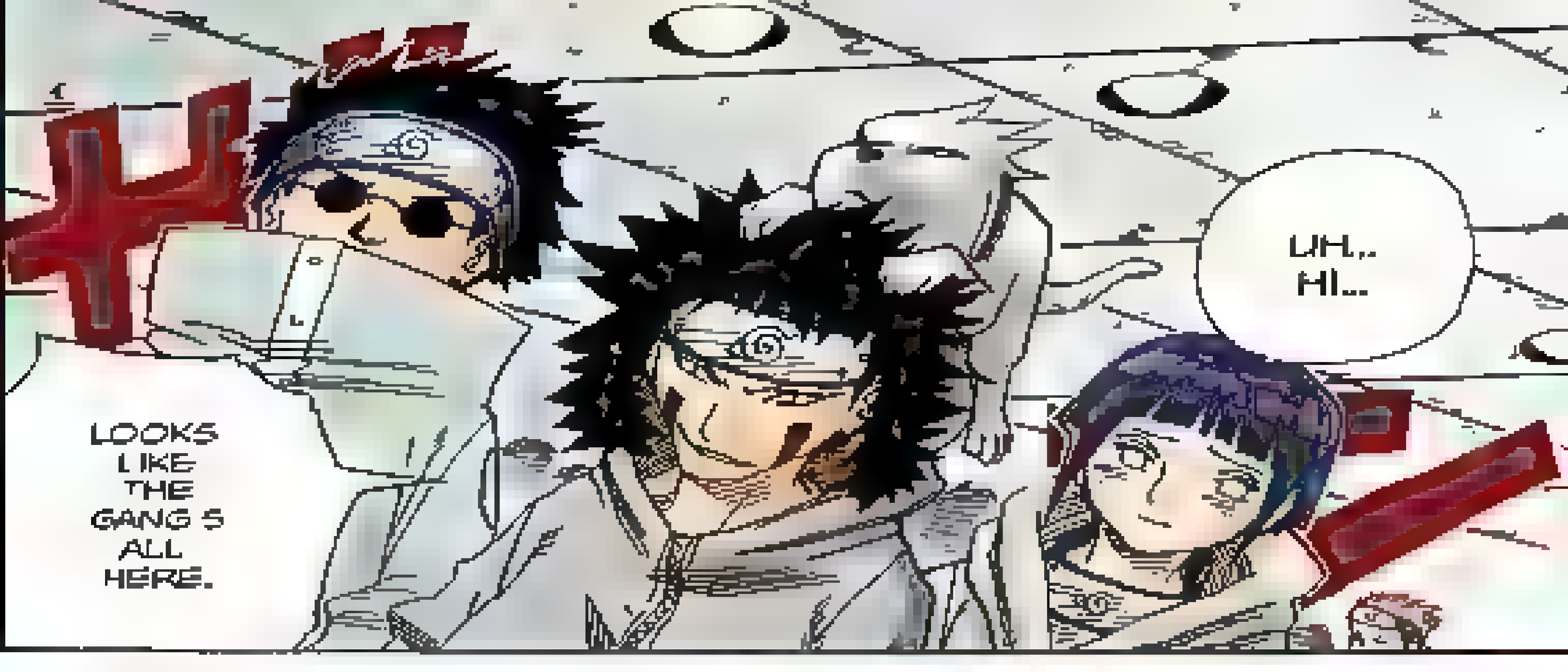

WELL, F IT SN'T THE THREE STOOGES
STOP CALLING US THAT
YAK

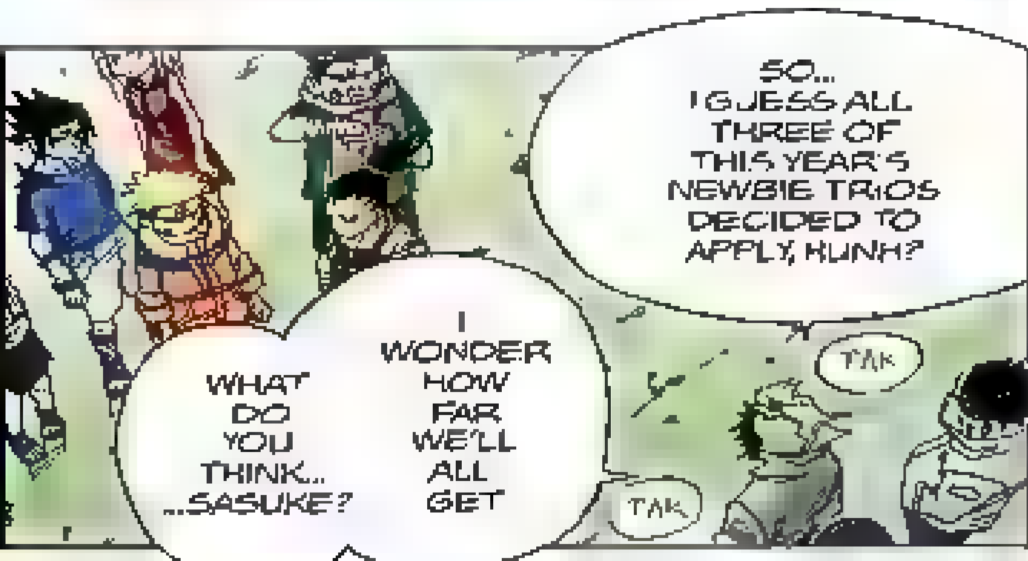

WHAT A PAIN IN THE BUTT.
ASUMA CELL NUMBER 10
NARA SHIKAMARU
A LAZY, UNMOTIVATED, GOOD-FOR-NOTHING, FULL OF NOTHING BUT COMPLAINTS,
WHINING FOOL.

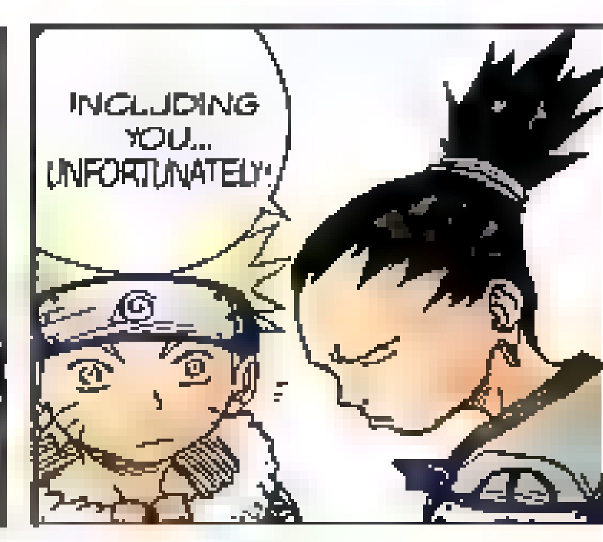

ASUMA CELL NUMBER 10
AKIMICHI CHOJ
A L TTLE PORKER WHO'S ALWAYS STUFFING HIS FACE
FAT FOOL.


GONNA MAKE SASUKE MINE! ♡ BLEAH!
ASUMA CELL NUMBER 10
YAMANAKA INO
SAKURA'S RIVAL AND ARCH-NEMESIS, AND ANOTHER WOULD-BE SASUKE GROUPIE
FOOL FOR SASUKE.

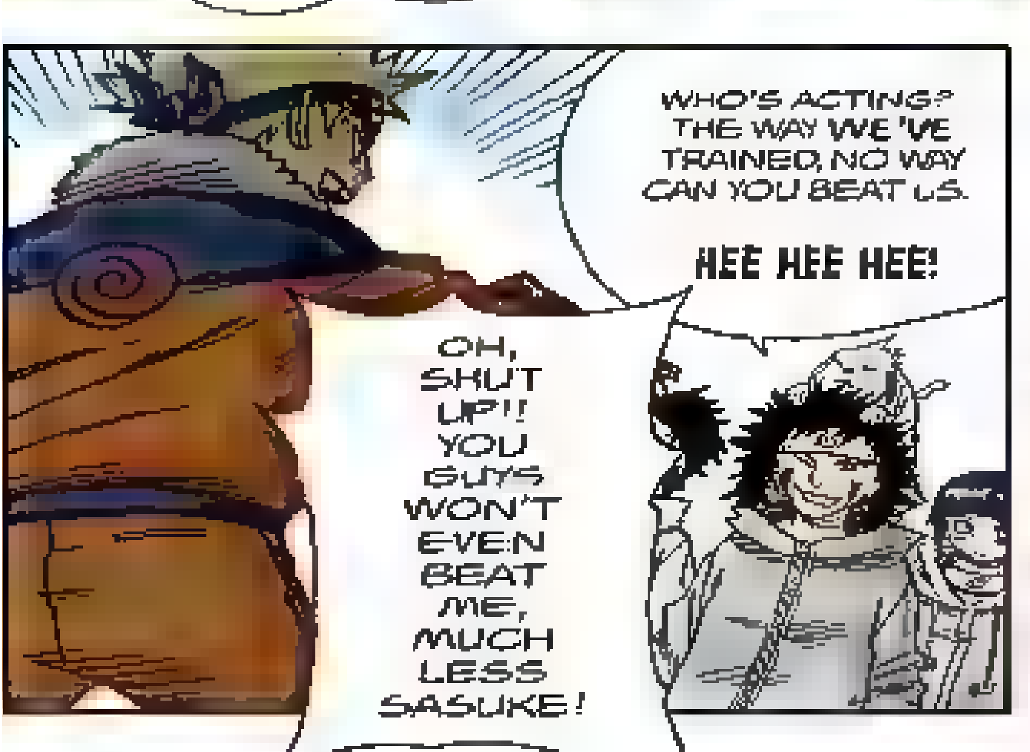

HEY! THERE YOU ARE!


UH... HI...
LOOKS LIKE THE GANG'S ALL HERE.

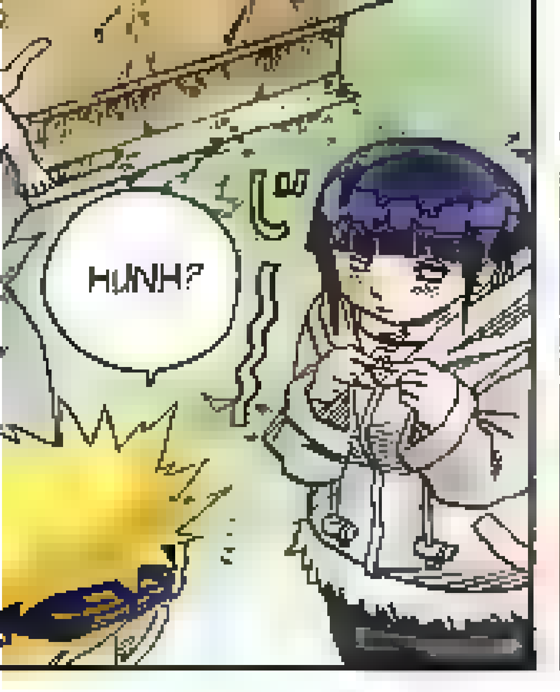

SO... I GUESS ALL THREE OF THIS YEAR'S NEWBIE TRIOS DECIDED TO APPLY, HUNH?
TAK
TAK
I WONDER HOW FAR WE'LL ALL GET
WHAT DO YOU THINK... ...SASUKE?

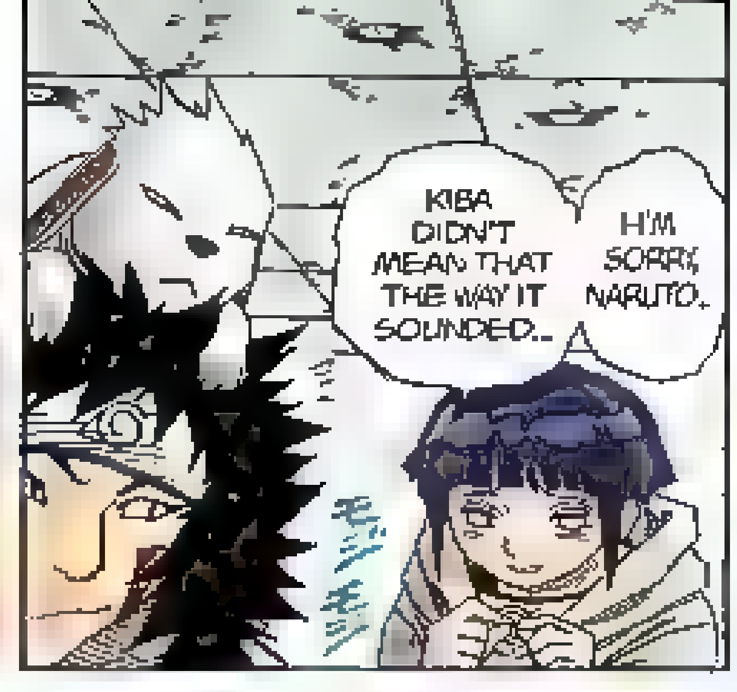
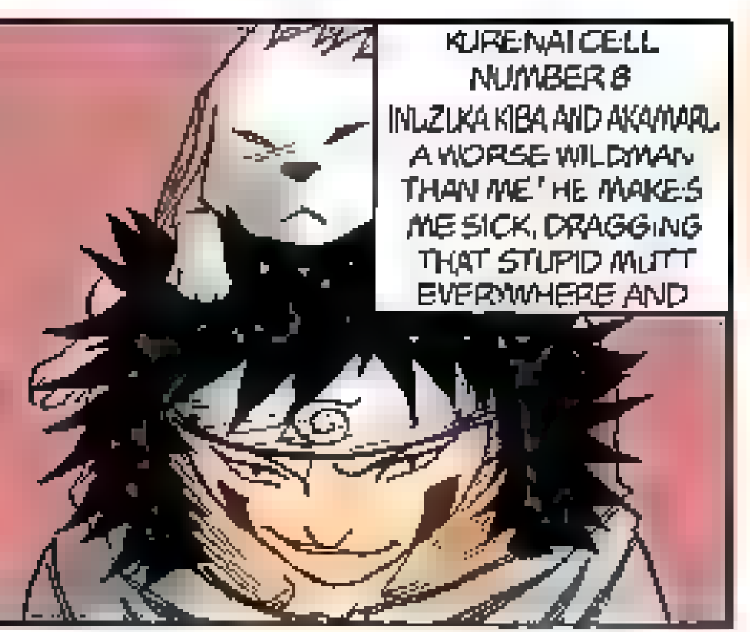
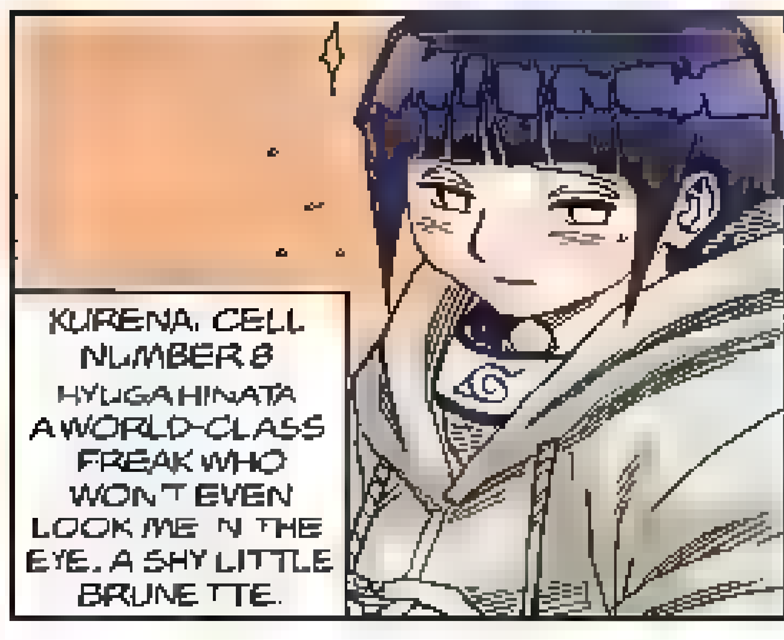
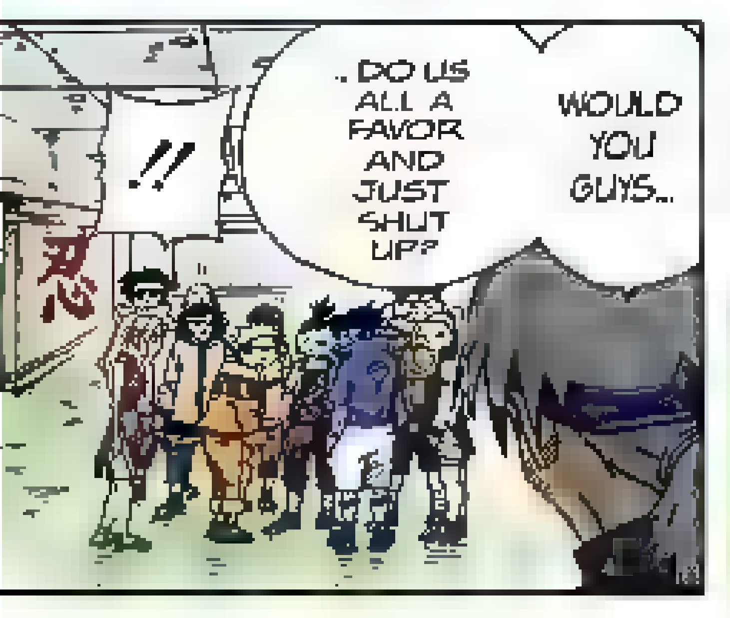

INCLUDING YOU... UNFORTUNATELY!


TRYING TO PSYCH US BY ACTING COOL, KIBA?


WHO'S ACTING? THE WAY WE'VE TRAINED, NO WAY CAN YOU BEAT US.
HEE HEE HEE!
OH, SHUT UP!! YOU GUYS WON'T EVEN BEAT ME, MUCH LESS SASUKE!


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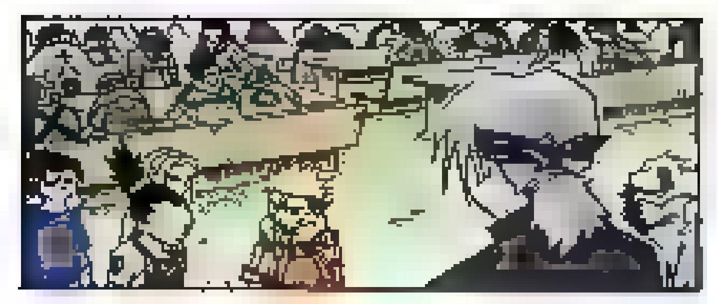

HUNH?

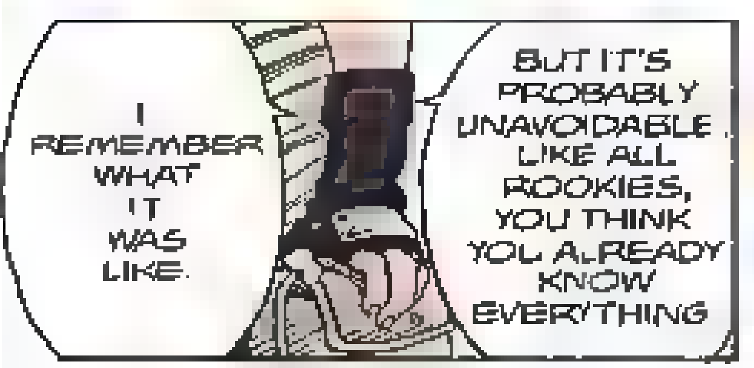
THAT DOG WOULD PROBABLY BE GREAT WITH SOME HOT SAUCE.....

I'M SORRY, NARUTO..
KIBA DIDN'T MEAN THAT THE WAY IT SOUNDED..

KURENAI CELL NUMBER 8
INUZUKA KIBA AND AKAMARU
A WORSE WILDMAN THAN ME' HE MAKES ME SICK, DRAGGING THAT STUPID MUTT EVERYWHERE AND

KURENAI CELL NUMBER 8
HYUGA HINATA
A WORLD-CLASS FREAK WHO WON'T EVEN LOOK ME IN THE EYE.. A SHY LITTLE BRUNETTE.

!!
WOULD YOU GUYS..
..DO US ALL A FAVOR AND JUST SHUT UP?

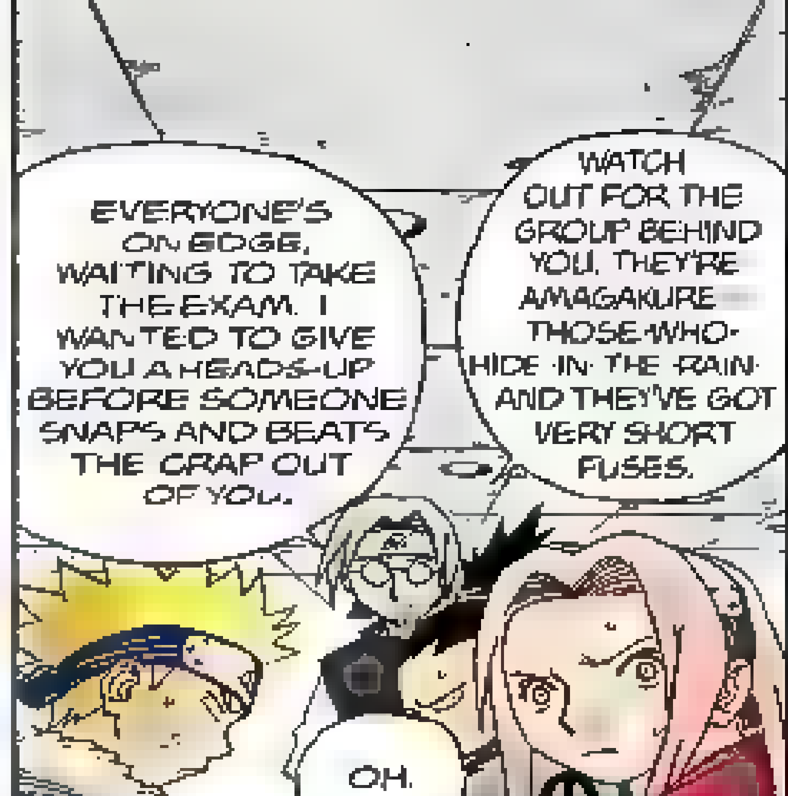
KURENAI CELL NUMBER 8
ABURAME SHINO
I DON'T KNOW THIS GUY FROM ADAM.
NO READING ON HIM WHATSOEVER.

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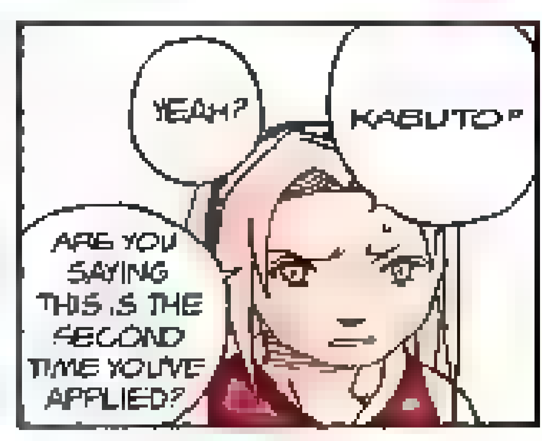

TAK
YOU THREE GANGS OF WOULD-BE HOTSHOTS ARE ALL GENIN, RIGHT? KIDS BARELY OUT OF THE LOCAL NINJA ACADEMY?
ALL WET-BEHIND-THE-EARS AND RUNNY-NOSED!
THIS ISN'T A SCHOOL FIELD TRIP, YOU KNOW.
WHO THE HECK DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
NAME'S KABUTO. SO WHAT?
YOU KIDS NEED TO OPEN YOUR EYES.
WHY?
ギロロ!
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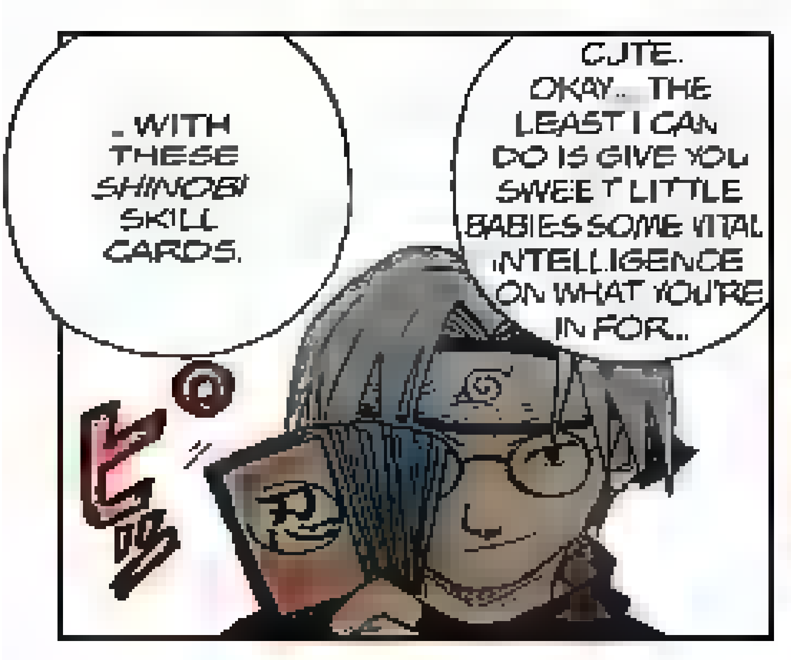


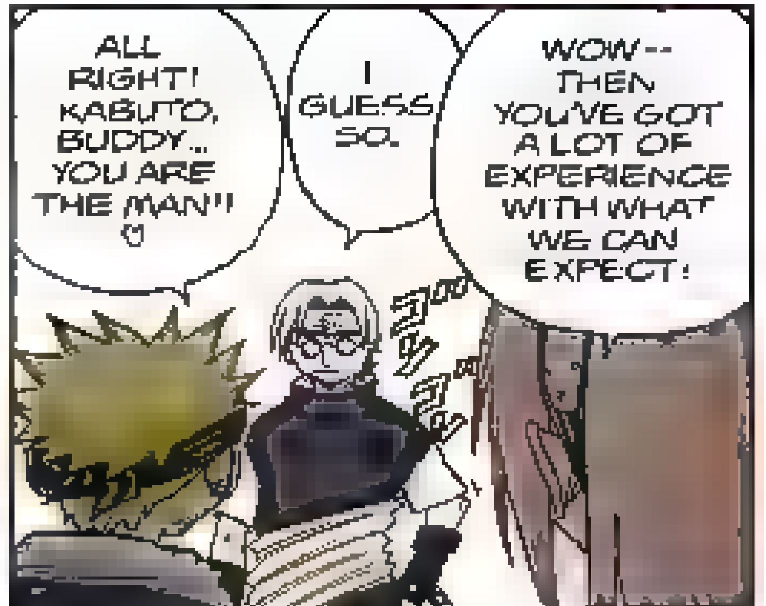

I REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE.
BUT IT'S PROBABLY UNAVOIDABLE. LIKE ALL ROOKIES, YOU THINK YOU ALREADY KNOW EVERYTHING


EVERYONE'S ON EDGE, WAITING TO TAKE THE EXAM. I WANTED TO GIVE YOU A HEADS-UP BEFORE SOMEONE SNAPS AND BEATS THE CRAP OUT OF YOU.
WATCH OUT FOR THE GROUP BEHIND YOU. THEY'RE AMAGAKURE -- THOSE WHO HIDE IN THE RAIN. AND THEY'VE GOT VERY SHORT FUSES.
OH.

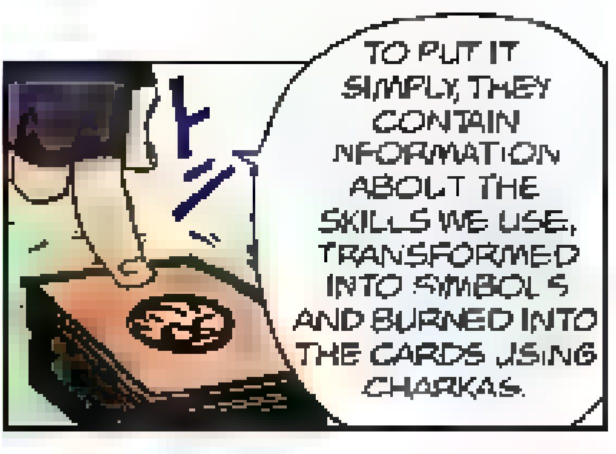

SEVENTH.
NOT SECOND...
TWICE A YEAR FOR... HM, GOING ON FOUR YEARS NOW.

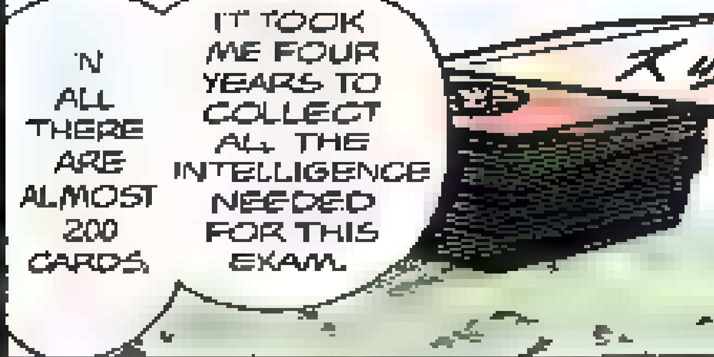

YEAH?
KABUTO?
ARE YOU SAYING THIS IS THE SECOND TIME YOU'VE APPLIED?


...WITH THESE SHINOBI SKILL CARDS.
CUTE. OKAY... THE LEAST I CAN DO IS GIVE YOU SWEET LITTLE BABIES SOME VITAL INTELLIGENCE ON WHAT YOU'RE IN FOR...

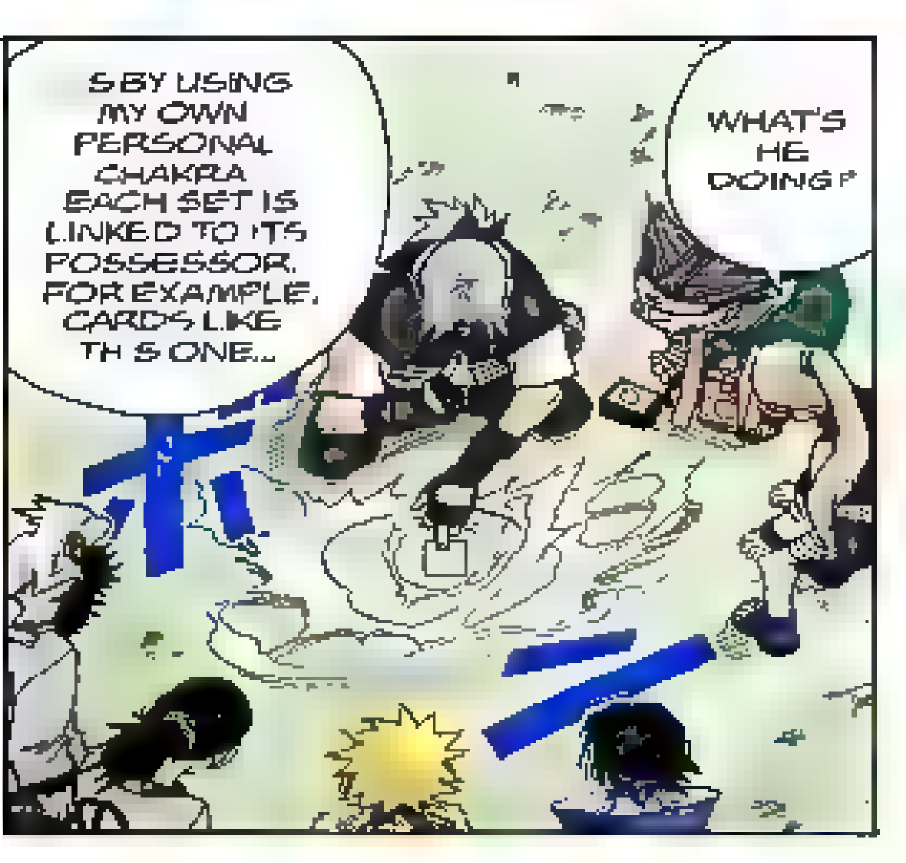

ALL RIGHT! KABUTO, BUDDY... YOU ARE THE MAN!! ♡
I GUESS SO.
WOW -- THEN YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF EXPERIENCE WITH WHAT WE CAN EXPECT!

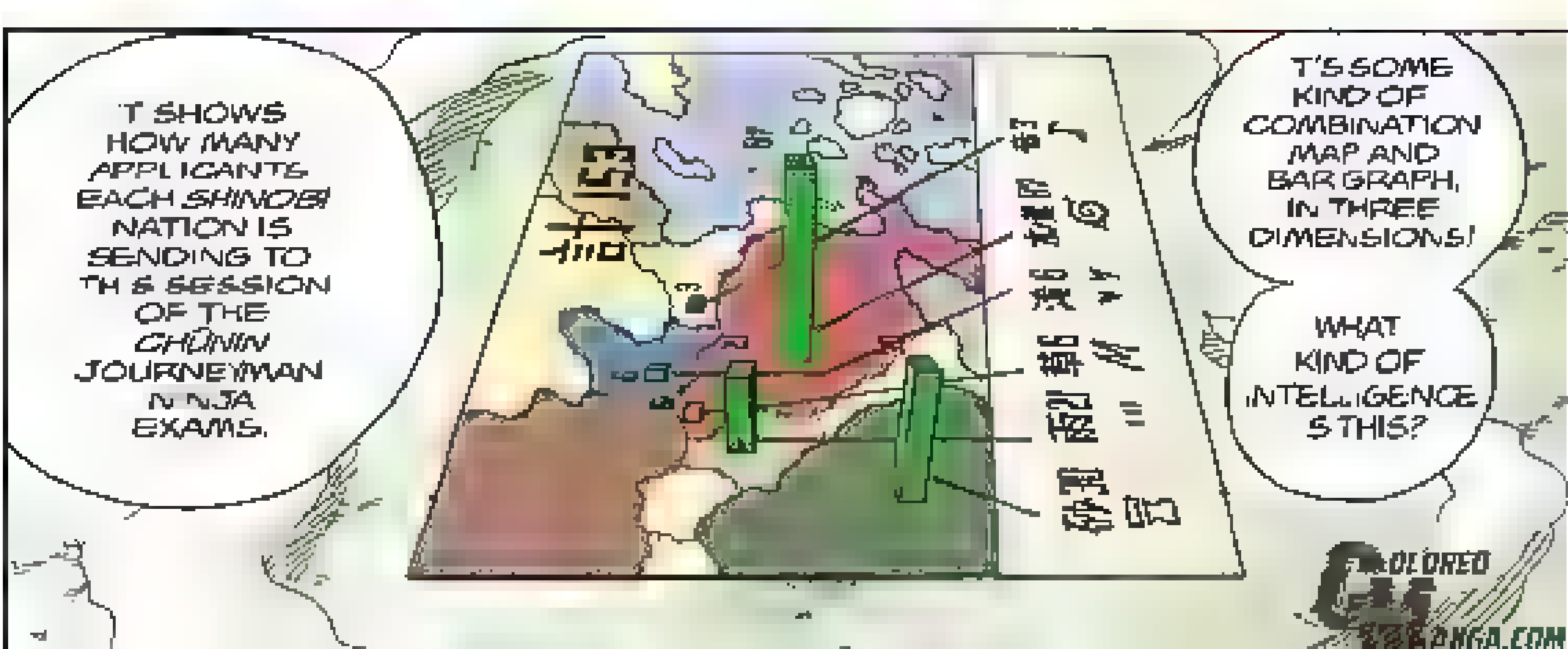

SHINOBI SKILL CARDS?

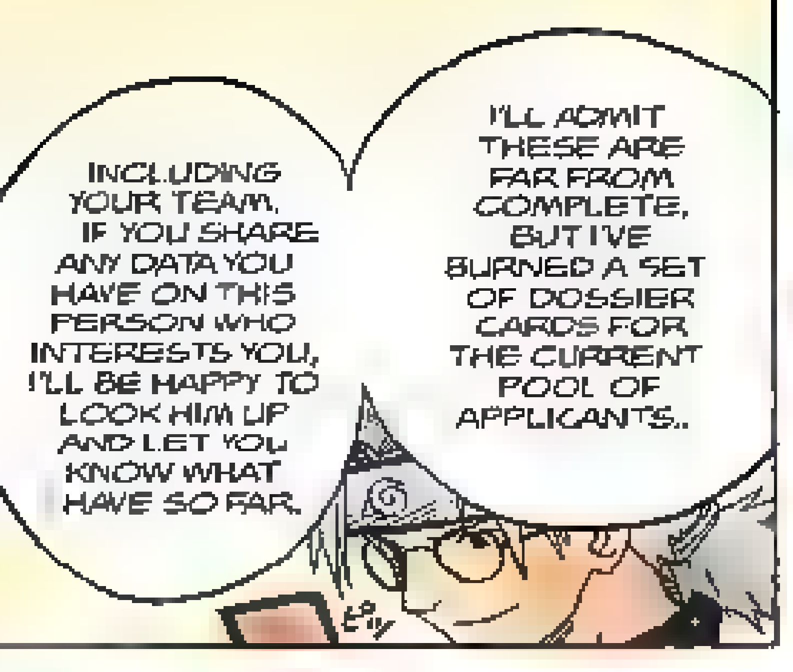

TO PUT IT SIMPLY, THEY CONTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SKILLS WE USE, TRANSFORMED INTO SYMBOLS AND BURNED INTO THE CARDS USING CHARKAS.

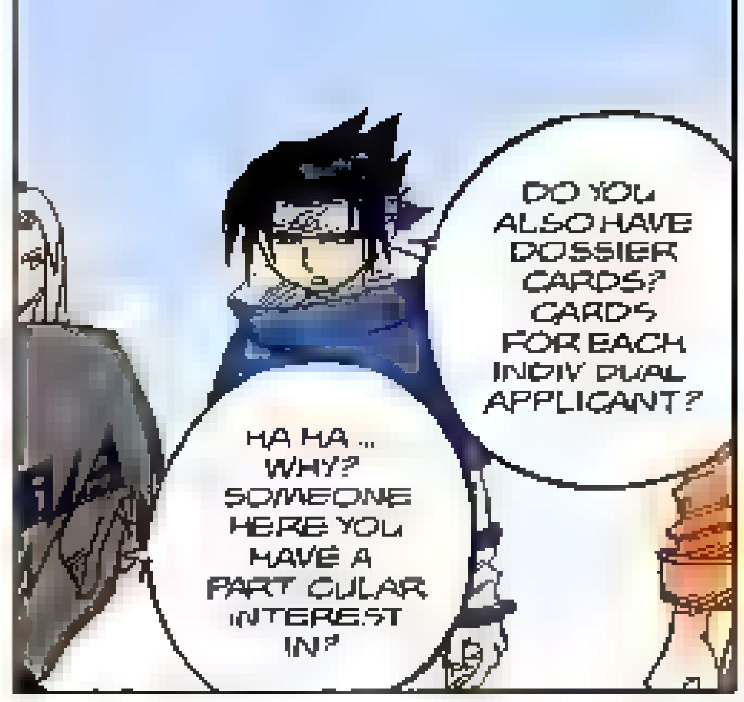

IT TOOK ME FOUR YEARS TO COLLECT ALL THE INTELLIGENCE NEEDED FOR THIS EXAM.
'N ALL THERE ARE ALMOST 200 CARDS.

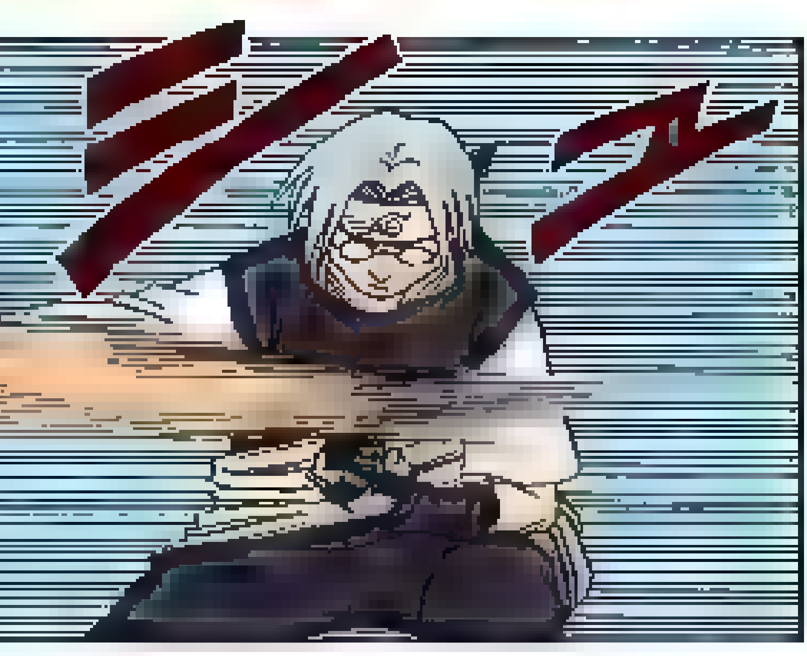

THEY LOOK BLANK, DON'T THEY? THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN READ THE DATA ON THE CARDS.

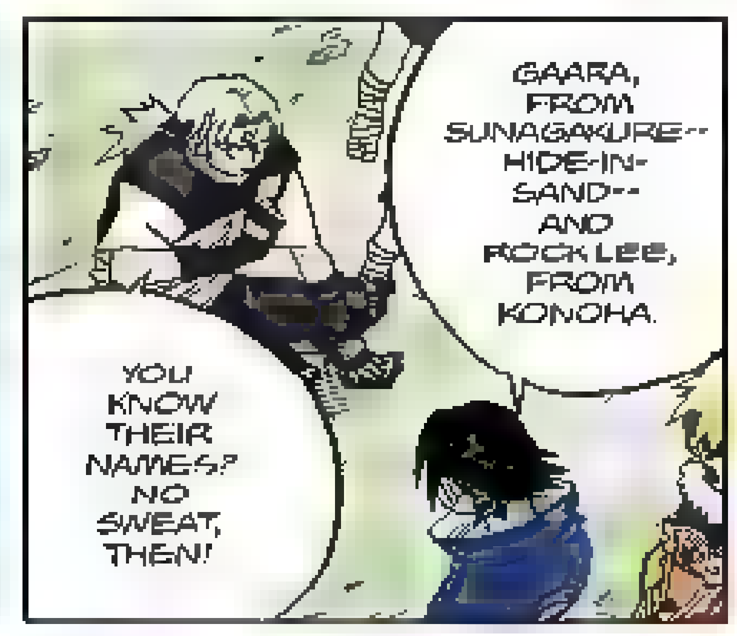

S BY USING MY OWN PERSONAL CHAKRA EACH SET IS LINKED TO ITS POSSESSOR. FOR EXAMPLE, CARDS LIKE TH S ONE...
WHAT'S HE DOING?

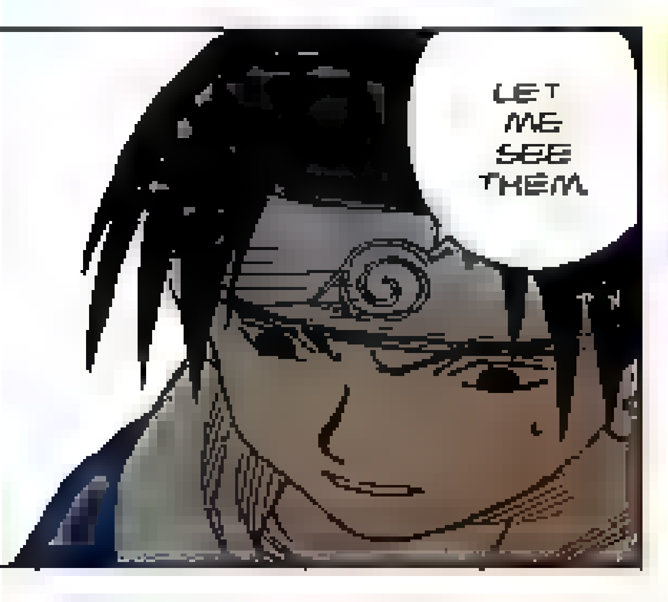

T'S SOME KIND OF COMBINATION MAP AND BAR GRAPH, IN THREE DIMENSIONS!
WHAT KIND OF INTELLIGENCE S THIS?
T SHOWS HOW MANY APPLICANTS EACH SHINOBI NATION IS SENDING TO TH S SESSION OF THE CHŪNIN JOURNEYMAN N NJA EXAMS.


I'LL ADMIT THESE ARE FAR FROM COMPLETE, BUT I'VE BURNED A SET OF DOSSIER CARDS FOR THE CURRENT POOL OF APPLICANTS..
INCLUDING YOUR TEAM. IF YOU SHARE ANY DATA YOU HAVE ON THIS PERSON WHO INTERESTS YOU, I'LL BE HAPPY TO LOOK HIM UP AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAVE SO FAR.


DO YOU ALSO HAVE DOSSIER CARDS? CARDS FOR EACH INDIV DUAL APPLICANT?
HA HA ... WHY? SOMEONE HERE YOU HAVE A PART CULAR INTEREST IN?




GAARA, FROM SUNAGAKURE-- HIDE-IN-SAND-- AND ROCK LEE, FROM KONOHA.
YOU KNOW THEIR NAMES? NO SWEAT, THEN!


LET ME SEE THEM.


I DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT THIS GUY'S TALKING ABOUT.. BUT 'LL PLAY ALONG.





FIRST UP IS ROCK LEE

HE WAS CONSIDERED A STANDOUT AMONG LAST YEAR'S *GENIN* BUT HE DIDN'T APPLY FOR THE *CHŪNIN* EXAM.

HE'S A YEAR OLDER THAN YOU. THREE MISSIONS TO DATE: 20 D-RANKED, 11 C-RANKED. HIS TEAM'S MENTOR IS MIGHT GUY...

AND HIS *TAIJUTSU* PHYSICAL SKILLS HAVE GROWN EXPONENTIALLY THIS PAST YEAR. HE HAS NO OTHER TALENTS WORTH MENTIONING.

HE'S A FIRST-TIMER, LIKE YOU THREE. HIS TEAMMATES ARE NAMED HYUGA NEJI AND TENTEN.

体 忍 忍具 血 幻

NEXT IS GAARA OF THE SAND DESERT COUNTRY...

SINCE HE'S FROM WAY OUT IN THE DESERT, I HAVE LESS ON HIM... BUT IT'S INTERESTING. HE'S COME BACK FROM EVERY MISSION COMPLETELY UNSCATHED.

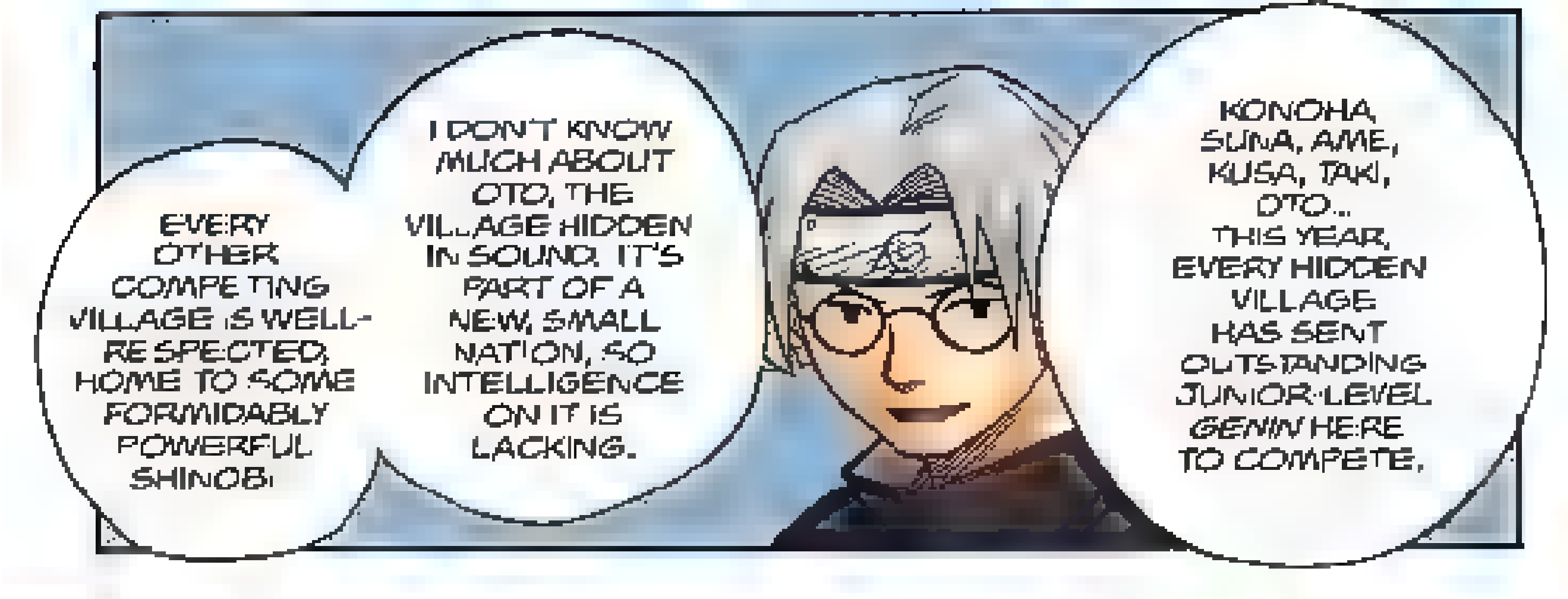
EIGHT C-RANKED MISSIONS... ONE B. WOW! NOT MANY ROOKIE SHINOBI GET B-RANKED ASSIGNMENTS!

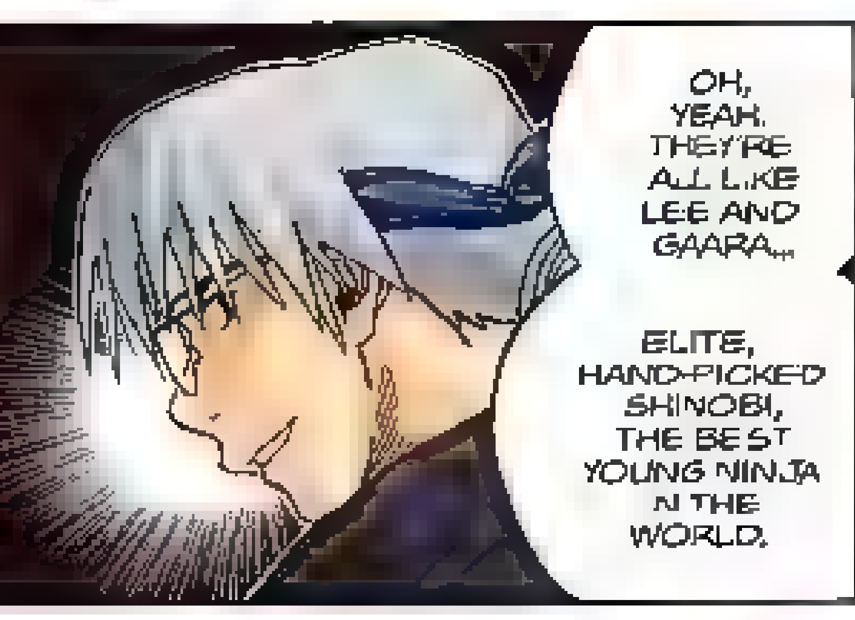
WITHOUT A SCRATCH...

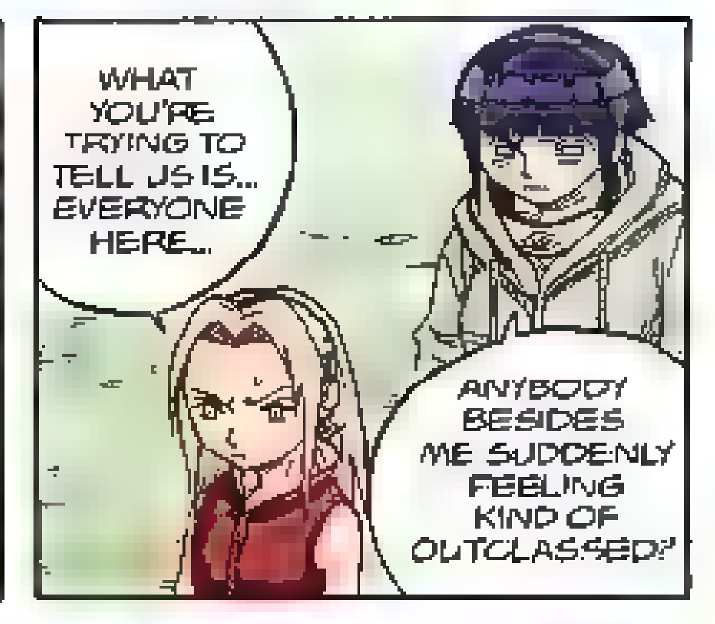
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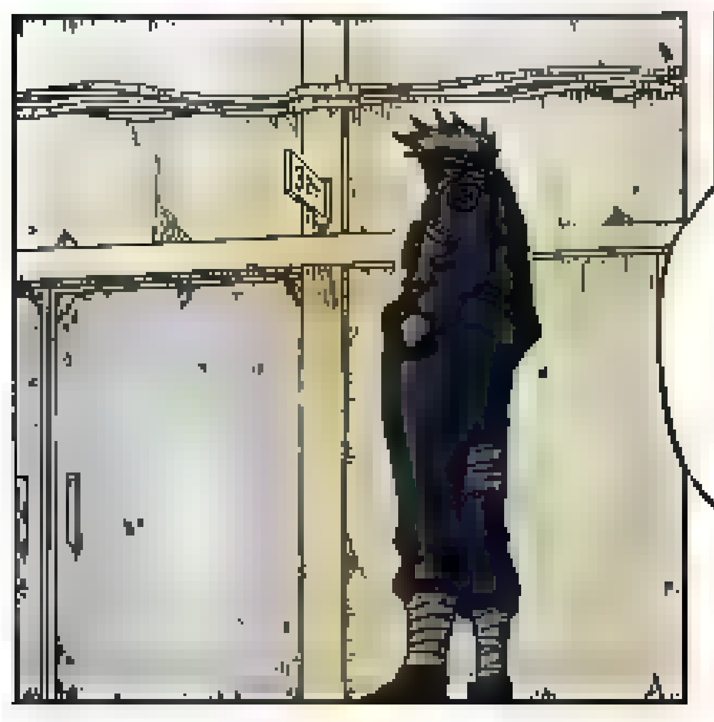


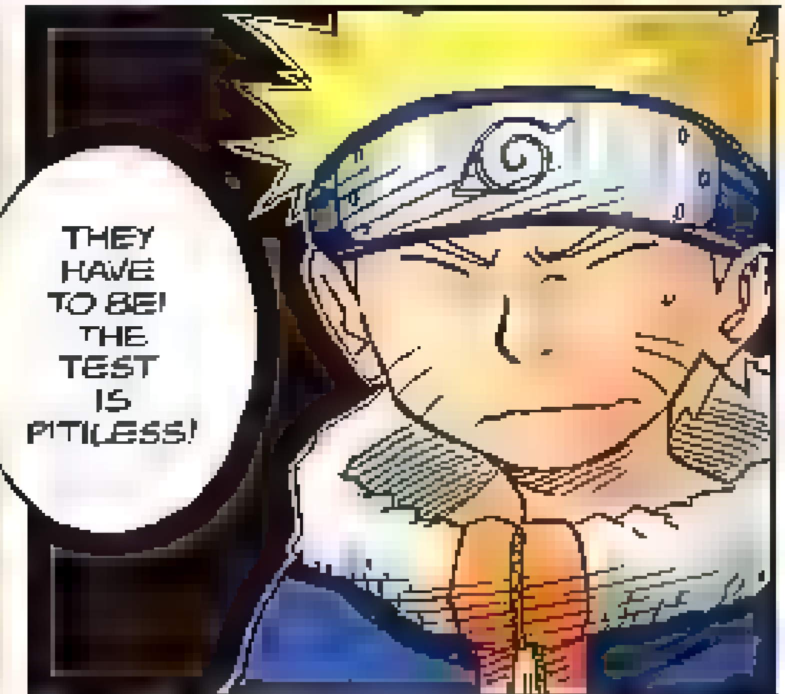



KONOHA, SUNA, AME, KUSA, TAKI, OTO... THIS YEAR, EVERY HIDDEN VILLAGE HAS SENT OUTSTANDING JUNIOR-LEVEL GENIN HERE TO COMPETE.
EVERY OTHER COMPETING VILLAGE IS WELL-RESPECTED, HOME TO SOME FORMIDABLY POWERFUL SHINOBI.
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT OTO, THE VILLAGE HIDDEN IN SOUND. IT'S PART OF A NEW, SMALL NATION, SO INTELLIGENCE ON IT IS LACKING.

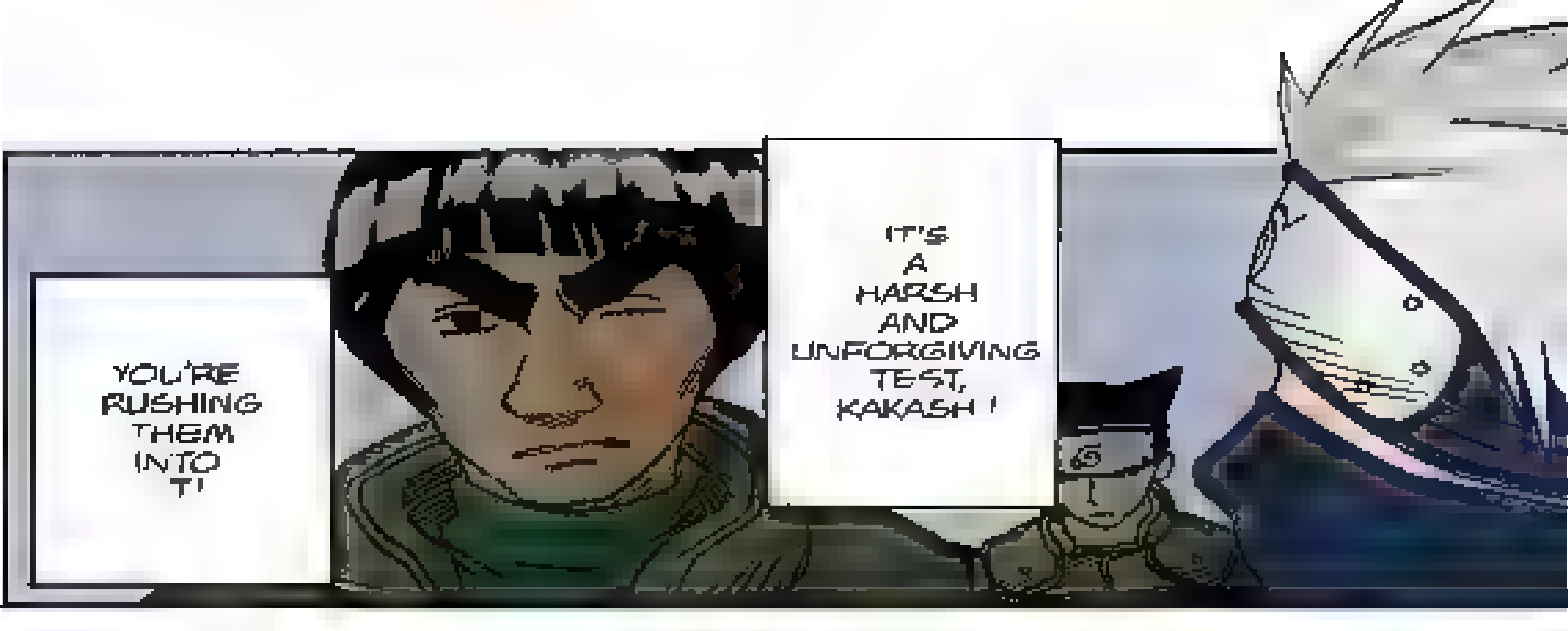

OH, YEAH. THEY'RE ALL LIKE LEE AND GAARA...
ELITE, HAND-PICKED SHINOBI, THE BEST YOUNG NINJA IN THE WORLD.


WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL US IS... EVERYONE HERE...
ANYBODY BESIDES ME SUDDENLY FEELING KIND OF OUTCLASSED?



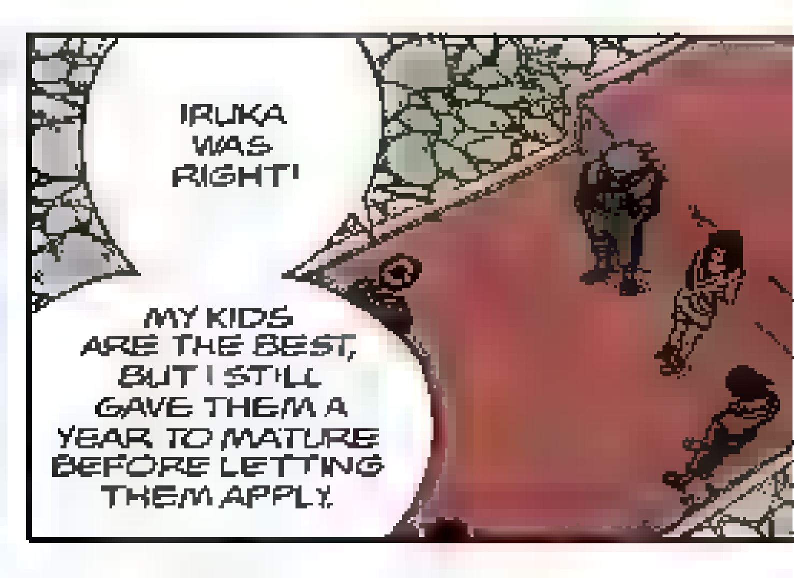

THEY HAVE TO BE! THE TEST IS PITILESS!

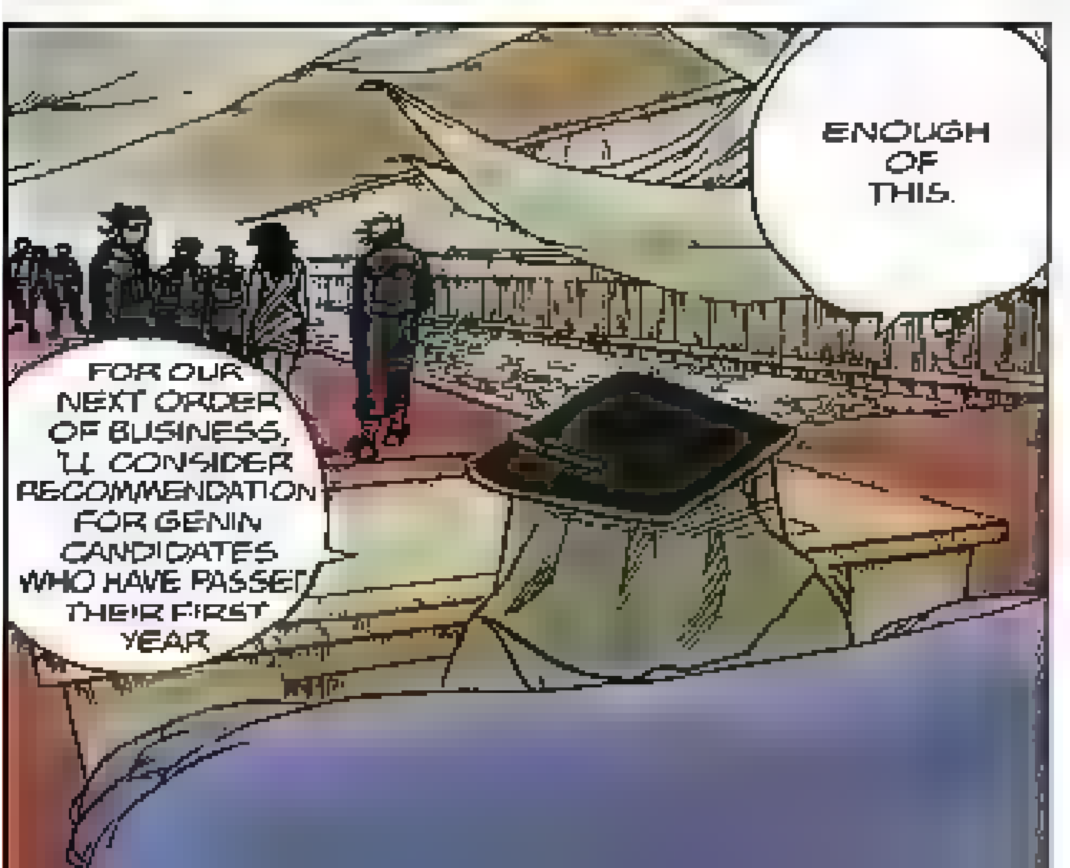



IT'S A HARSH AND UNFORGIVING TEST, KAKASHI!
YOU'RE RUSHING THEM INTO IT!


GIVE YOUR CELL TIME TO BUILD SOME STRENGTH.
HEH...




IRUKA WAS RIGHT!
MY KIDS ARE THE BEST, BUT I STILL GAVE THEM A YEAR TO MATURE BEFORE LETTING THEM APPLY.

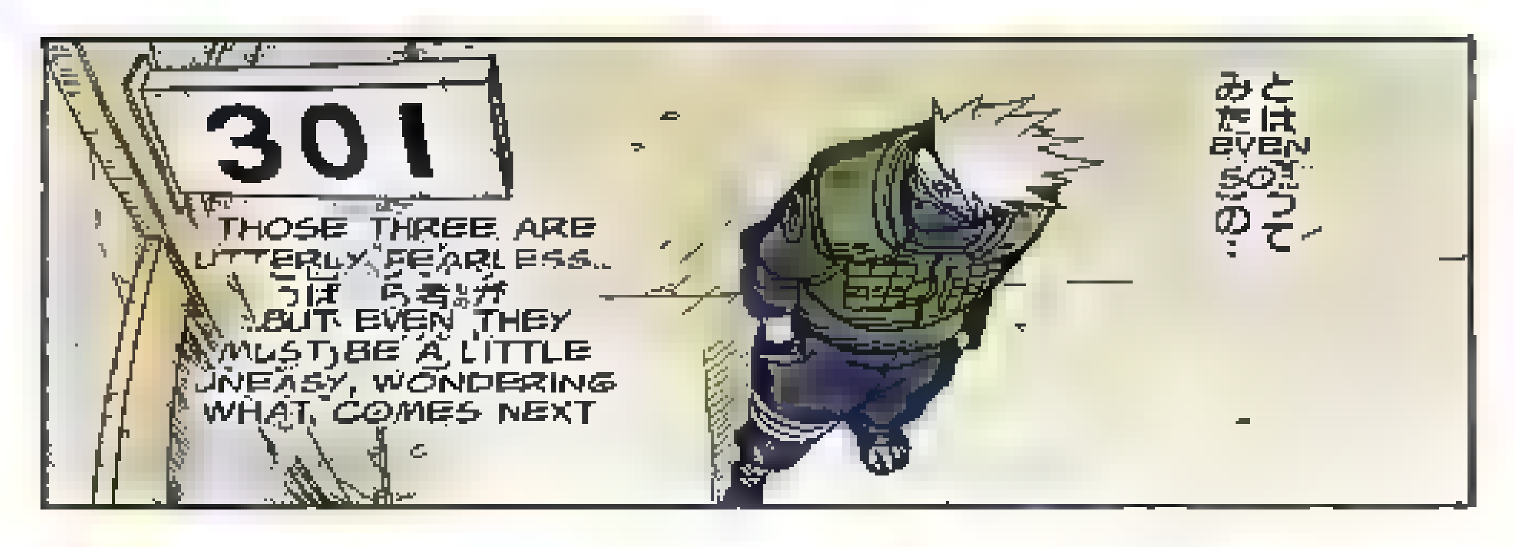

ENOUGH OF THIS.
FOR OUR NEXT ORDER OF BUSINESS, I'LL CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION FOR GENIN CANDIDATES WHO HAVE PASSED THEIR FIRST YEAR.

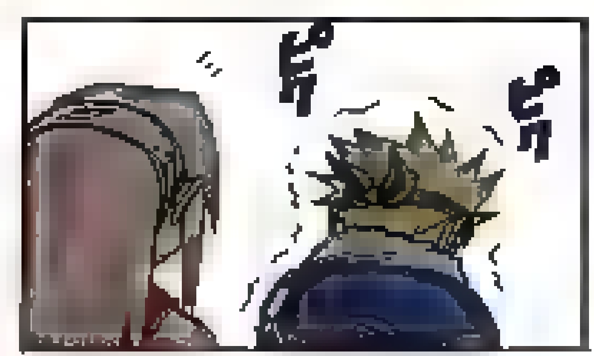

WHAT MY KIDS LACK IN EXPERIENCE, THEY MORE THAN MAKE UP IN SURPRISES, GUY.
YOUR CELL WILL EAT THEIR DUST.
BAH!

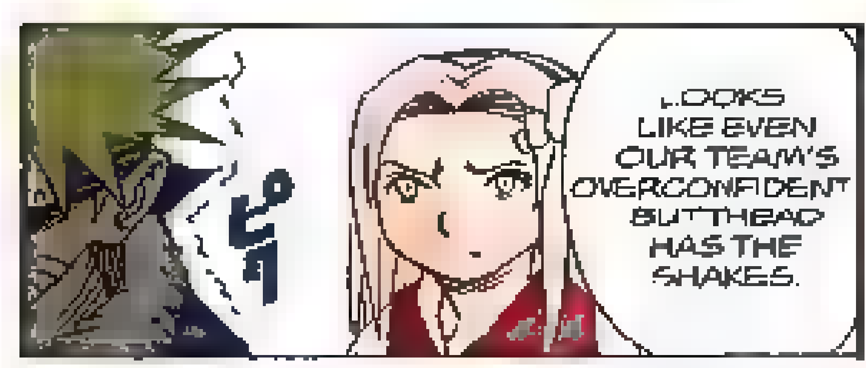


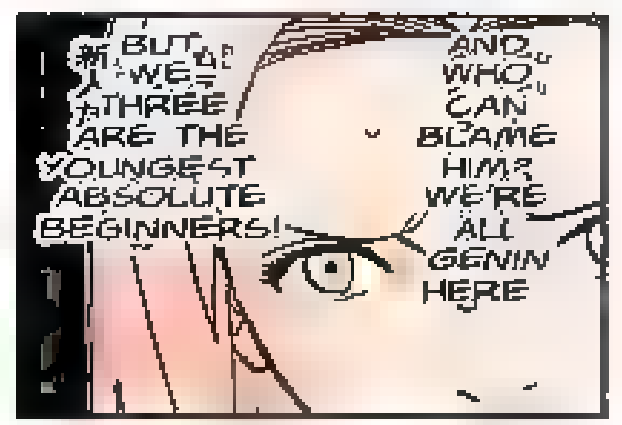

HAH! OVER ONE HURDLE...

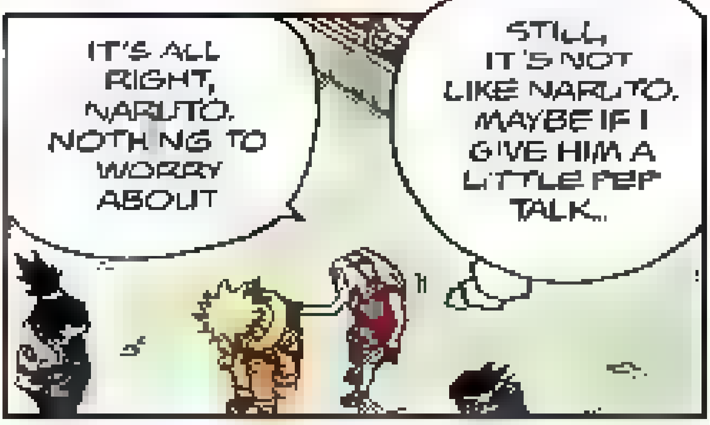


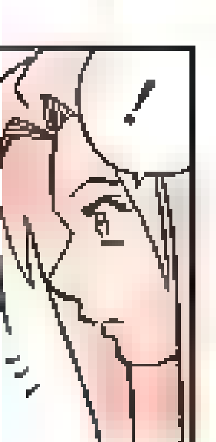

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THOSE THREE ARE UTTERLY FEARLESS...
...BUT EVEN THEY MUST BE A LITTLE UNEASY, WONDERING WHAT COMES NEXT


ピク
ピク


LOOKS LIKE EVEN OUR TEAM'S OVERCONFIDENT BUTTHEAD HAS THE SHAKES.
ピク


AND WHO CAN BLAME HIM? WE'RE ALL GENIN HERE
BUT WE THREE ARE THE YOUNGEST ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS!

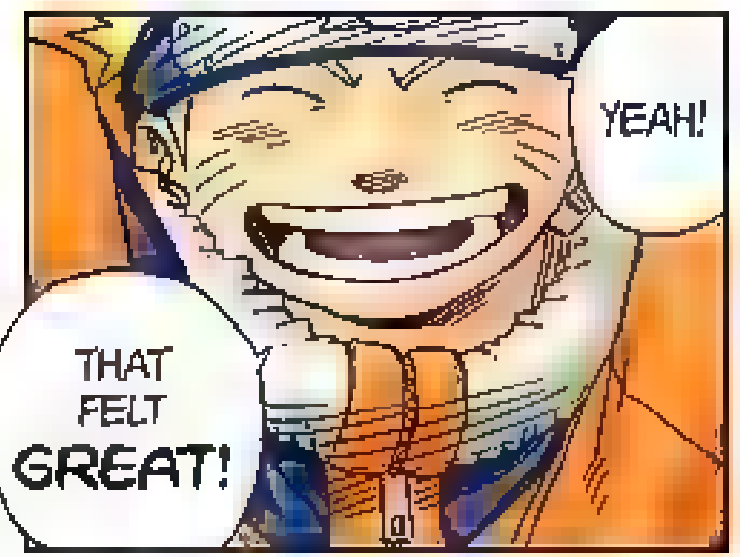

STILL, IT'S NOT LIKE NARUTO. MAYBE IF I GIVE HIM A LITTLE PEP TALK...
IT'S ALL RIGHT, NARUTO. NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT

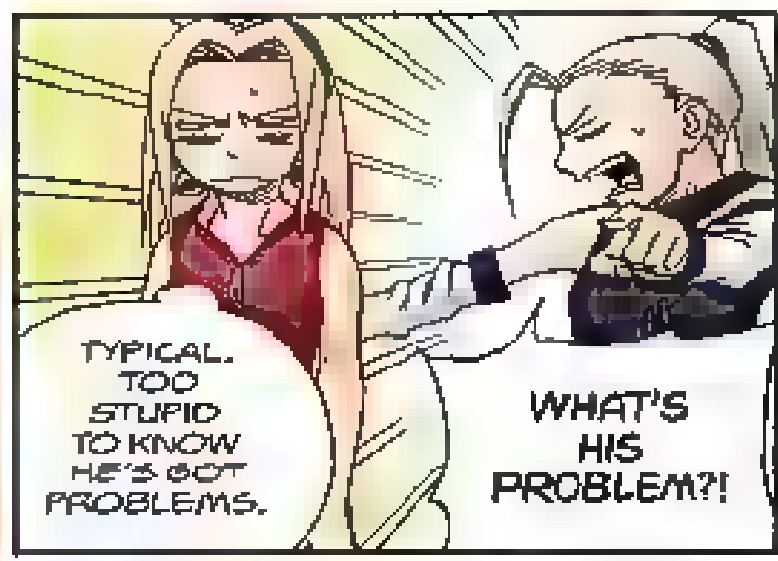

!




MY NAME IS UZUMAKI NARUTO!!
AND NONE OF YOU ARE GONNA BEAT ME!!!!
!!


YOU GOT THAT?
...


YEAH!
THAT FELT GREAT!


WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?!
TYPICAL. TOO STUPID TO KNOW HE'S GOT PROBLEMS.


OH, PLEASE!






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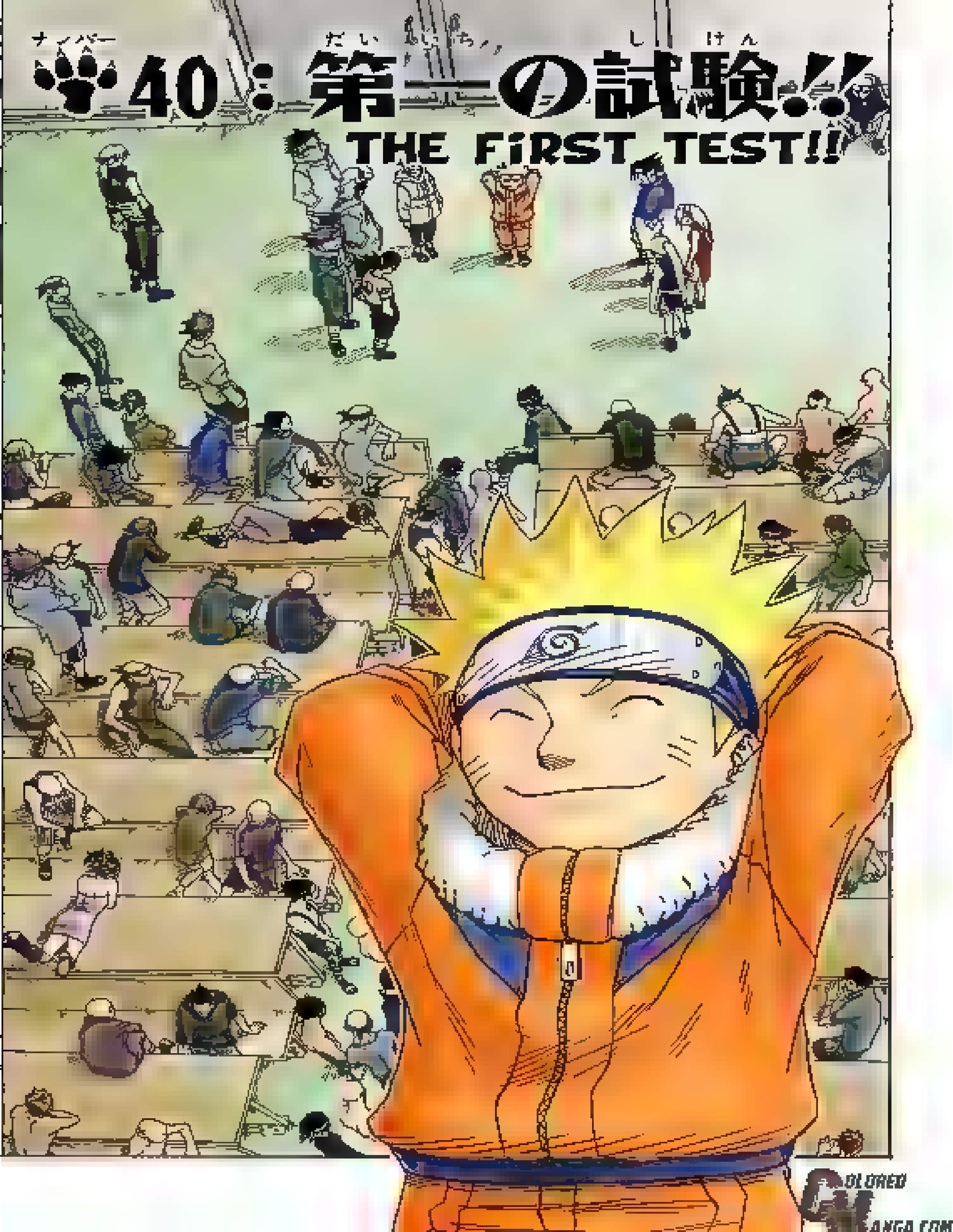
WANT TO HAVE SOME FUN WITH THEM?

SOUNDS GOOD.

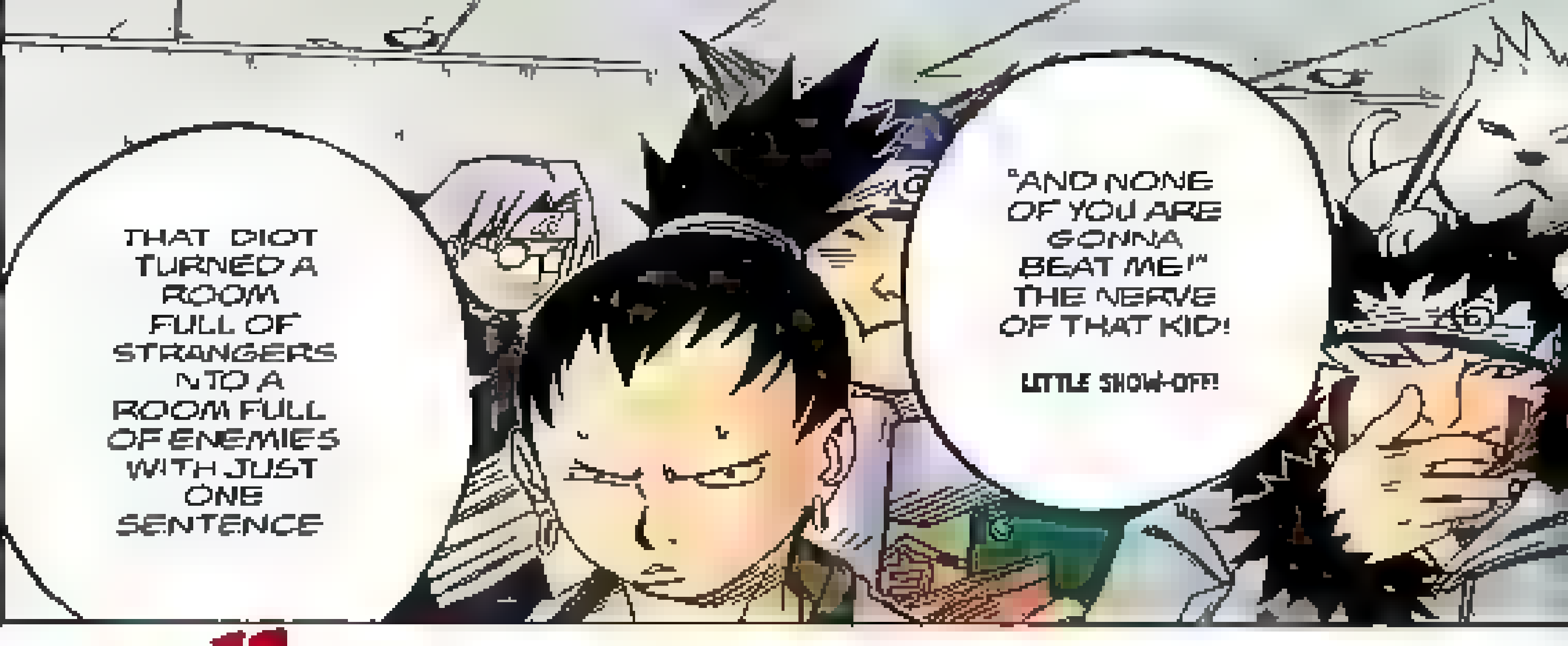
THAT TWIT, TREATING OTO LIKE SOME KIND OF AFTERTHOUGHT. LET'S GIVE HIM A LITTLE DATA FOR HIS DOSSIER. HIS UNDERSTANDING OF WE-WHO-HIDE-IN-SOUND IS... UNSOUND.

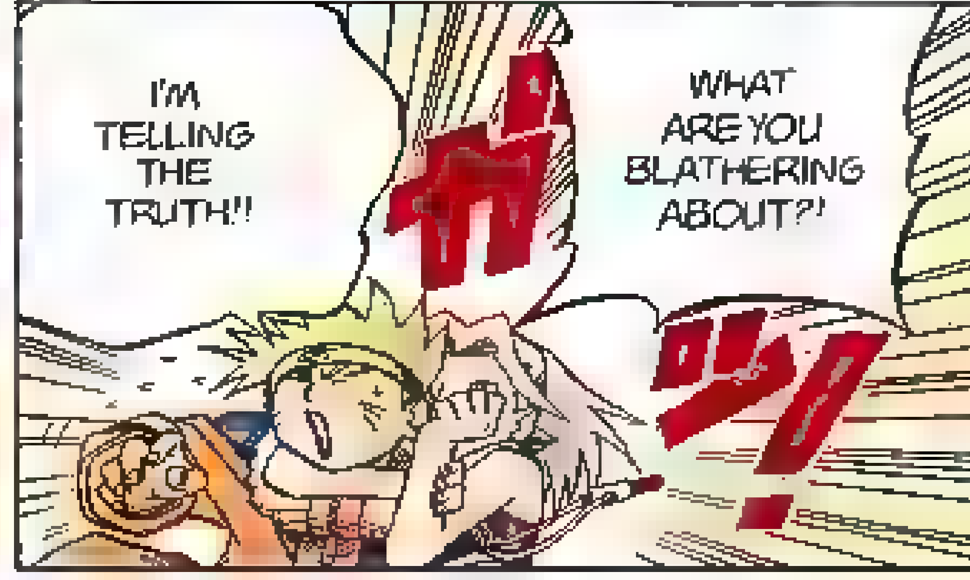
WE'LL SEE WHERE THE INTELLIGENCE IS LACKING...





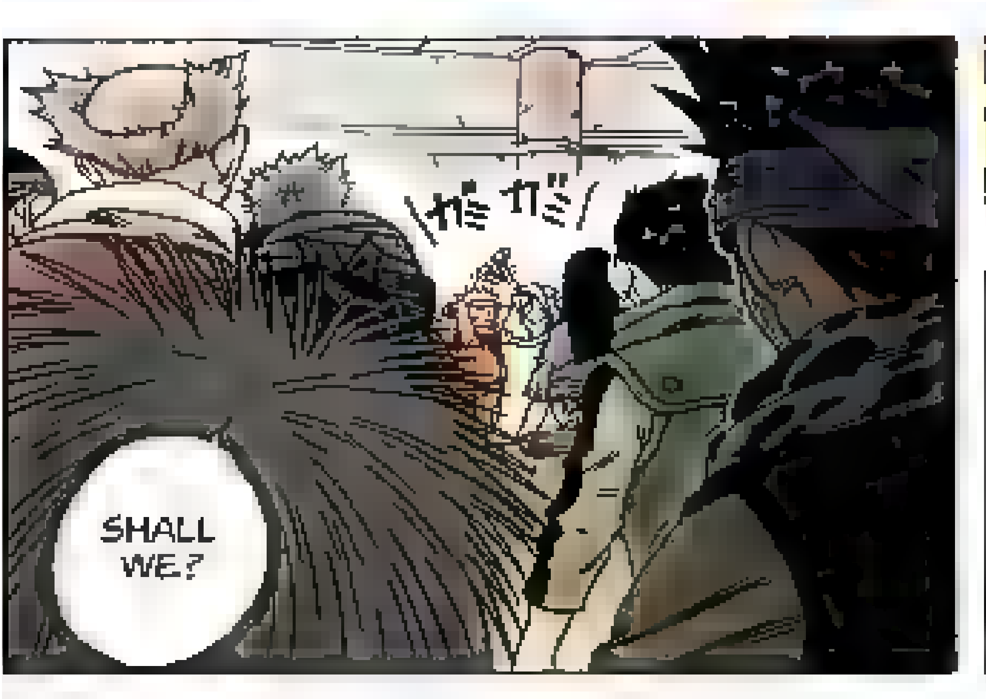
40：第一の試験!!
THE FIRST TEST!!


"AND NONE OF YOU ARE GONNA BEAT ME!" THE NERVE OF THAT KID!
LITTLE SHOW-OFF!
THAT DIOT TURNED A ROOM FULL OF STRANGERS NTO A ROOM FULL OF ENEMIES WITH JUST ONE SENTENCE

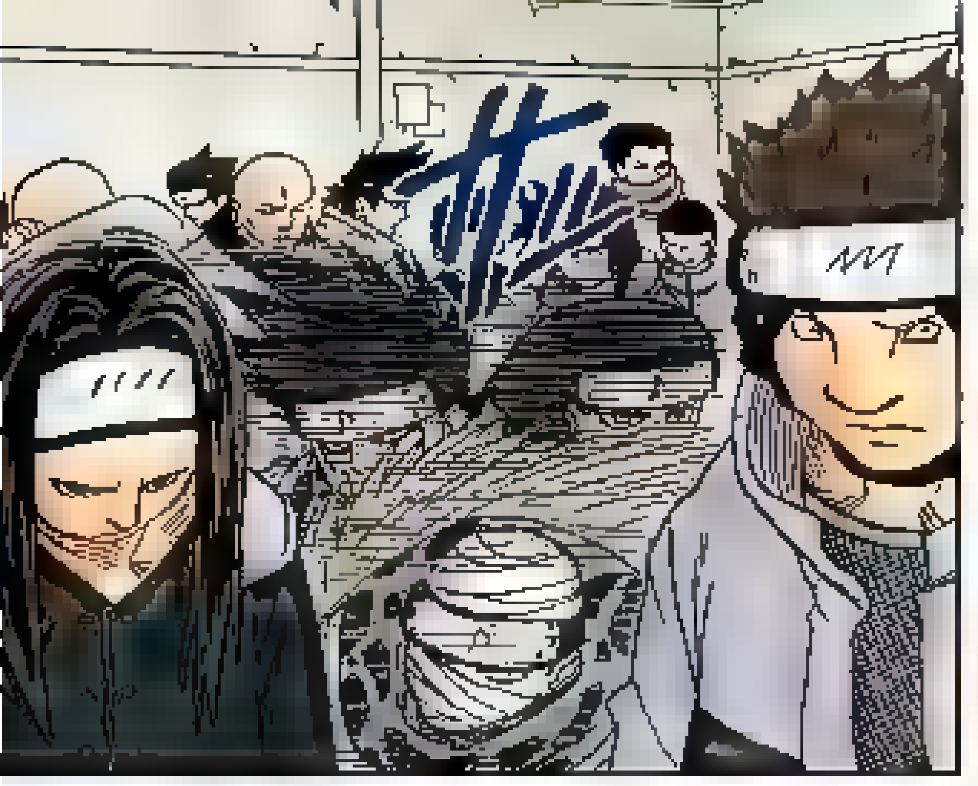
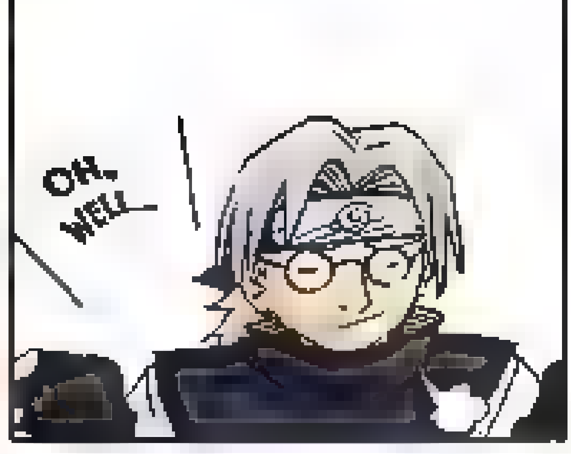

WHAT ARE YOU BLATHERING ABOUT?!
I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!!


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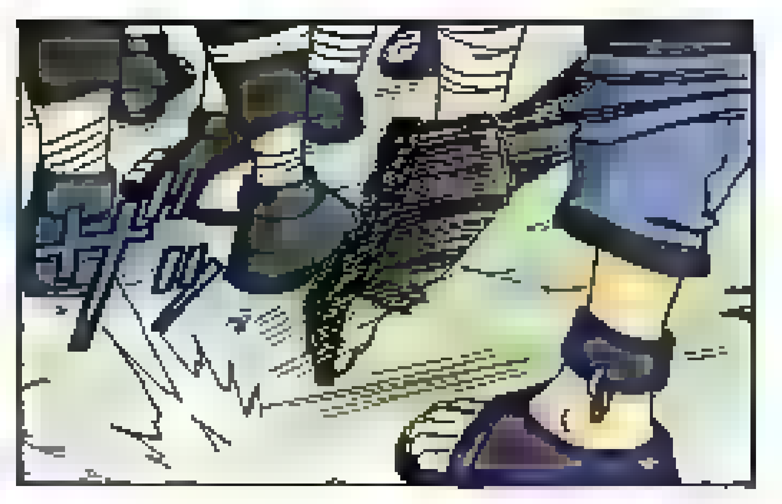
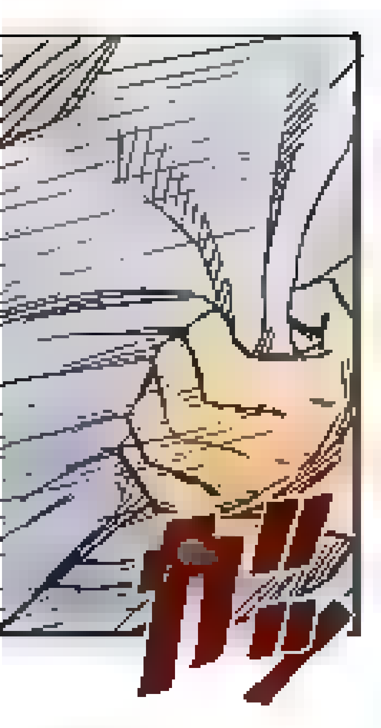

PAY NO ATTENTION TO MY FRIEND...
HE'S... YOU KNOW.. A SPECIAL-ED N NJA..


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SHALL WE?

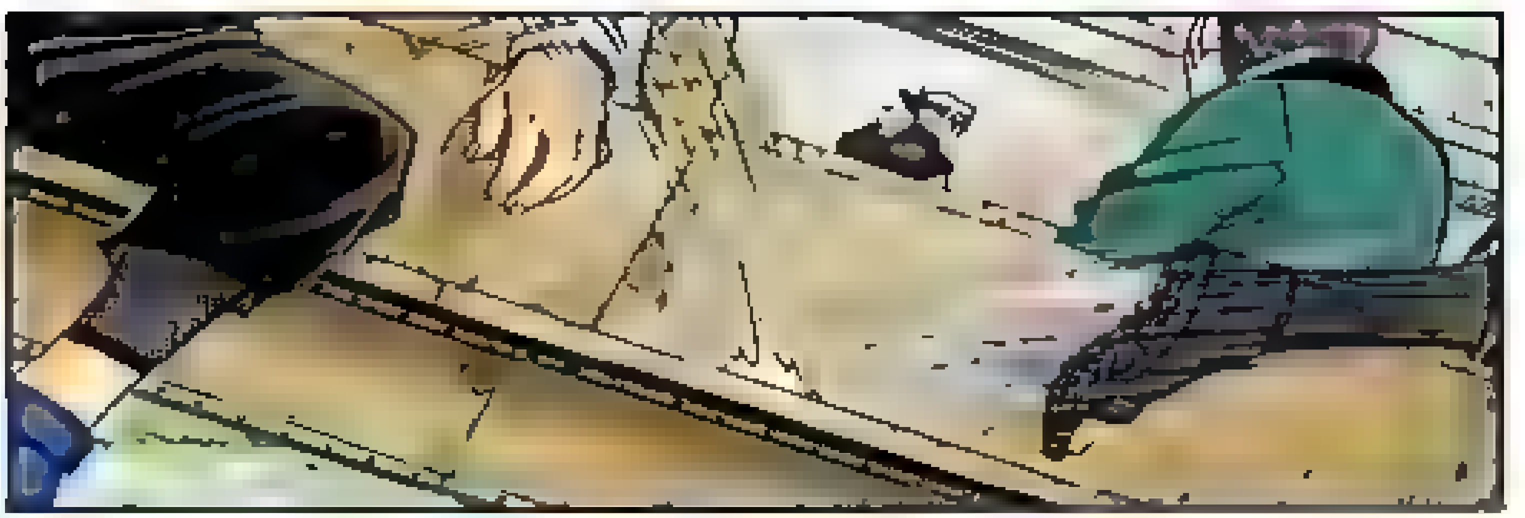




OH, WELL







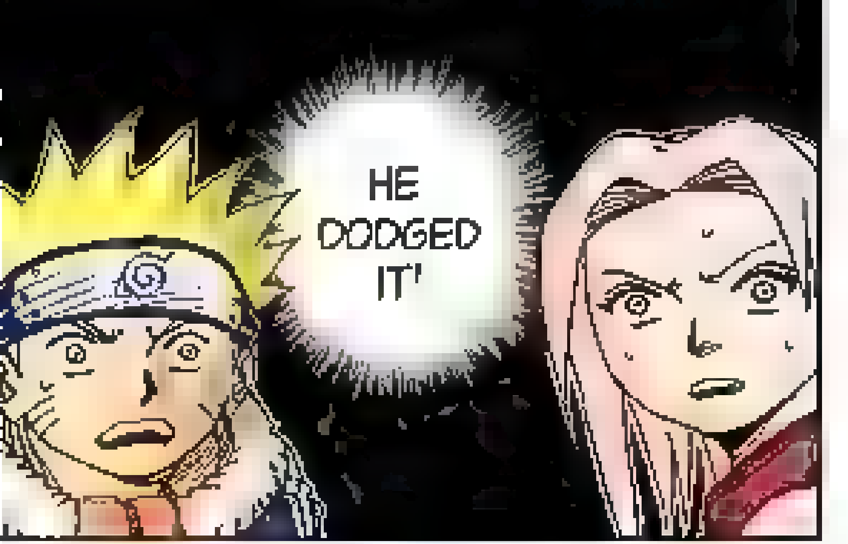


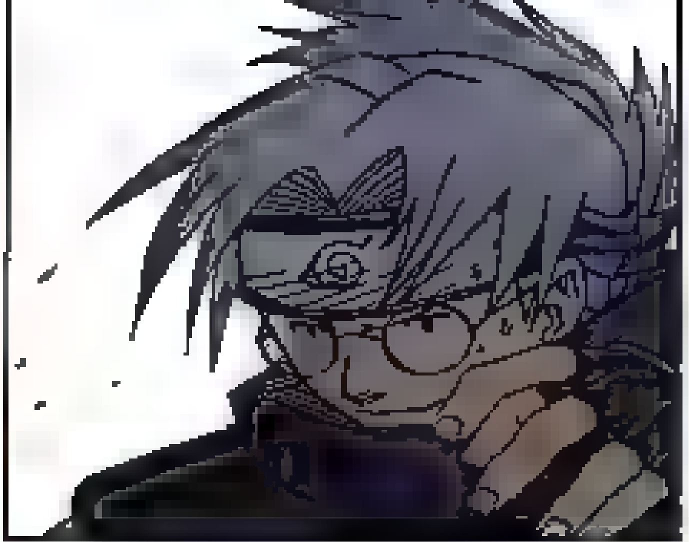








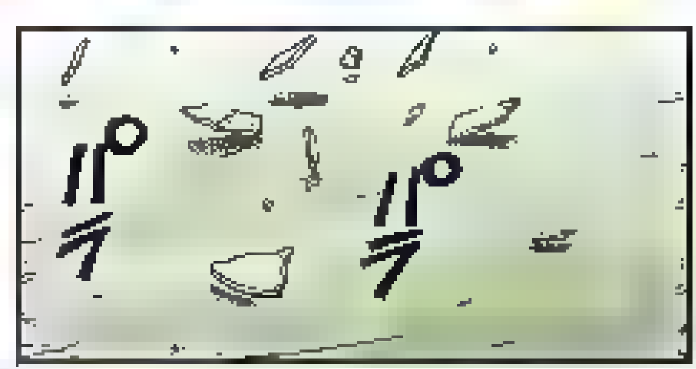

HE DODGED IT!



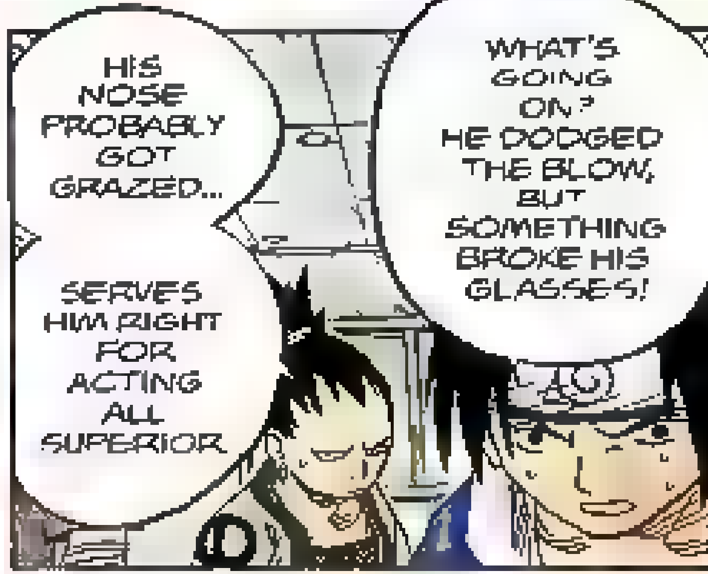

!


SO QUICKLY I BARELY SAW HIM MOVE


!

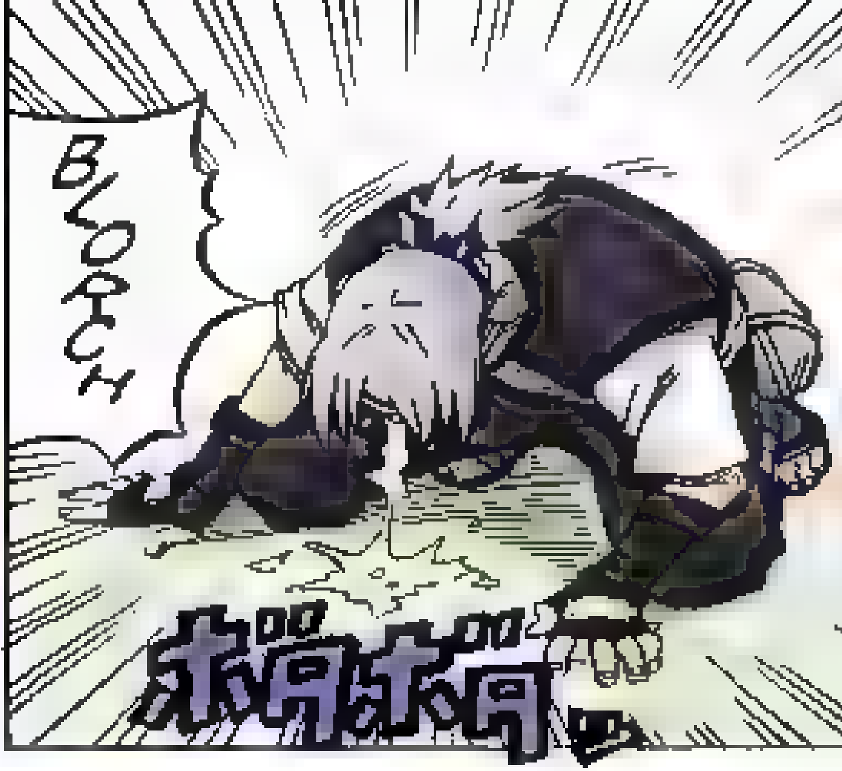


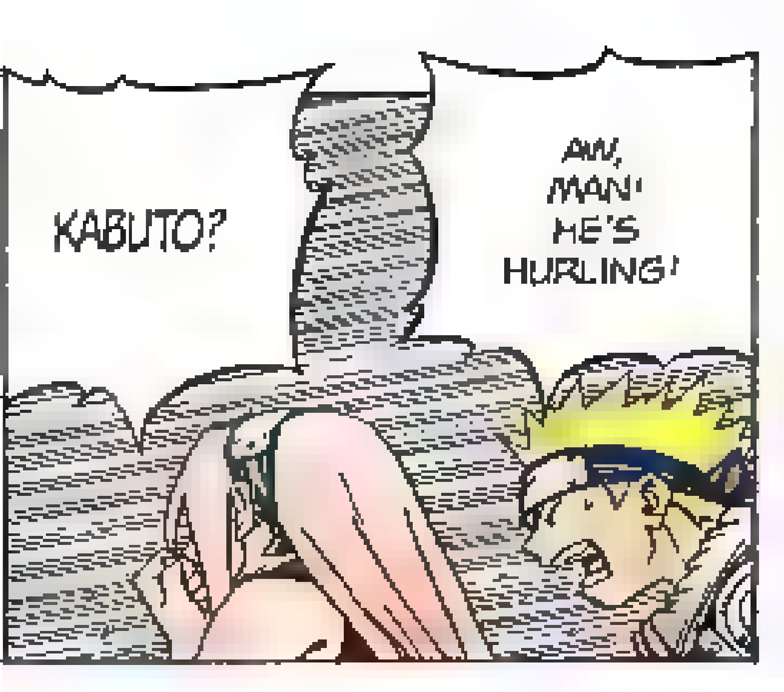

!?


WHAT'S GOING ON? HE DODGED THE BLOW, BUT SOMETHING BROKE HIS GLASSES!
HIS NOSE PROBABLY GOT GRAZED...
SERVES HIM RIGHT FOR ACTING ALL SUPERIOR


SEE? THIS KIND OF ATTACK
IT'S... HMMM...

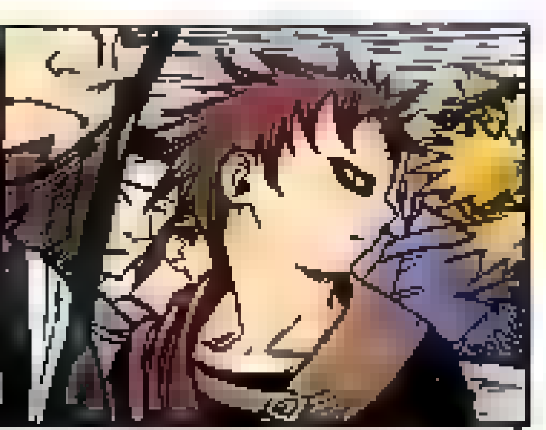

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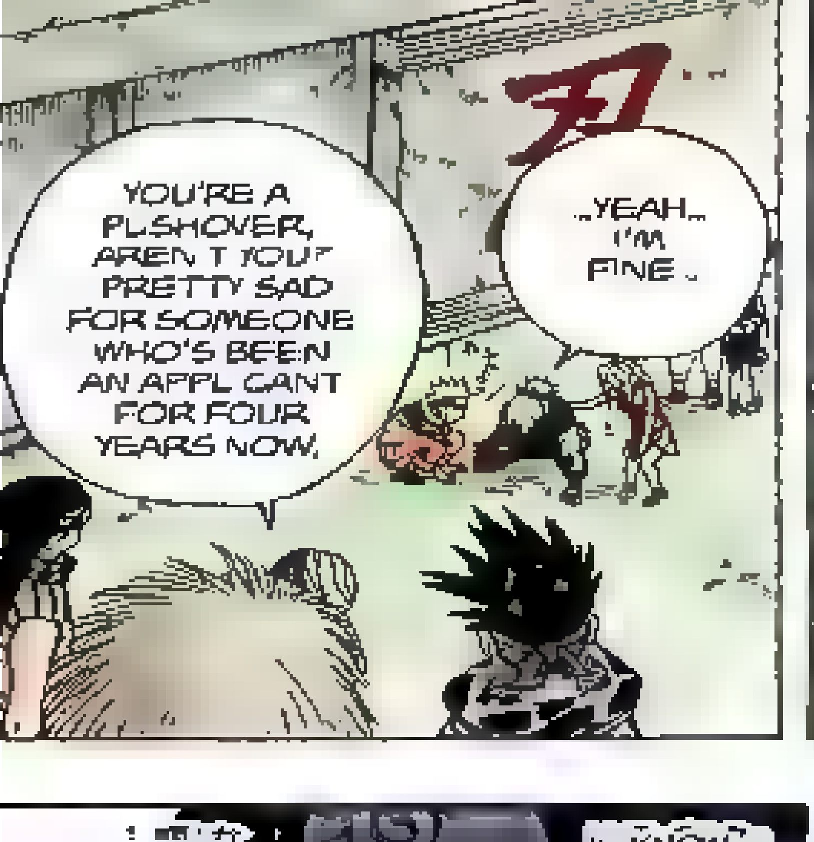






NOTE: ABUMI'S SHIRT SAYS "DEATH."

HMPH.



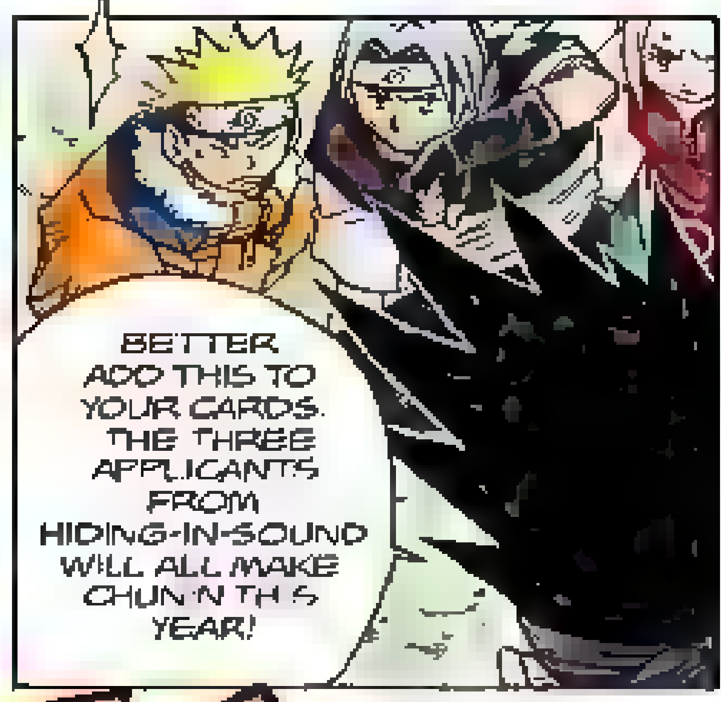
YOU'RE A PUSHOVER, AREN'T YOU? PRETTY SAD FOR SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN AN APPLICANT FOR FOUR YEARS NOW.
...YEAH... I'M FINE...



KABUTO!! HEY, BRO!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



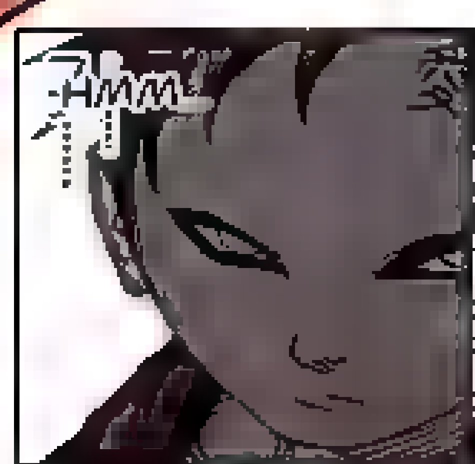
I KNOW... KABUTO DUCKED THAT BLOW... SO WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM...
WHY DID HE VOMIT?!



BETTER ADD THIS TO YOUR CARDS. THE THREE APPLICANTS FROM HIDING-IN-SOUND WILL ALL MAKE CHUNIN THIS YEAR!



LEE, WHAT DID THAT LOOK LIKE TO YOU?
KABUTO SAW THROUGH THE ATTACK. SO THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING ELSE TO IT, SOME TRICK THEY USED TO MAKE HIM SICK.



...HMM...

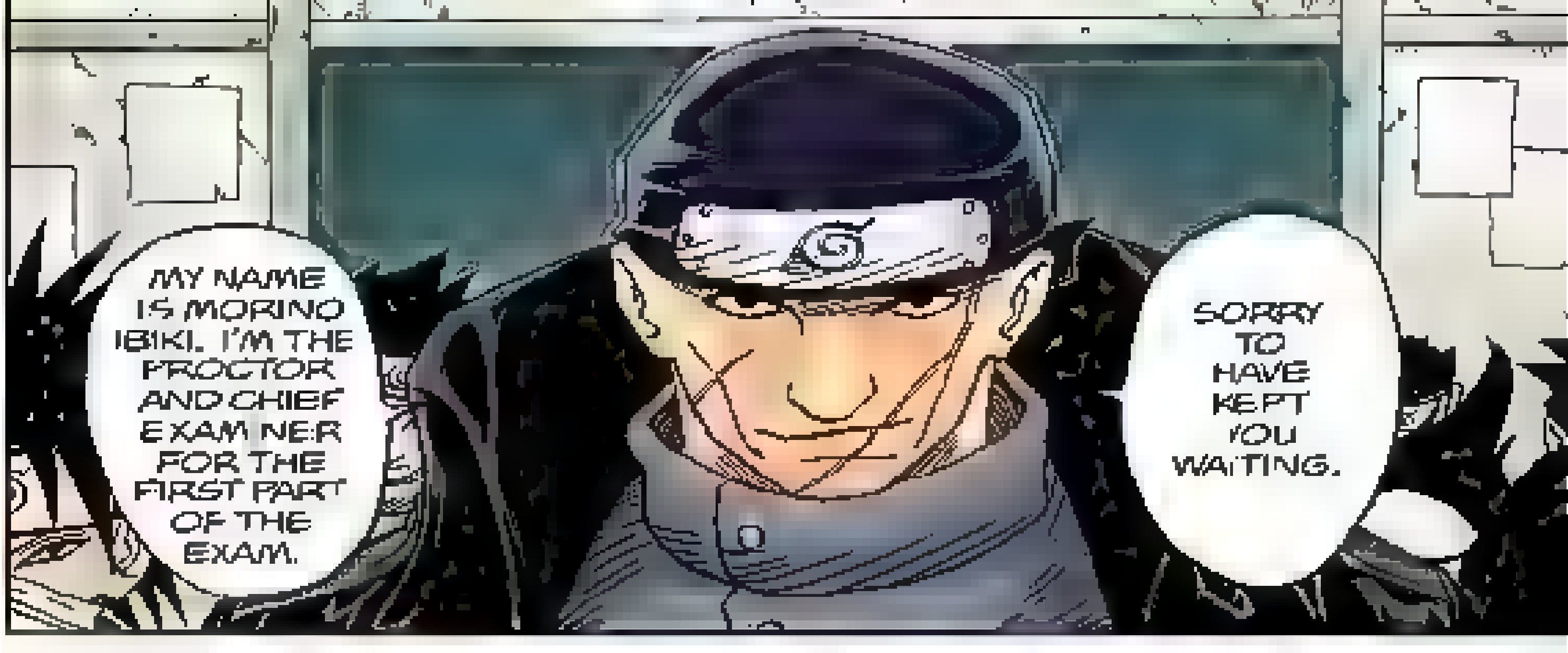


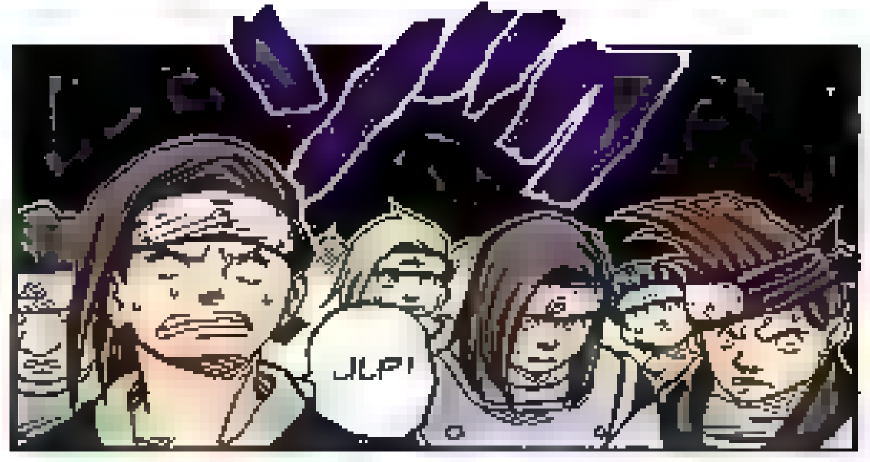
WOULD EVERYBODY PLEASE JUST SHUT UP?!
WHAAA?!



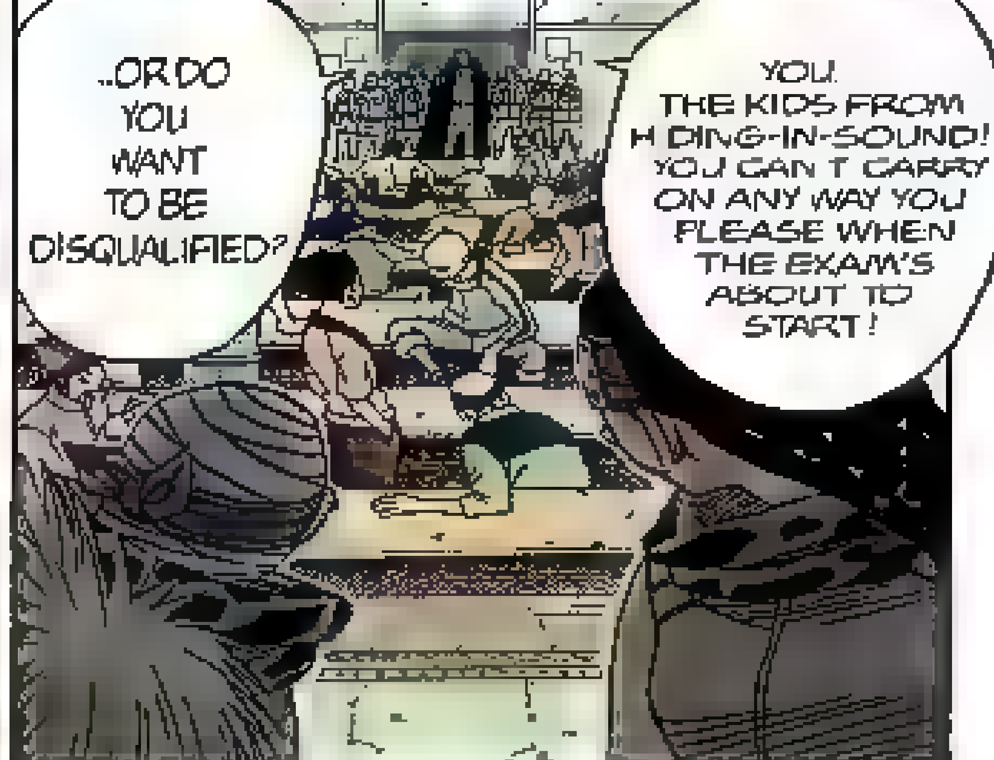


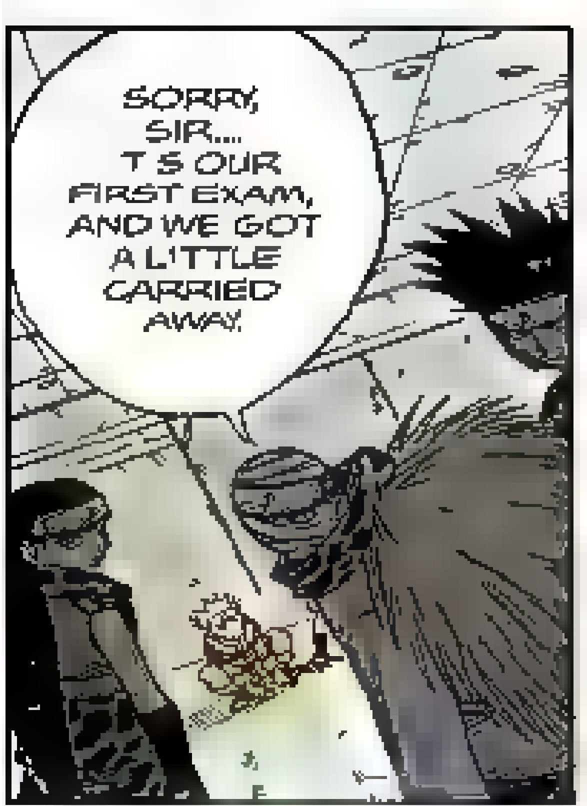



SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING.
MY NAME IS MORINO IBIKI. I'M THE PROCTOR AND CHIEF EXAM NER FOR THE FIRST PART OF THE EXAM.


ULP!

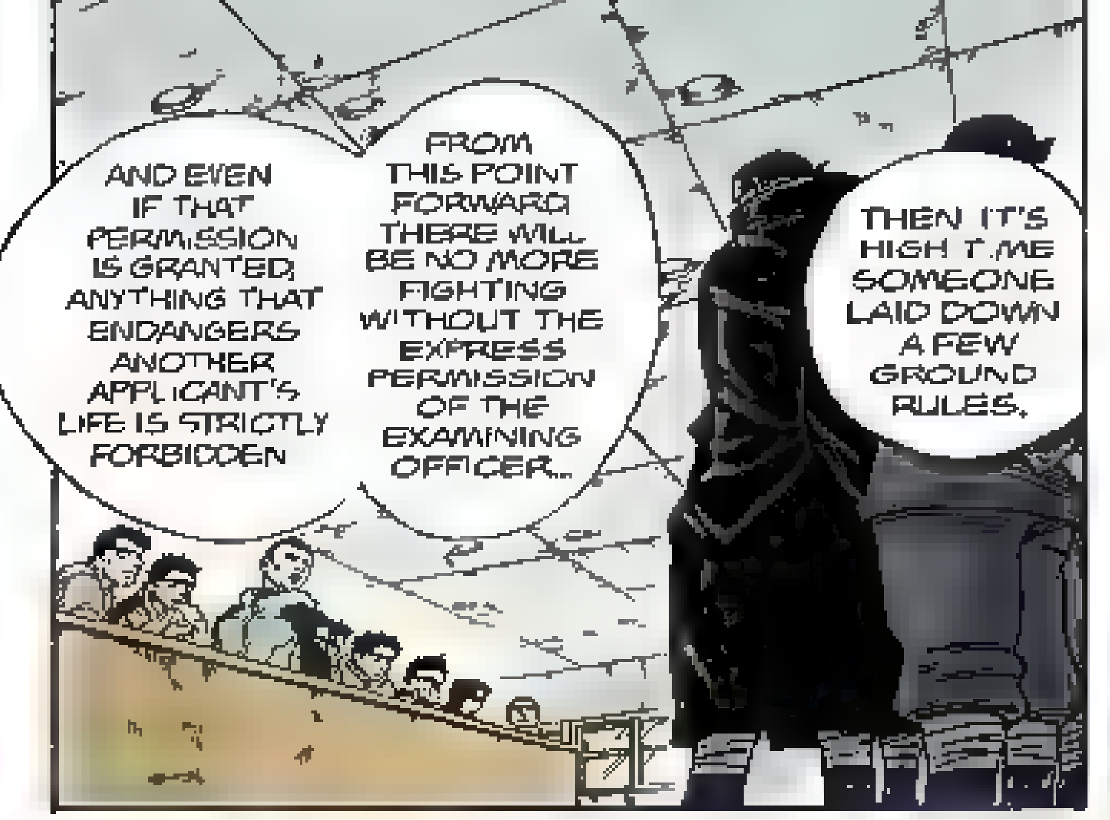



YOU. THE KIDS FROM H DING-IN-SOUND! YOU CAN T CARRY ON ANY WAY YOU PLEASE WHEN THE EXAM'S ABOUT TO START!
..OR DO YOU WANT TO BE DISQUALIFIED?


SORRY, SIR.... T S OUR FIRST EXAM, AND WE GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY.

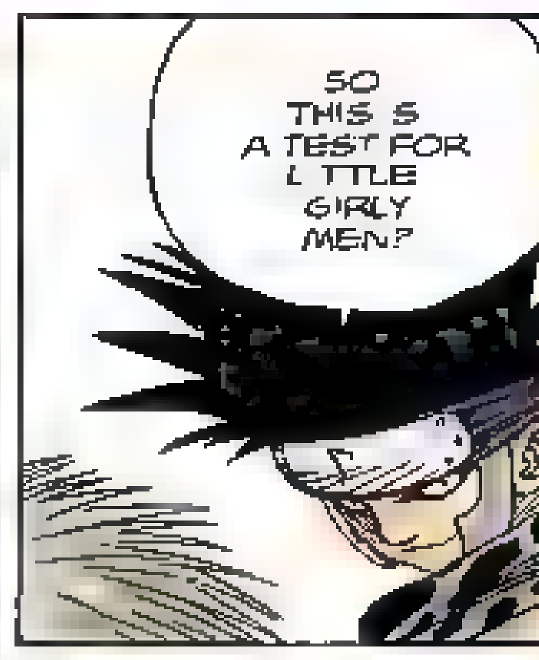



IS THAT SO?


THEN IT'S HIGH TIME SOMEONE LAID DOWN A FEW GROUND RULES.
FROM THIS POINT FORWARD THERE WILL BE NO MORE FIGHTING WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF THE EXAMINING OFFICER...
AND EVEN IF THAT PERMISSION IS GRANTED, ANYTHING THAT ENDANGERS ANOTHER APPLICANT'S LIFE IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN


ANY OF YOU LITTLE PIGLETS WHO BREAK THAT RULE ARE OUT. DISQUALIFIED. NO SECOND CHANCES.
GOT THAT?

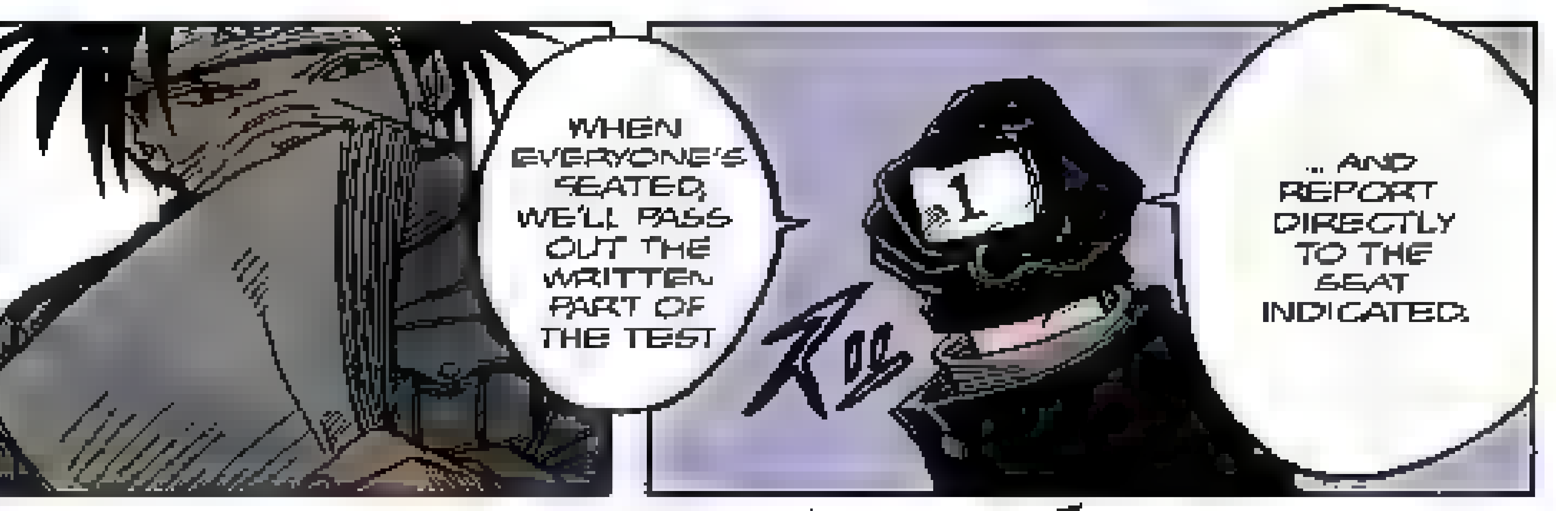

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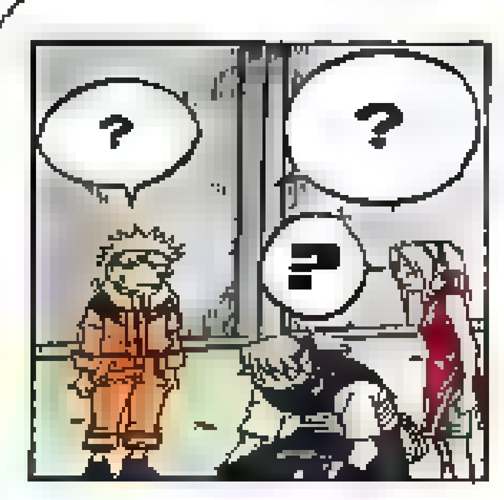

SO THIS IS A TEST FOR LITTLE GIRLY MEN?

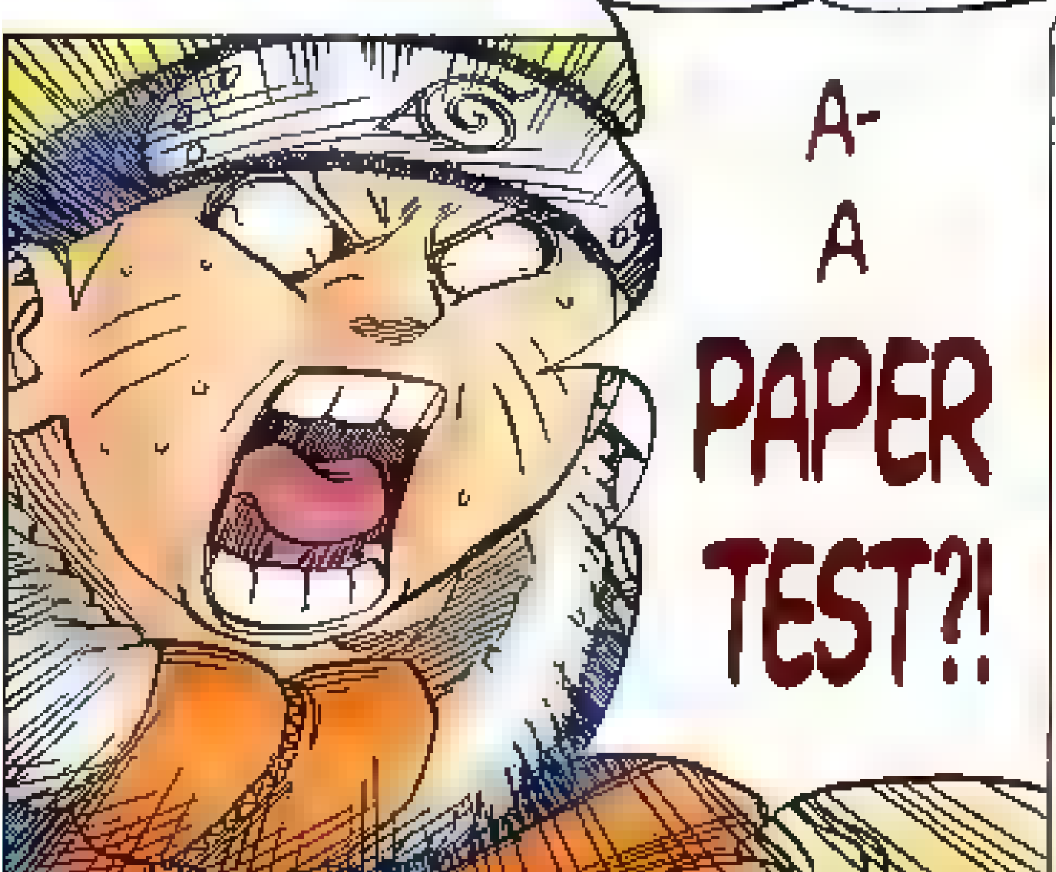

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AS YOU WISH. THE FIRST PART OF THE SELECTION EXAM IS ABOUT TO COMMENCE
TURN IN YOUR WRITTEN APPLICATIONS, TAKE ONE OF THESE SEATING ASSIGNMENT CARDS...

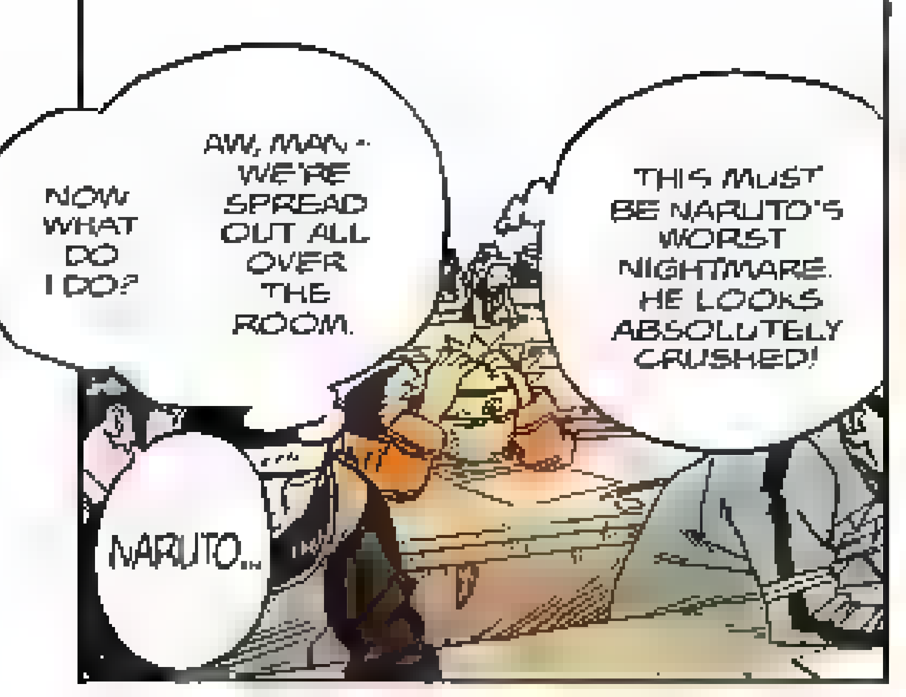
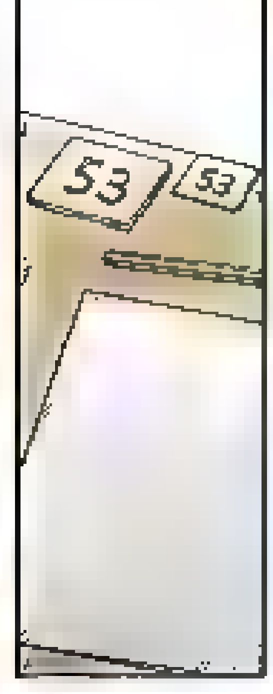
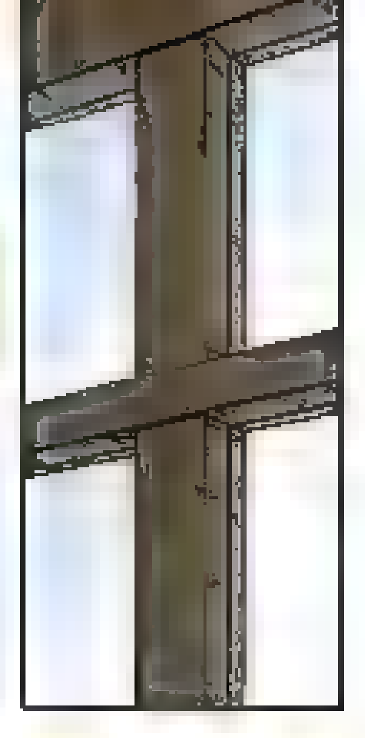
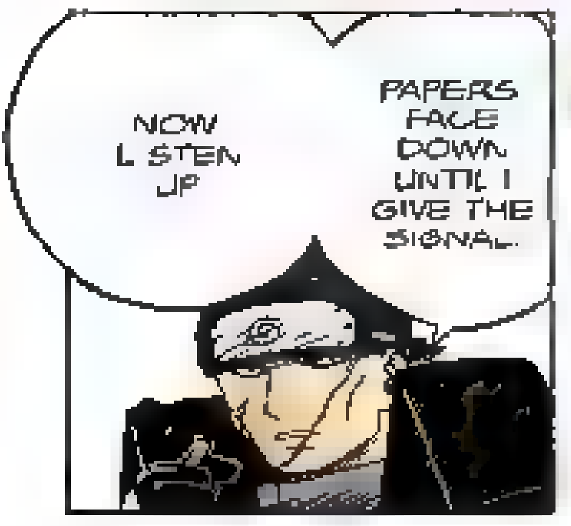
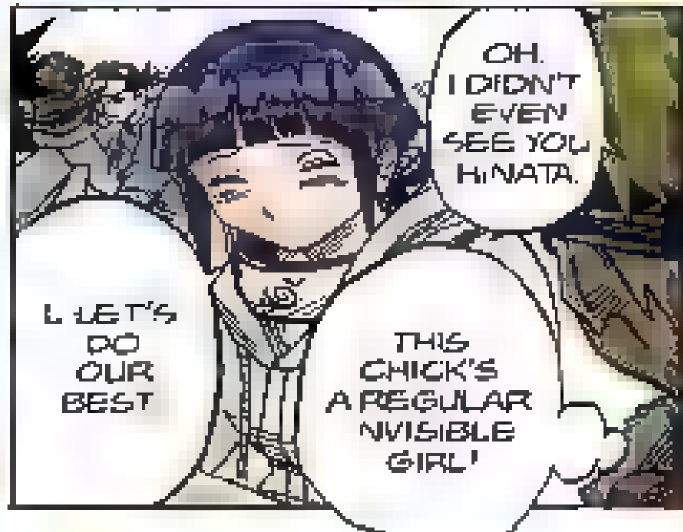

...AND REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE SEAT INDICATED.
WHEN EVERYONE'S SEATED, WE'LL PASS OUT THE WRITTEN PART OF THE TEST

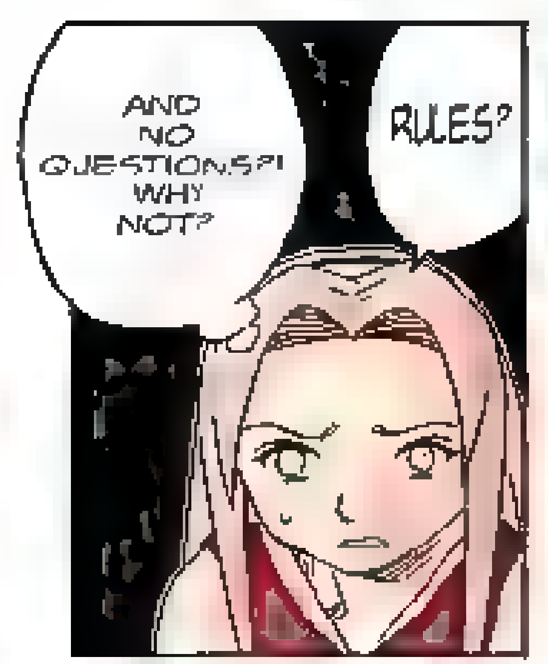
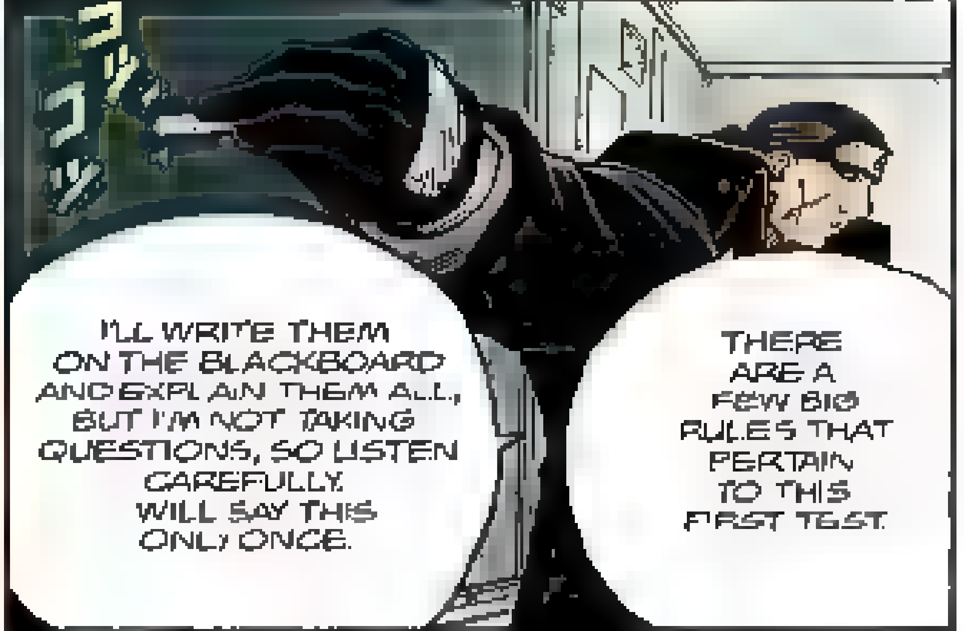

?
?
?


A-
A
PAPER
TEST?!






NOW WHAT DO I DO?
AW, MAN... WE'RE SPREAD OUT ALL OVER THE ROOM.
THIS MUST BE NARUTO'S WORST NIGHTMARE. HE LOOKS ABSOLUTELY CRUSHED!
NARUTO...

53
53


PAPERS FACE DOWN UNTIL I GIVE THE SIGNAL.
NOW LISTEN UP

OH. I DIDN'T EVEN SEE YOU HINATA.
L-LET'S DO OUR BEST
THIS CHICK'S A REGULAR INVISIBLE GIRL!


RULES?
AND NO QUESTIONS?! WHY NOT?

THERE ARE A FEW BIG RULES THAT PERTAIN TO THIS FIRST TEST.
I'LL WRITE THEM ON THE BLACKBOARD AND EXPLAIN THEM ALL, BUT I'M NOT TAKING QUESTIONS, SO LISTEN CAREFULLY. I WILL SAY THIS ONLY ONCE.




GET ALL TEN RIGHT, AND YOU RETAIN THE TEN POINTS YOU HAVE.

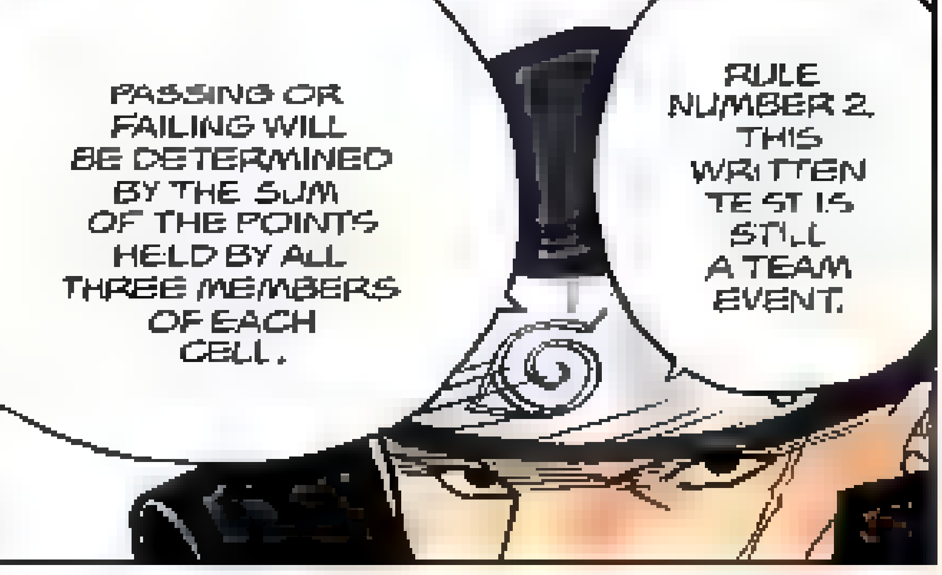
TOTAL POINTS

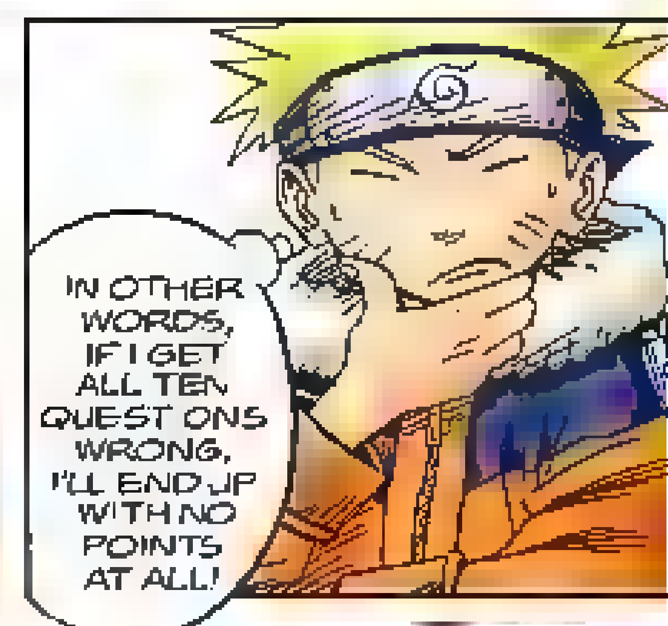
EXAMPLE 1. PERFECT SCORE TOTAL POINTS REMAIN AT 10

EXAMPLE 2. 3 ANSWERS WRONG TOTAL POINTS ARE REDUCED TO 7 POINTS

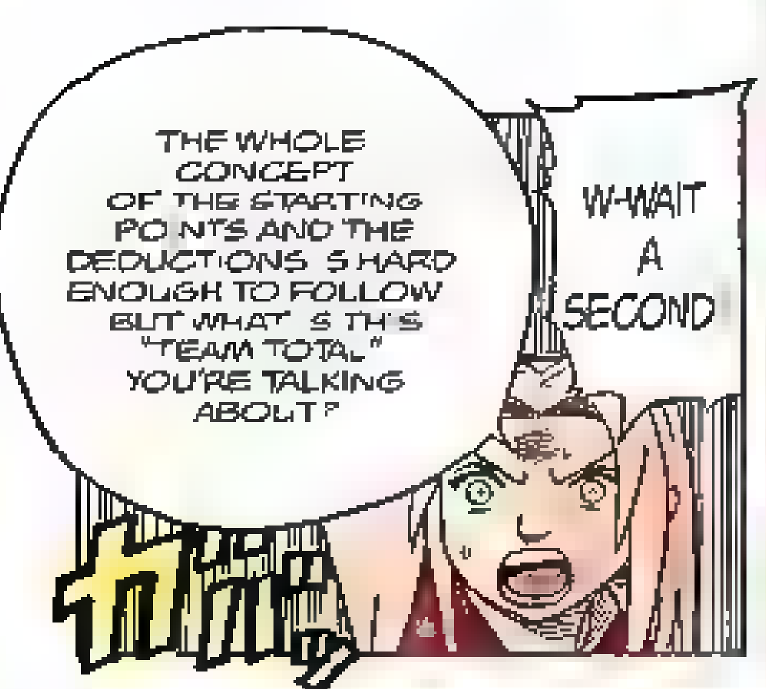
BUT IF, FOR EXAMPLE, YOU ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS INCORRECTLY, WE TAKE YOUR TEN POINTS...

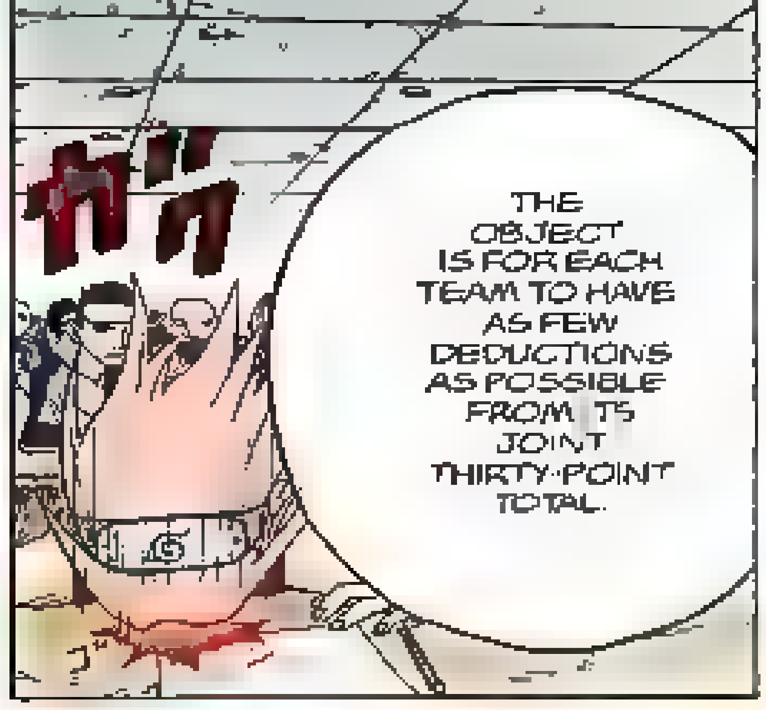
...SUBTRACT ONE POINT FOR EVERY WRONG ANSWER... AND YOUR TOTAL DROPS DOWN TO SEVEN.



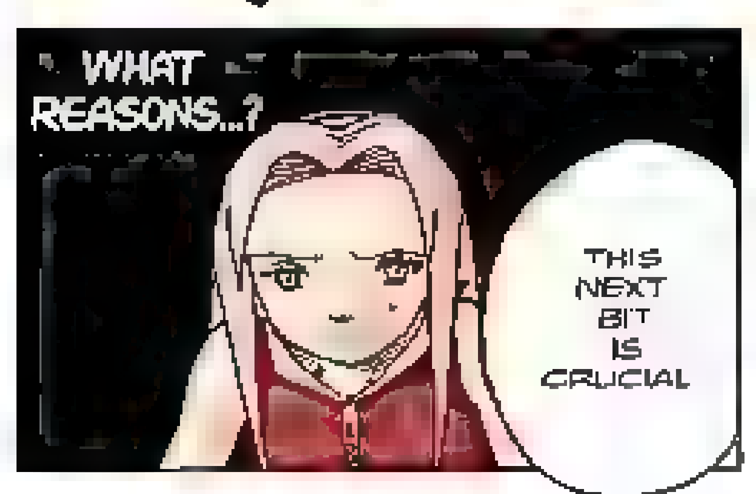


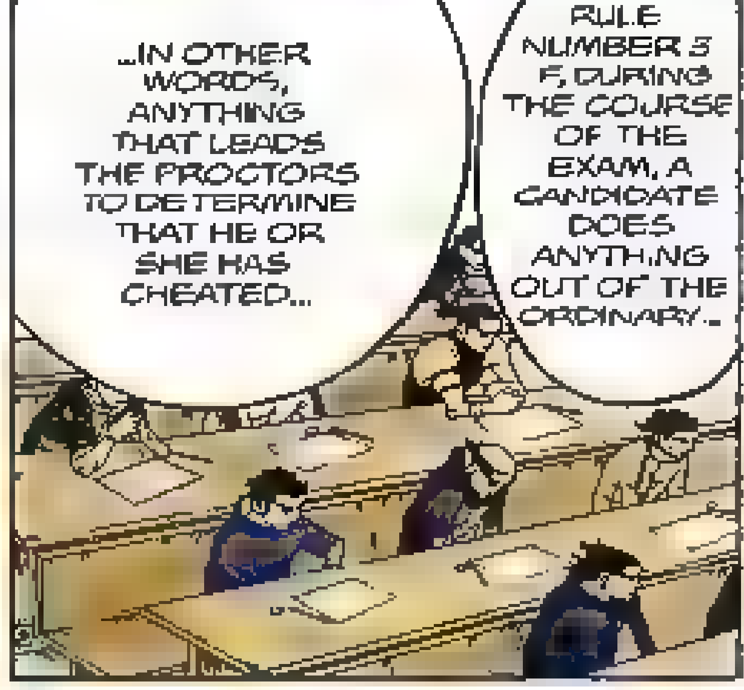



THE WHOLE CONCEPT OF THE STARTING POINTS AND THE DEDUCTIONS IS HARD ENOUGH TO FOLLOW BUT WHAT'S THIS "TEAM TOTAL" YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?
W-WAIT A SECOND


THE OBJECT IS FOR EACH TEAM TO HAVE AS FEW DEDUCTIONS AS POSSIBLE FROM ITS JOINT THIRTY-POINT TOTAL.


DID YOU NOT HEAR THE PART ABOUT "NO QUESTIONS"? WE HAVE OUR REASONS.
SHUT UP AND LISTEN. YOU MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING.

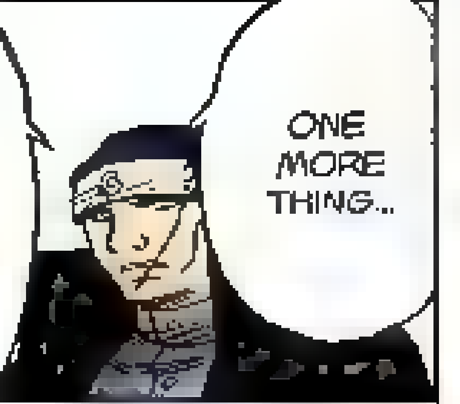

WHAT REASONS...?
THIS NEXT BIT IS CRUCIAL

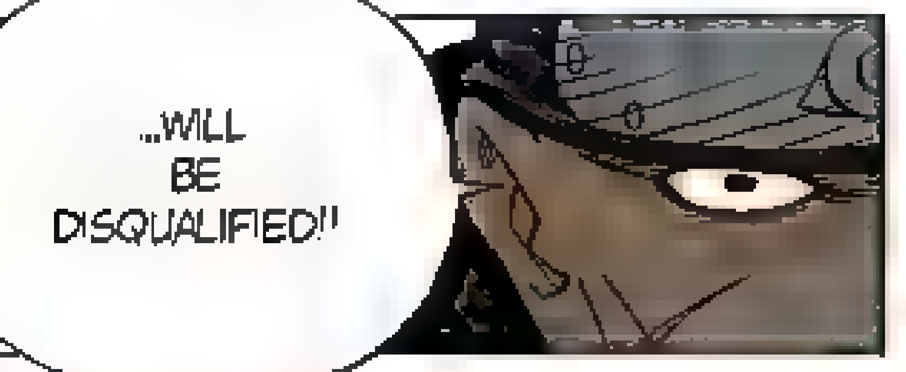

RULE NUMBER 3 F, DURING THE COURSE OF THE EXAM, A CANDIDATE DOES ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY...
...IN OTHER WORDS, ANYTHING THAT LEADS THE PROCTORS TO DETERMINE THAT HE OR SHE HAS CHEATED...

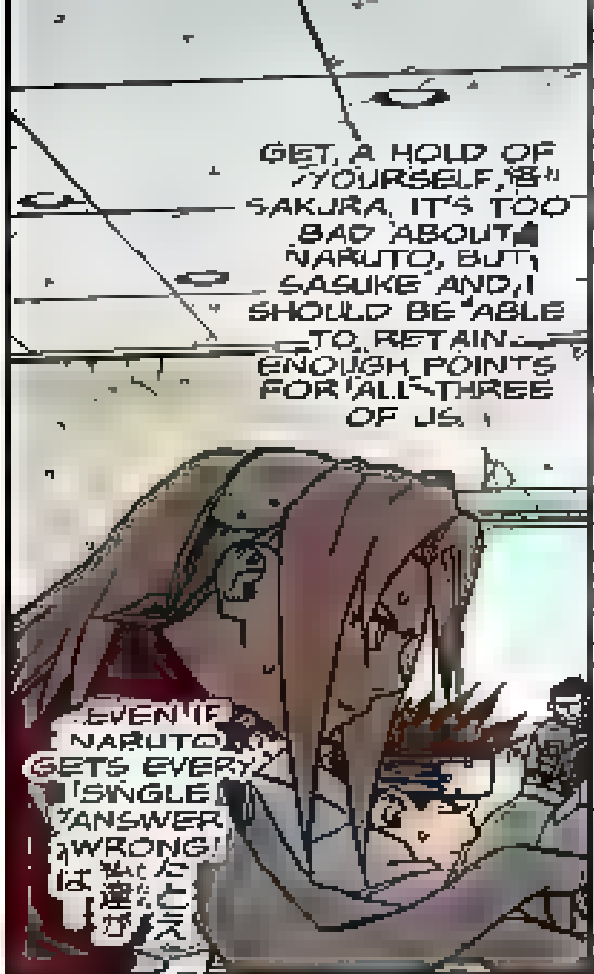

WE SUBTRACT TWO POINTS FROM EACH MEMBER OF THE CHEATER'S TEAM

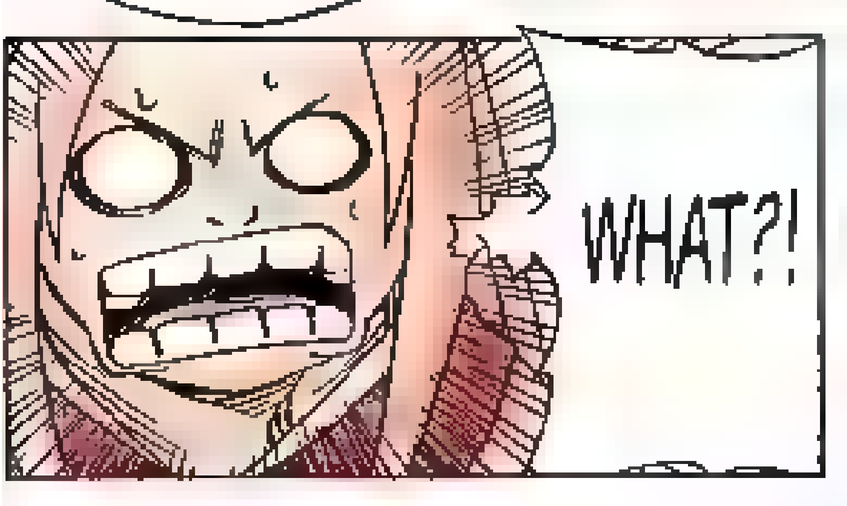


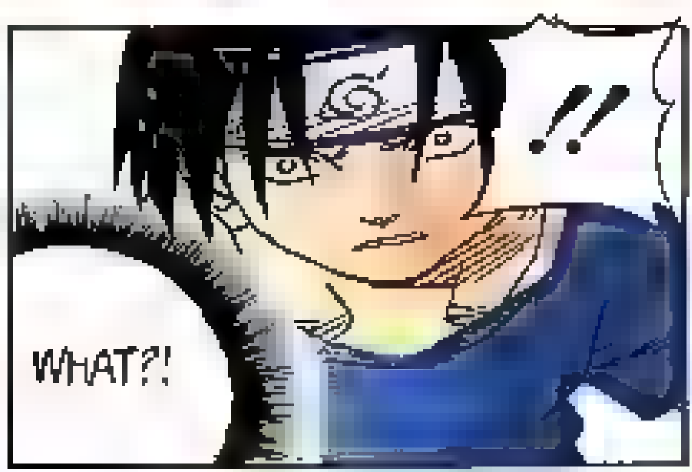

THERE ARE MORE WAYS TO LOSE A POINT THAN JUST MISSING A QUESTION
GET
EXACTLY! IN ALL PROBABIL TY, SOME OF YOU WILL RUN THROUGH YOUR ENT RE ALLOWANCE OF POINTS DURING THE TEST. F SO, YOU'LL BE FAILED AND ASKED TO LEAVE.
OH!
I'LL BE LOOK NG OVER YOUR SHOULDERS WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT.
IF YOU ASPIRE TO BECOME CHŪNIN
...IF YOU WANT TO BE THE BEST SHINOBI YOU CAN BE...
...THEN YOU'D BETTER START ACTING LIKE YOU ALREADY ARE!
IF YOU LET THE PROCTORS CATCH YOU CHEAT NG, YOU'LL BRING YOURSELF AND YOUR FRIENDS DOWN!

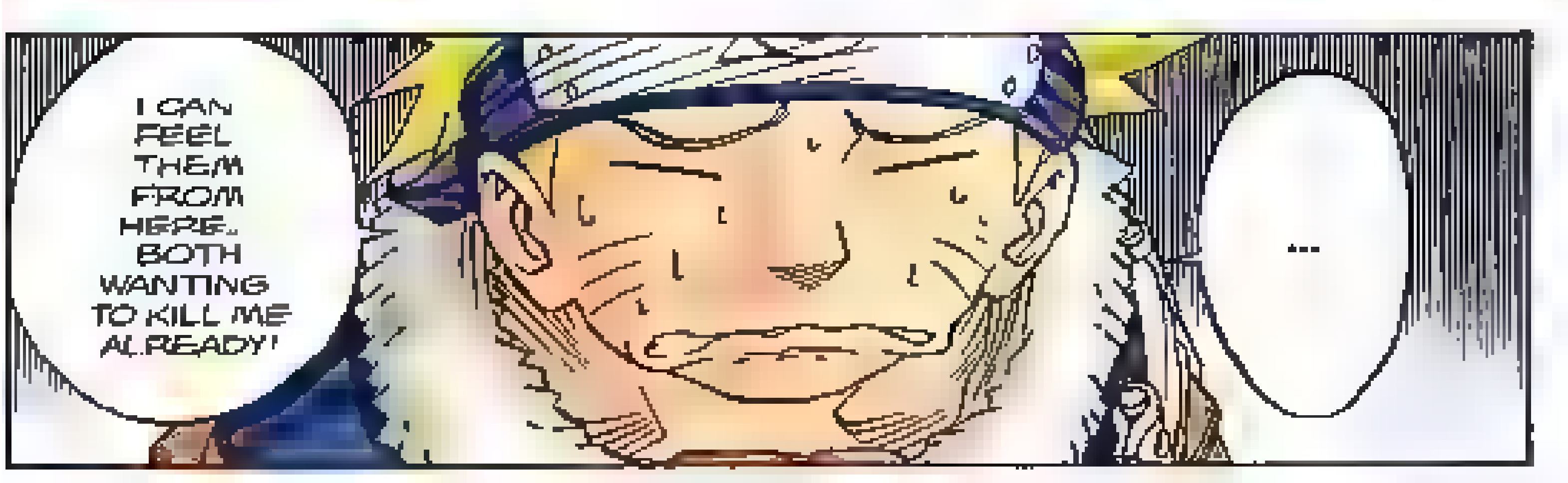

ONE MORE THING...
IF ANY INDIVIDUAL LOSES ALL TEN OF HIS OR HER POINTS, THAT PERSON'S ENTIRE CELL, REGARDLESS OF HOW THE OTHER TWO MEMBERS DO...


...WILL BE DISQUALIFIED!!


GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF, SAKURA. IT'S TOO BAD ABOUT NARUTO, BUT SASUKE AND I SHOULD BE ABLE TO RETAIN ENOUGH POINTS FOR ALL THREE OF US.
EVEN IF NARUTO GETS EVERY SINGLE ANSWER WRONG!


WHAT?!


!!
WHAT?!


I CAN FEEL THEM FROM HERE.. BOTH WANTING TO KILL ME ALREADY!
...



KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S "I ONLY SHOW YOU THESE THINGS SO YOU'LL UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH I LOVE MANGA" REJECTS CORNER...

THE MANGA PAGE ABOVE IS A REJECTED PAGE FROM NARUTO. THIS PAGE HAD BEEN THUMBNAILED, BROKEN DOWN IN PENCIL, AND THEN FINISHED IN INK. BUT I STILL REDREW IT BECAUSE I JUST DIDN'T FEEL IT WAS UP TO SNUFF. THE LAYOUT WAS TOO STATIC, AND THE PANELS WERE TOO SMALL FOR THE KIND OF DYNAMIC, IMPORTANT ACTION THIS SEQUENCE CALLED FOR. TRYING TO MAINTAIN A WEEKLY PUBLISHING SCHEDULE LEAVES ME VERY LITTLE TIME FOR THE LUXURY OF FUSSING OVER ART, SO IT'S PRETTY RARE TO REDO ANYTHING ONCE IT'S DOWN ON PAPER. BUT IF SOMETHING FEELS SO WRONG THAT I KNOW IT NEEDS FIXING, THEN I COMMIT TO THE CHANGE. NO MATTER HOW SET IN STONE I THINK MY STORY OUTLINE AND THUMBNAIL DRAWINGS ARE, AND NO MATTER HOW FAR ALONG I'VE GOTTEN IN THE FINISHED ART, IF SOMETHING REALLY FEELS WRONG, I'VE GOT TO RESPECT MY OWN CREATIVE GUT INSTINCTS. YOU KNOW... SEEING IT IN WRITING, I THINK I MAY HAVE JUST FIGURED OUT WHY I SOMETIMES HAVE TROUBLE MEETING DEADLINES!



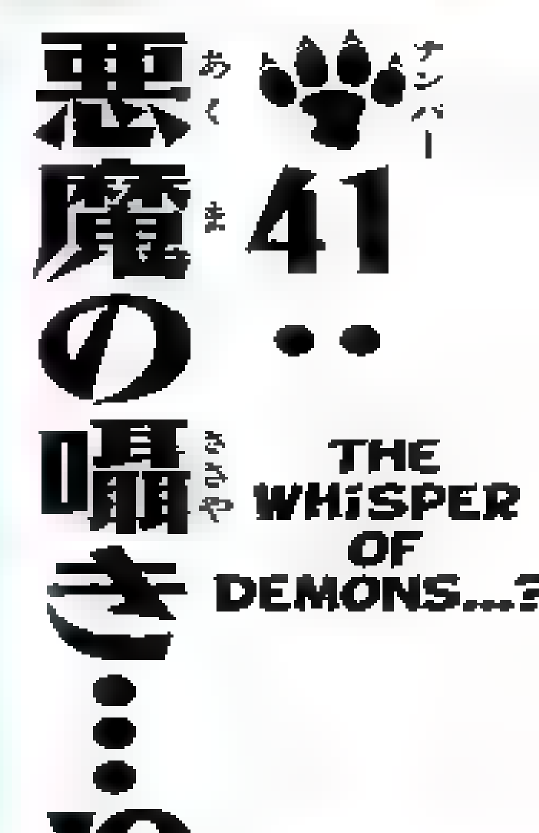
THE CHUNIN JOURNEYMAN NINJA SELECTION EXAM
RULES FOR PART ONE

(1) EACH APPLICANT BEGINS WITH A PERFECT SCORE OF TEN POINTS. THERE ARE TEN QUESTIONS WORTH ONE POINT APIECE. A POINT IS SUBTRACTED FOR EVERY INCORRECT ANSWER. THE GRADING SYSTEM IS ENTIRELY BASED ON A PRINCIPLE OF PENALIZATION.

(2) THE EXAM IS A TEAM EVENT. WHAT MATTERS IS HOW CLOSE EACH THREE NINJA CELL CAN COME TO RETAINING ITS INITIAL THIRTY POINTS.

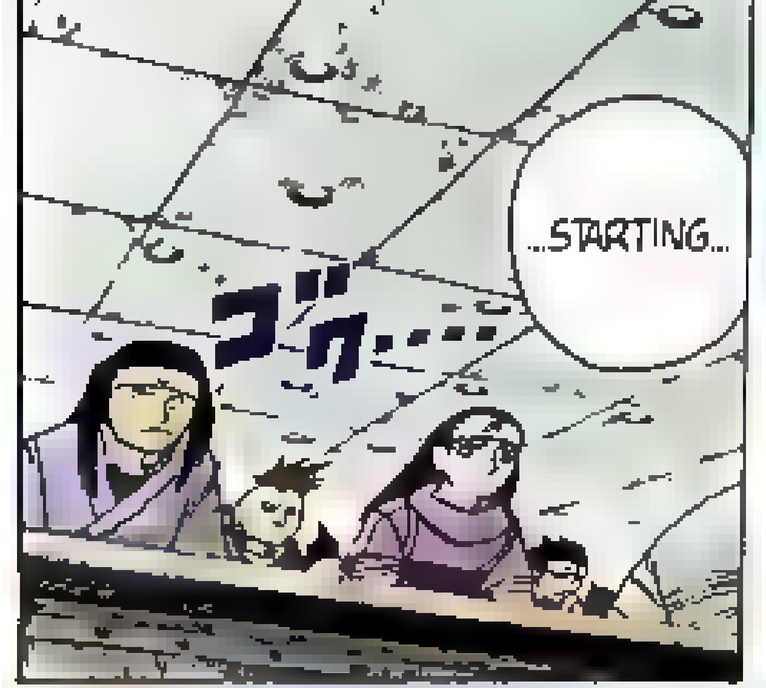
(3) ANYONE CAUGHT ATTEMPTING TO CHEAT OR AIDING AND ABETTING A CHEATER WILL LOSE TWO POINTS FOR EACH OFFENSE.

(4) ANYONE WHO HAS NO POINTS LEFT AT THE TEST'S END— WHETHER DUE TO BEING CAUGHT CHEATING OR TO AN INABILITY TO ANSWER ANY OF THE QUESTIONS CORRECTLY— WILL AUTOMATICALLY FAIL. IF A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL FAILS, THE REMAINING TWO MEMBERS OF THAT PERSON'S CELL WILL BE FAILED AS WELL.



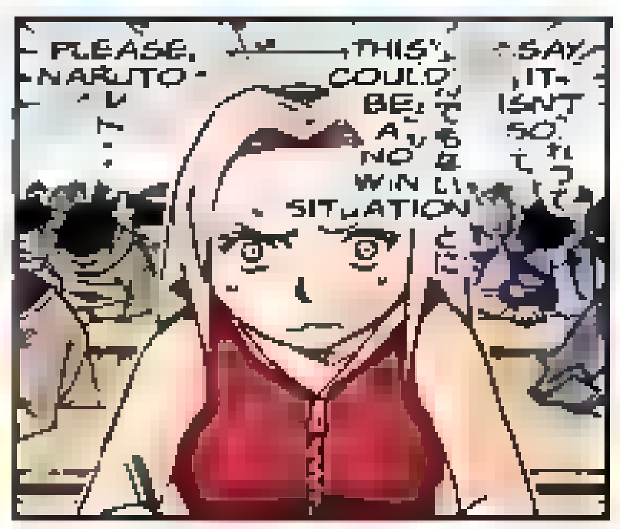


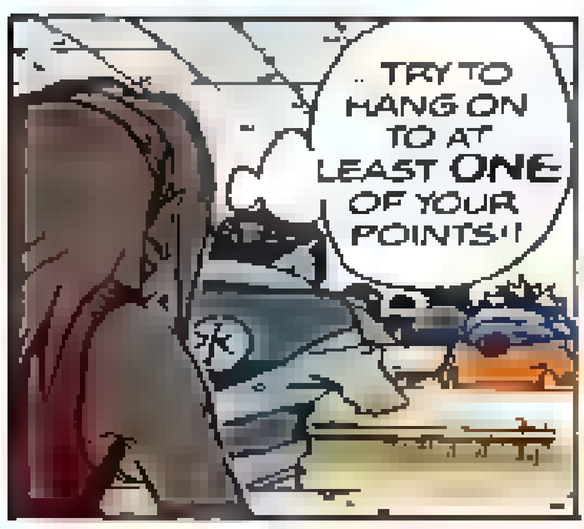

YOU HAVE ONE HOUR..


...STARTING...
ゴク...

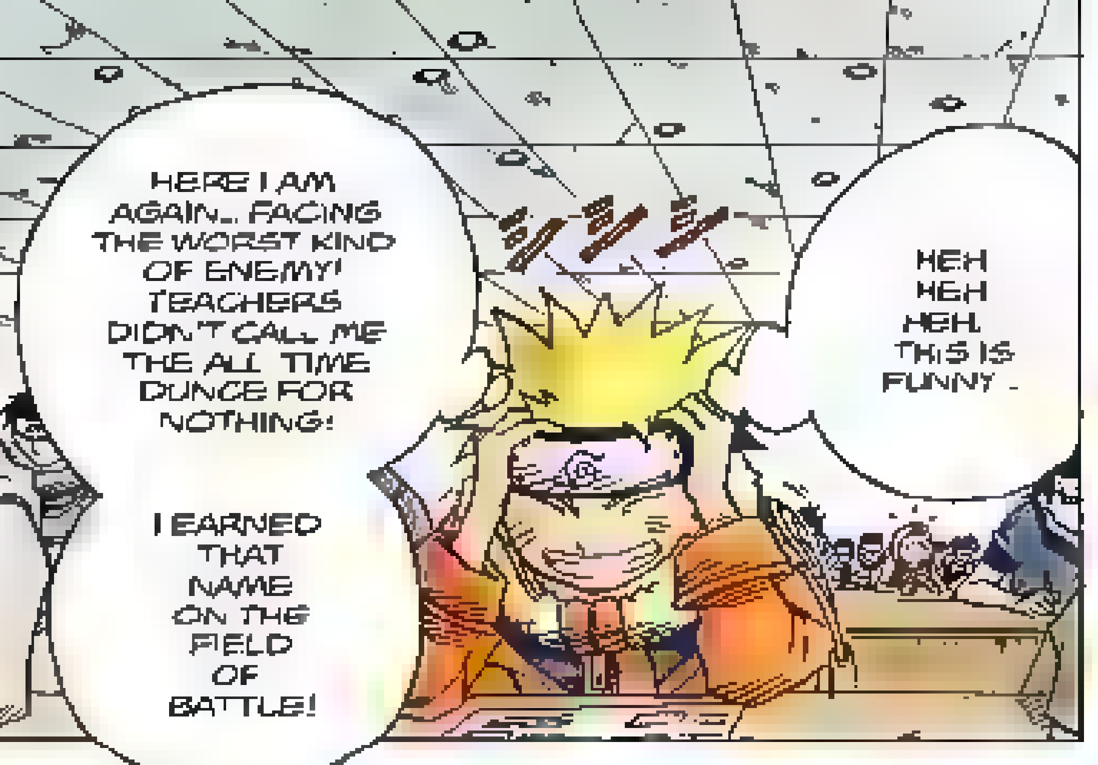
...NOW!

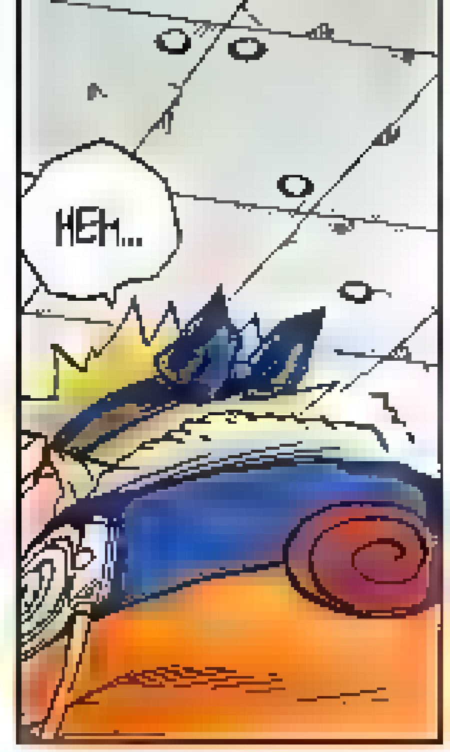


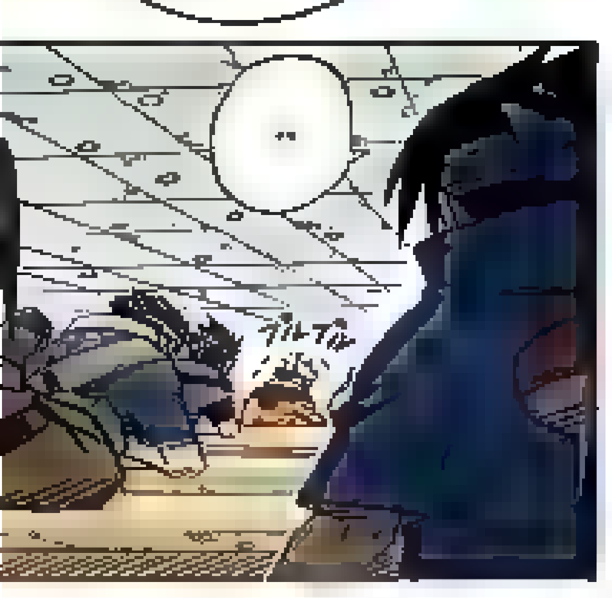

SAY IT ISN'T SO.
THIS COULD BE A NO WIN SITUATION
PLEASE, NARUTO

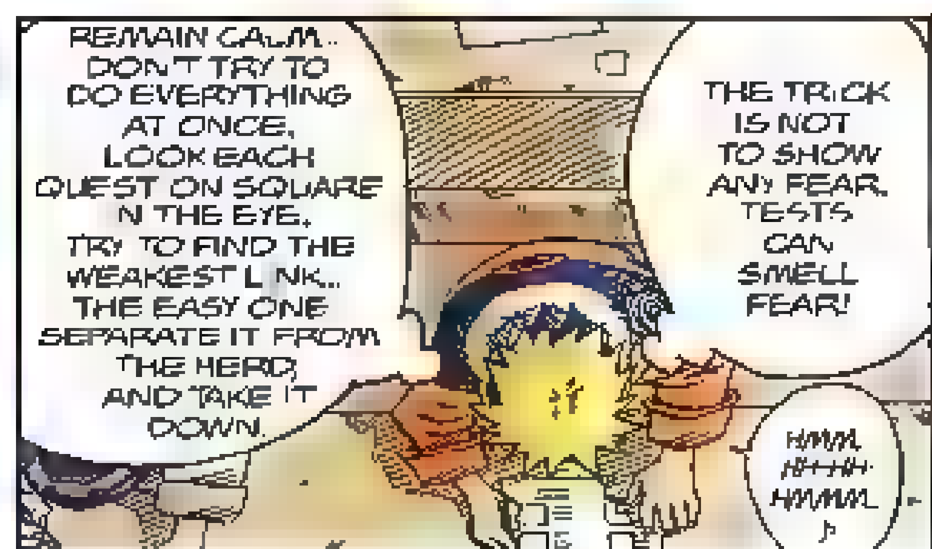

.. TRY TO HANG ON TO AT LEAST ONE OF YOUR POINTS!!

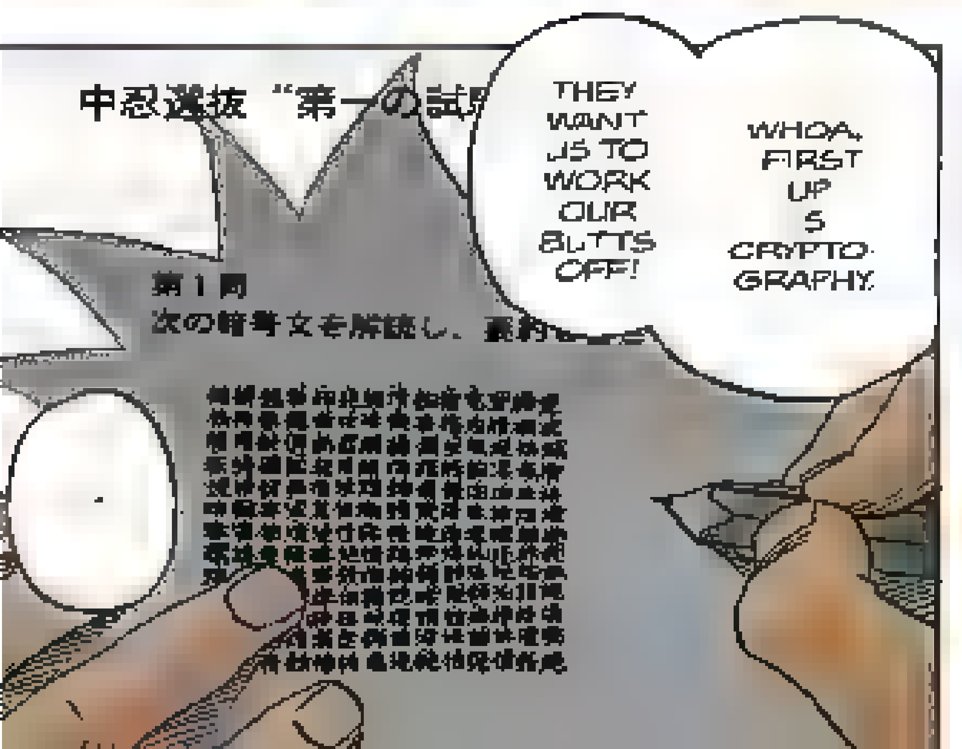

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HERE I AM AGAIN.. FACING THE WORST KIND OF ENEMY! TEACHERS DIDN'T CALL ME THE ALL TIME DUNCE FOR NOTHING!
I EARNED THAT NAME ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE!
HEH HEH HEH. THIS IS FUNNY.


HEH...

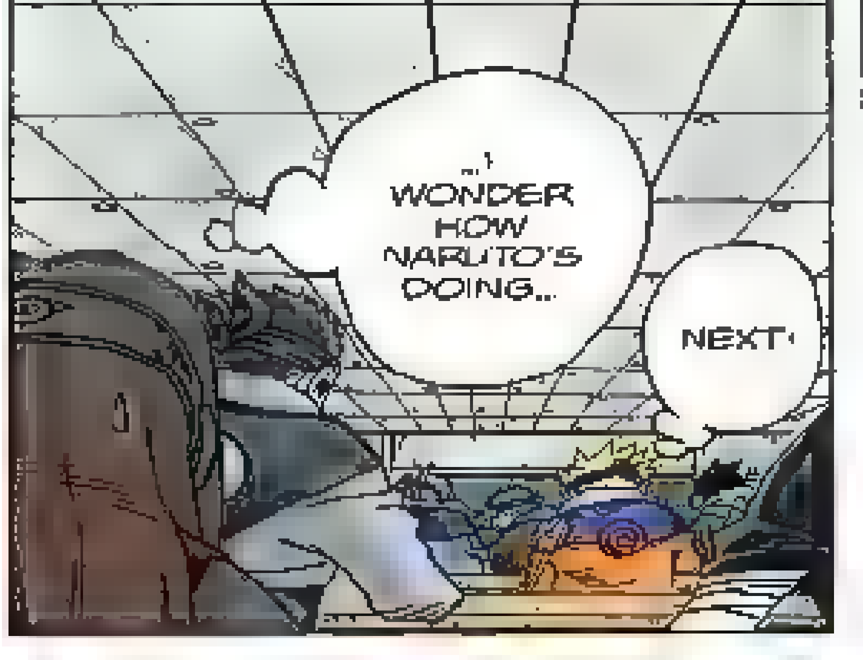

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REMAIN CALM.. DON'T TRY TO DO EVERYTHING AT ONCE. LOOK EACH QUEST ON SQUARE N THE EYE. TRY TO FIND THE WEAKEST L NK.. THE EASY ONE SEPARATE IT FROM THE HERD, AND TAKE IT DOWN.
THE TRICK IS NOT TO SHOW ANY FEAR. TESTS CAN SMELL FEAR!
HMM.

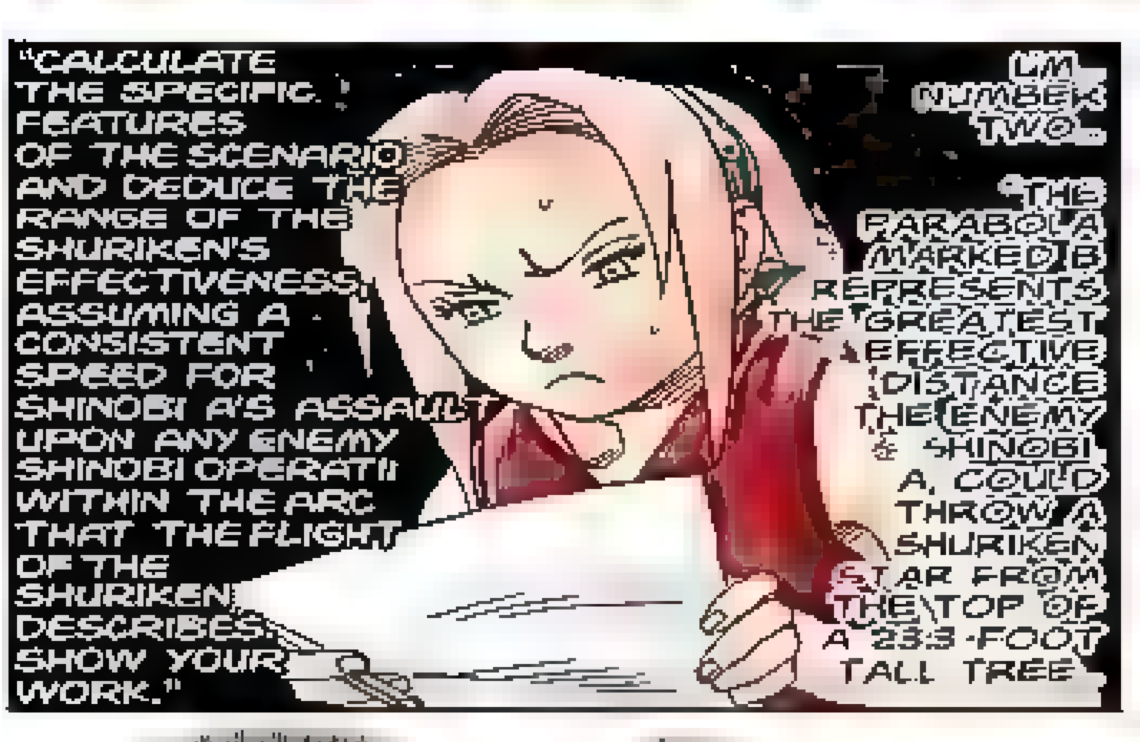

中忍選抜“第一の試
第１問
次の暗号文を解読し、要約
THEY WANT US TO WORK OUR BUTTS OFF!
WHOA, FIRST UP IS CRYPTOGRAPHY.


NARUTO IS AN IDIOT. I JUST HOPE HE DOESN'T PANIC.
THIS IS SO NOT GOOD!

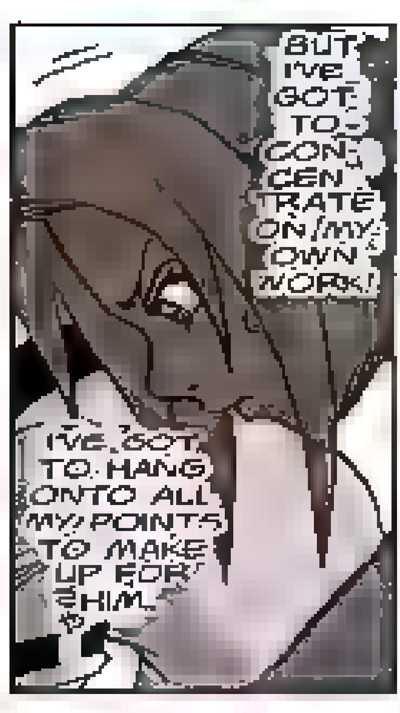




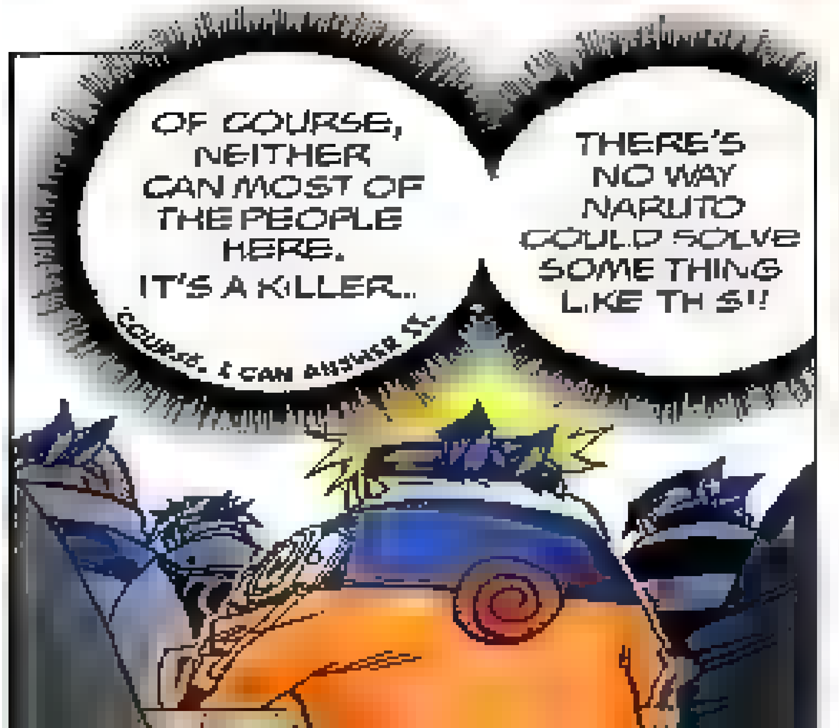
...I WONDER HOW NARUTO'S DOING...
NEXT

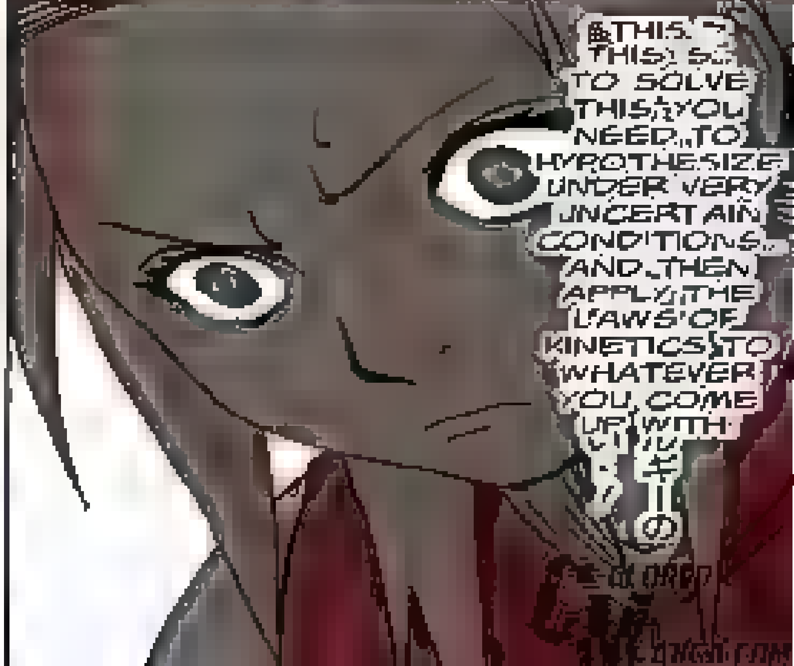
"CALCULATE THE SPECIFIC FEATURES OF THE SCENARIO AND DEDUCE THE RANGE OF THE SHURIKEN'S EFFECTIVENESS, ASSUMING A CONSISTENT SPEED FOR SHINOBI A'S ASSAULT UPON ANY ENEMY SHINOBI OPERATII WITHIN THE ARC THAT THE FLIGHT OF THE SHURIKEN DESCRIBES. SHOW YOUR WORK."
I'M NUMBER TWO...
"THE PARABOLA MARKED B REPRESENTS THE GREATEST EFFECTIVE DISTANCE THE ENEMY SHINOBI A, COULD THROW A SHURIKEN STAR FROM THE TOP OF A 23.3-FOOT TALL TREE...



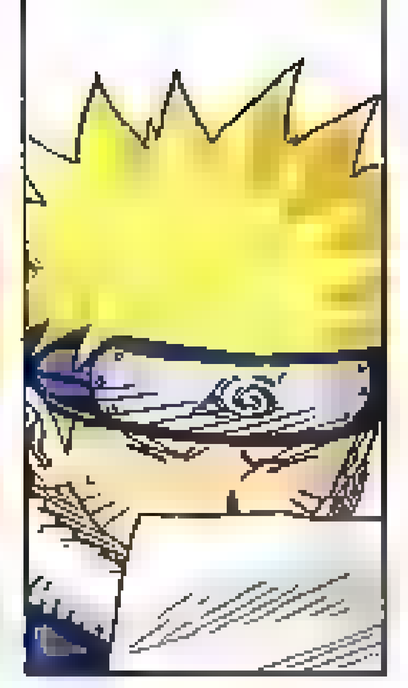
BUT I'VE GOT TO CONCENTRATE ON MY OWN WORK!
I'VE GOT TO HANG ONTO ALL MY POINTS TO MAKE UP FOR HIM.



THERE'S NO WAY NARUTO COULD SOLVE SOMETHING LIKE THIS!!
OF COURSE, NEITHER CAN MOST OF THE PEOPLE HERE. IT'S A KILLER...
COURSE, I CAN ANSWER IT.

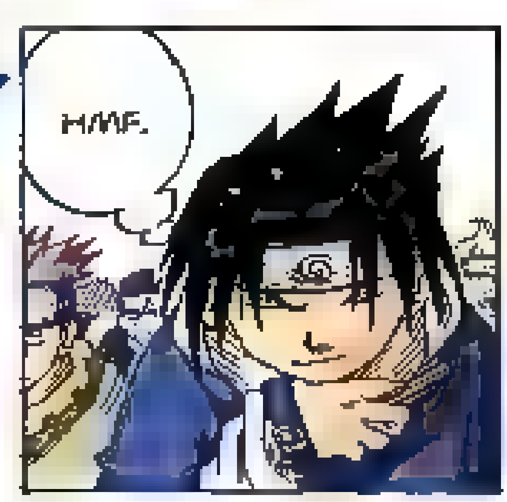
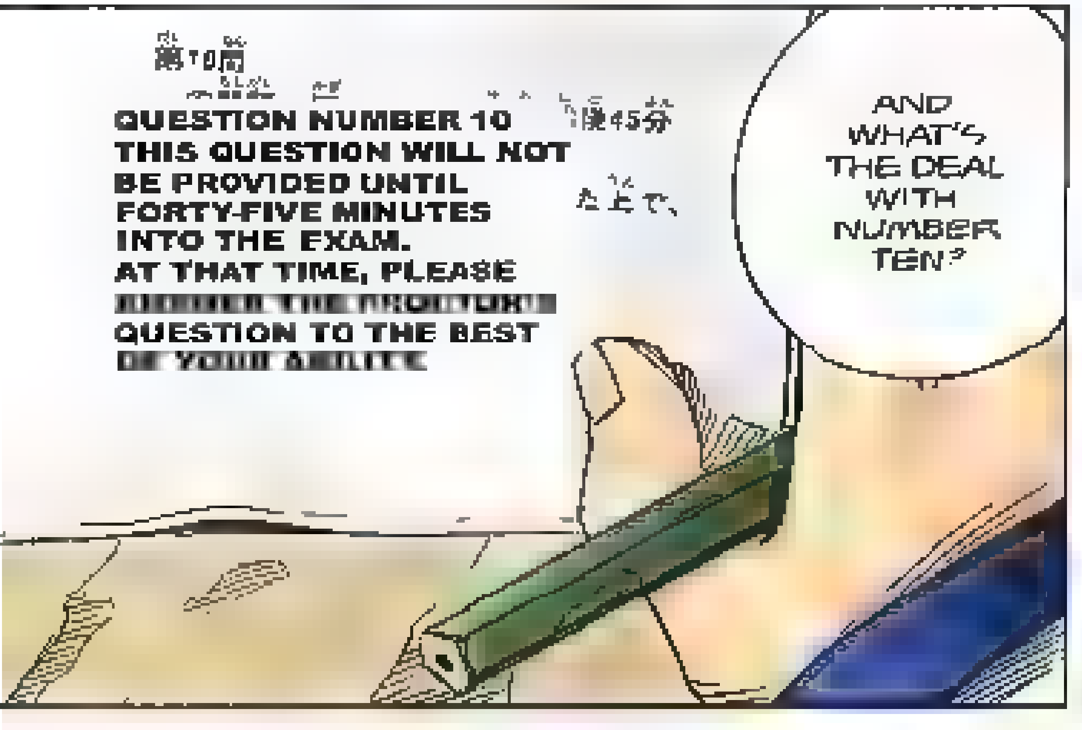
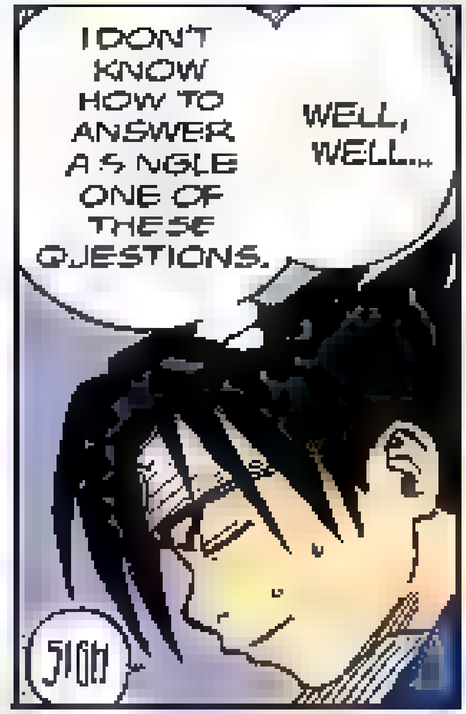


THIS... THIS... TO SOLVE THIS, YOU NEED TO HYPOTHESIZE UNDER VERY UNCERTAIN CONDITIONS... AND THEN APPLY THE LAWS OF KINETICS TO WHATEVER YOU COME UP WITH.



HEH... HEH.

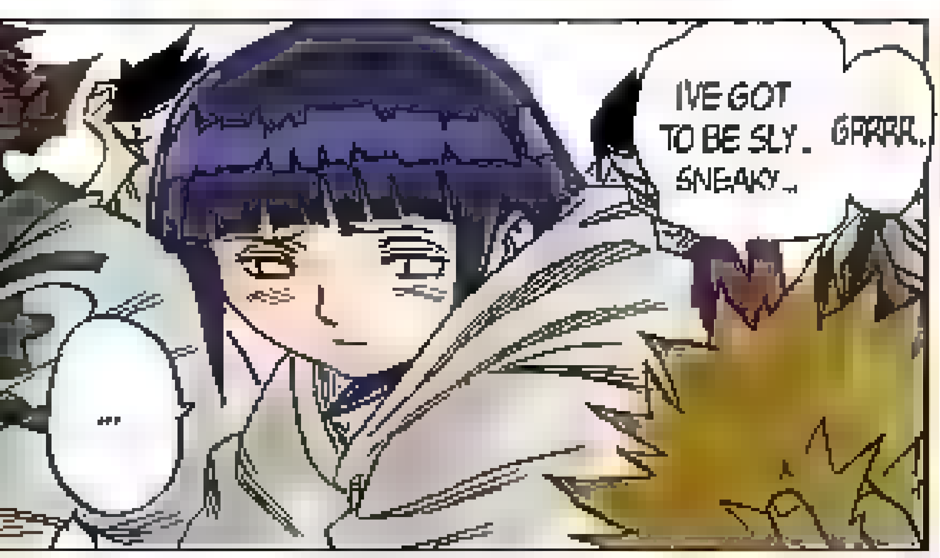

HMF.

QUESTION NUMBER 10
THIS QUESTION WILL NOT BE PROVIDED UNTIL FORTY-FIVE MINUTES INTO THE EXAM.
AT THAT TIME, PLEASE
QUESTION TO THE BEST
AND WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH NUMBER TEN?

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ANSWER A SINGLE ONE OF THESE QUESTIONS.
WELL, WELL...
SIGH

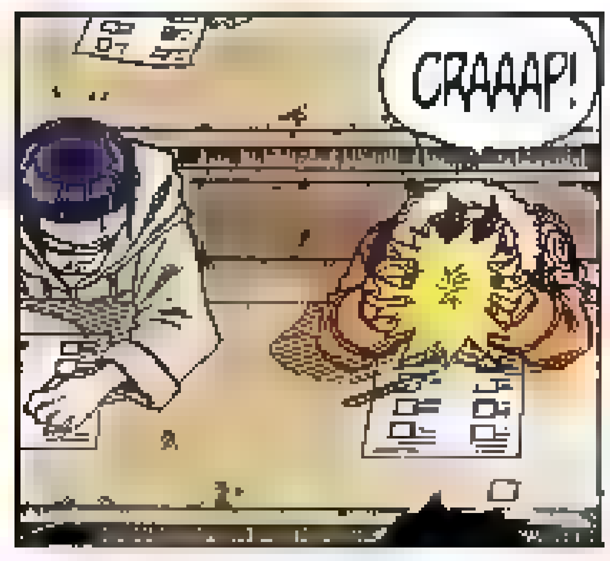


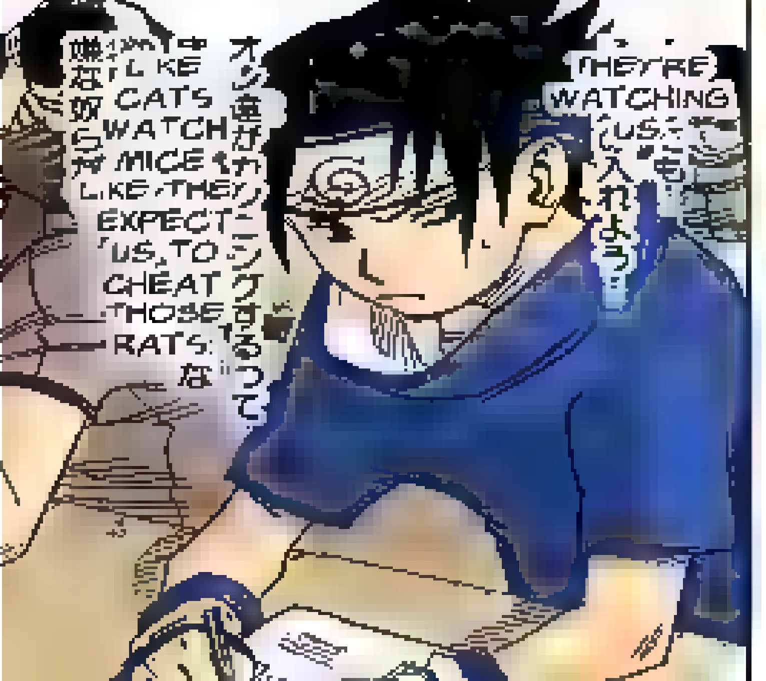
AW...
MAN, AM I SCREWED HERE. TOTALLY SERIOUSLY FATALLY SCREWED!

WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?

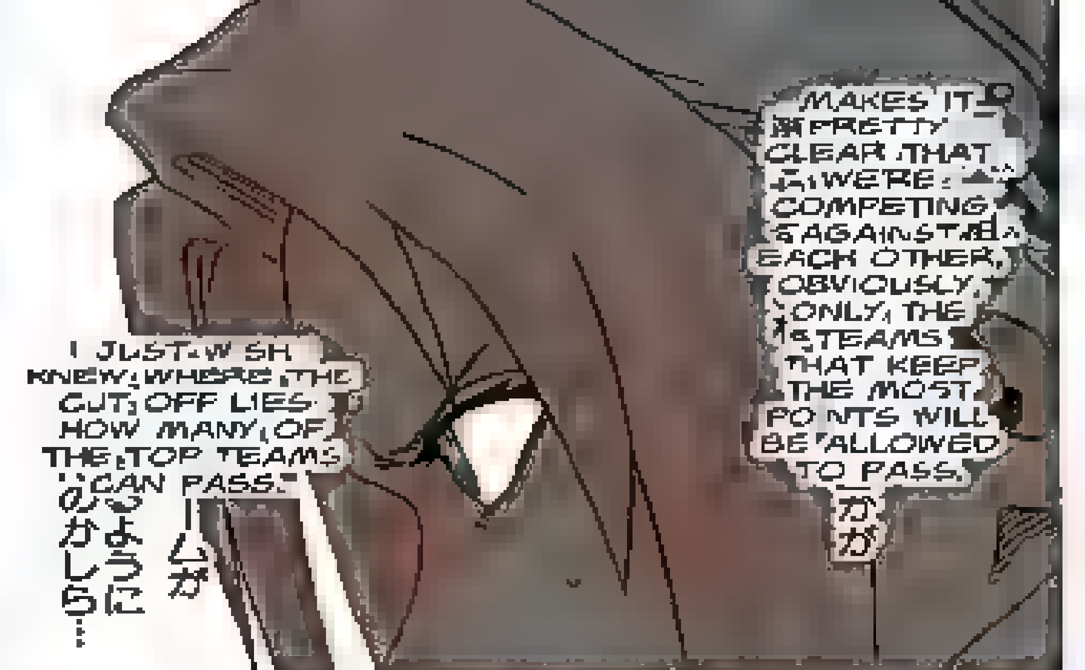
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?



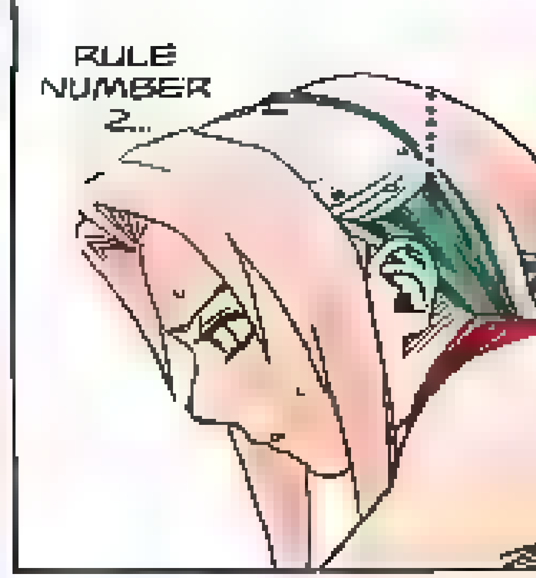




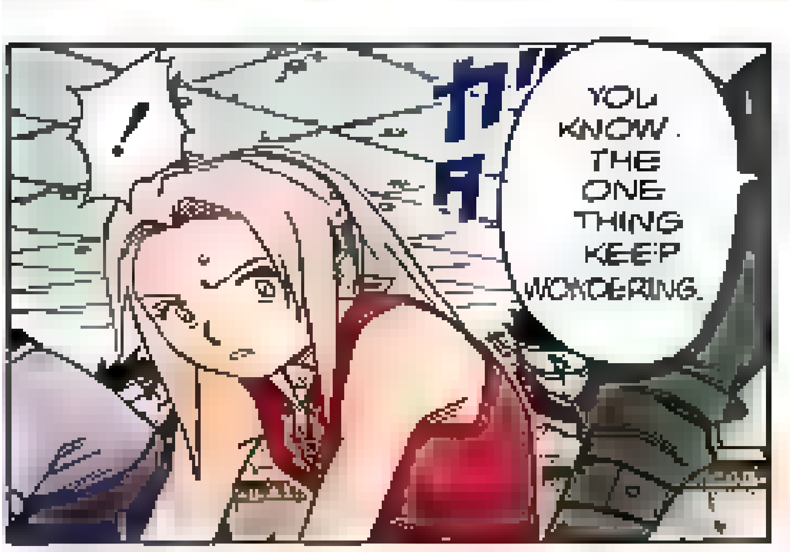




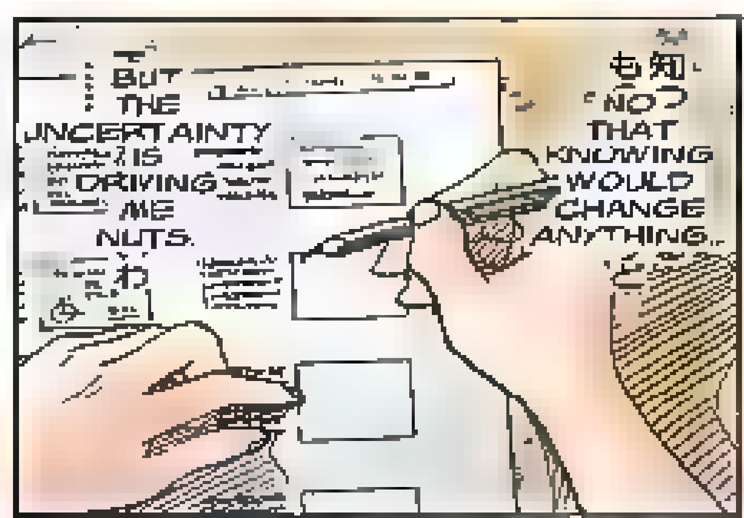
MAKES IT PRETTY CLEAR THAT WE'RE COMPETING AGAINST EACH OTHER. OBVIOUSLY, ONLY THE TEAMS THAT KEEP THE MOST POINTS WILL BE ALLOWED TO PASS.
I JUST WISH I KNEW WHERE THE CUT-OFF LIES. HOW MANY OF THE TOP TEAMS CAN PASS.



RULE NUMBER 2...



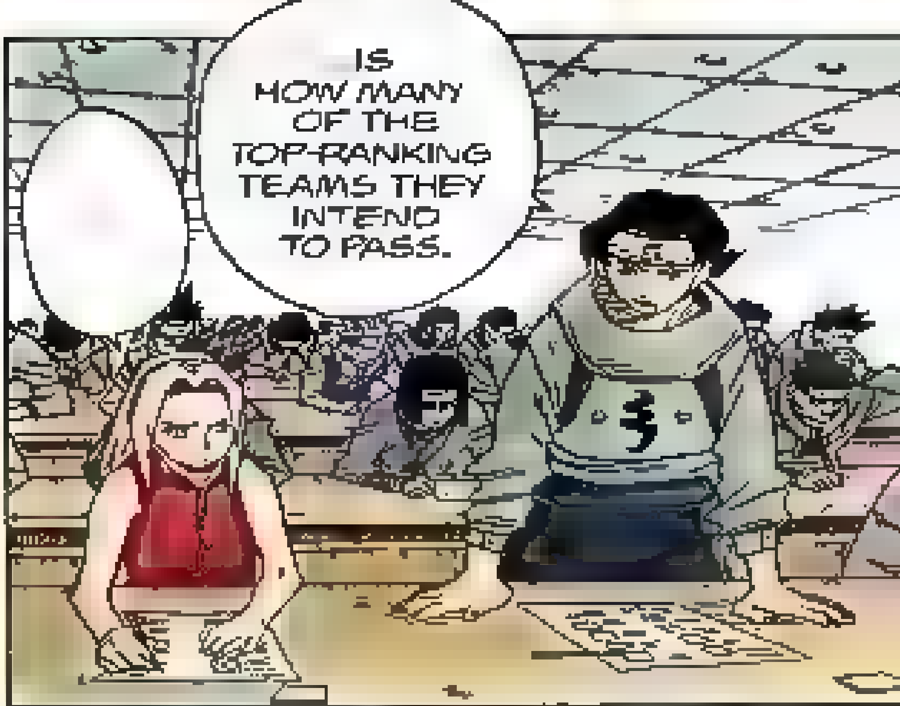
!
YOU KNOW THE ONE THING KEEP WONDERING.



BUT THE UNCERTAINTY IS DRIVING ME NUTS.
NOT THAT KNOWING WOULD CHANGE ANYTHING.



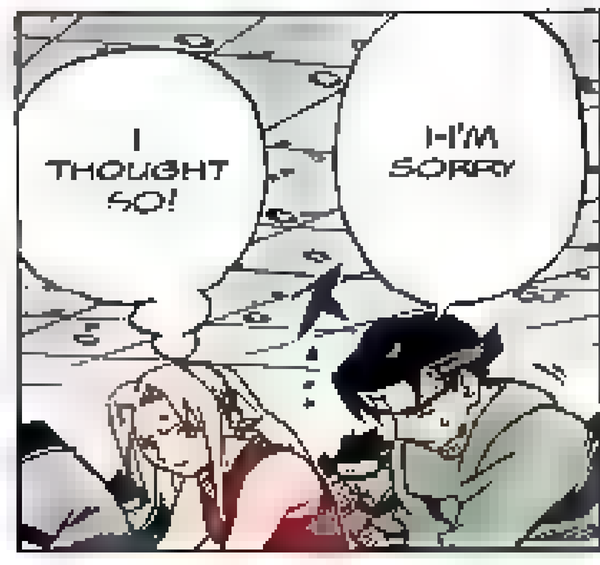
!
!
HEE-HEE-HEE-HEE-HEE!

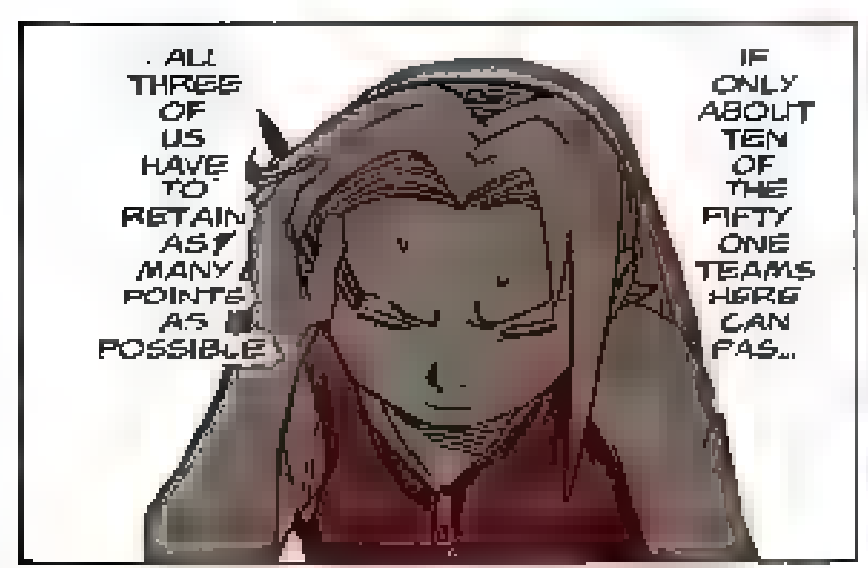


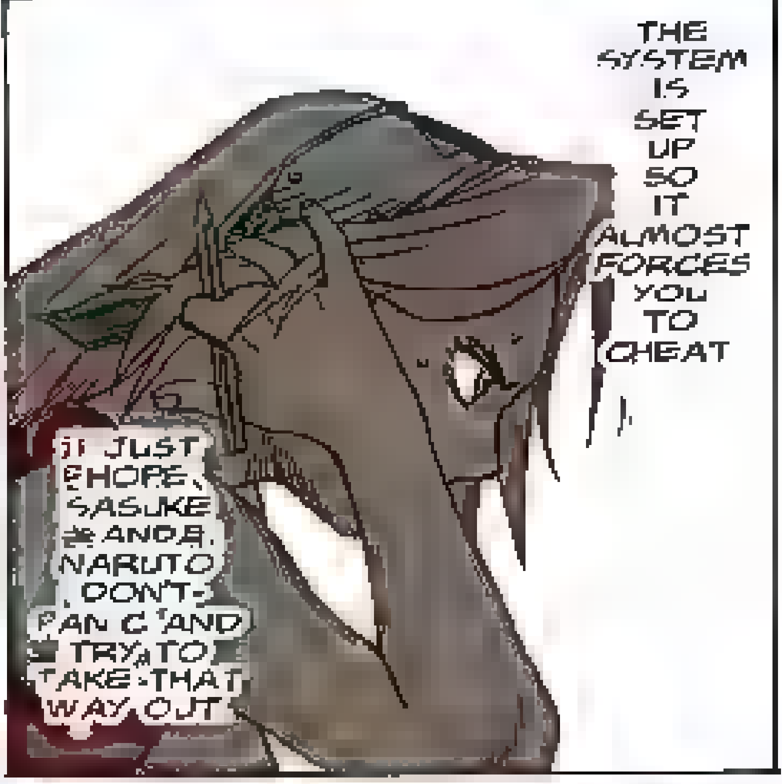
...IS HOW MANY OF THE TOP-RANKING TEAMS THEY INTEND TO PASS.




KNOWING THAT NOW ISN'T GOING TO HELP YOU, IS IT?
UNLESS YOU'RE HOPING TO FAIL.


I'M SORRY
I THOUGHT SO!


IF ONLY ABOUT TEN OF THE FIFTY ONE TEAMS HERE CAN PAS...
ALL THREE OF US HAVE TO RETAIN AS MANY POINTS AS POSSIBLE


THE SYSTEM IS SET UP SO IT ALMOST FORCES YOU TO CHEAT
I JUST HOPE SASUKE AND NARUTO DON'T PANIC AND TRY TO TAKE THAT WAY OUT


...BUT THEY WOULDN'T. THEY COULDN'T. NOT EVEN NARUTO IS THAT STUPID...
IS HE?
REMAIN CALM..
ABOVE ALL, PROCEED WITH CAUTION.

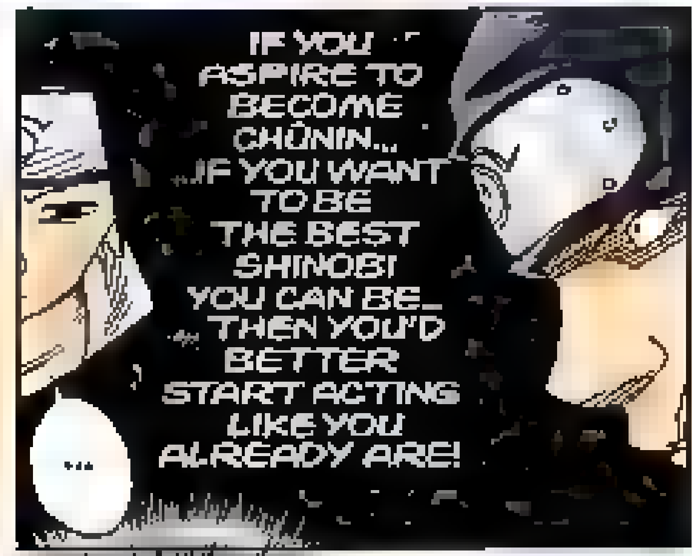


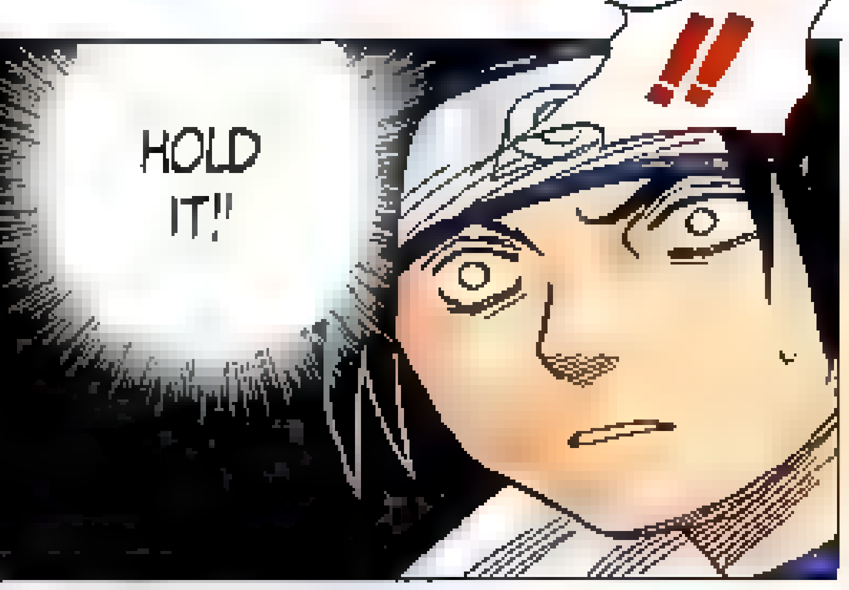

MY ONLY HOPE IS TO CHEAT SO WELL THEY DON'T CATCH ME!!!
WITH SO MANY PROCTORS LOOKING OVER OUR SHOULDERS, THEY'RE PROBABLY WATCHING EVERY LITTLE THING EVERY ONE OF US DOES.. MAKING NOTES ABOUT US IN THEIR GRADEBOOKS!
...
ポカポカ
DANGER! DANGER! DO NOT GO THERE!
NO WAY! NO WAY! DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!


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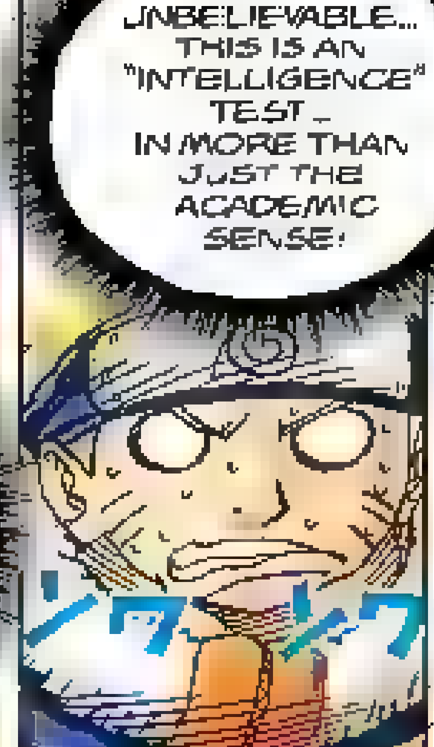

THE AXE HAS FALLEN SOMEWHERE
だな


IF YOU LET THE PROCTORS CATCH JOI CHEATING, YOU'LL BRING YOURSELF AND YOUR FRIENDS DOWN.


IF YOU ASPIRE TO BECOME CHŪNIN... ...IF YOU WANT TO BE THE BEST SHINOBI YOU CAN BE... ...THEN YOU'D BETTER START ACTING LIKE YOU ALREADY ARE!
...


!!
HOLD IT!!


NOW I GET IT!


UNBELIEVABLE... THIS IS AN "INTELLIGENCE" TEST... IN MORE THAN JUST THE ACADEMIC SENSE!


WAKE UP, NARUTO!

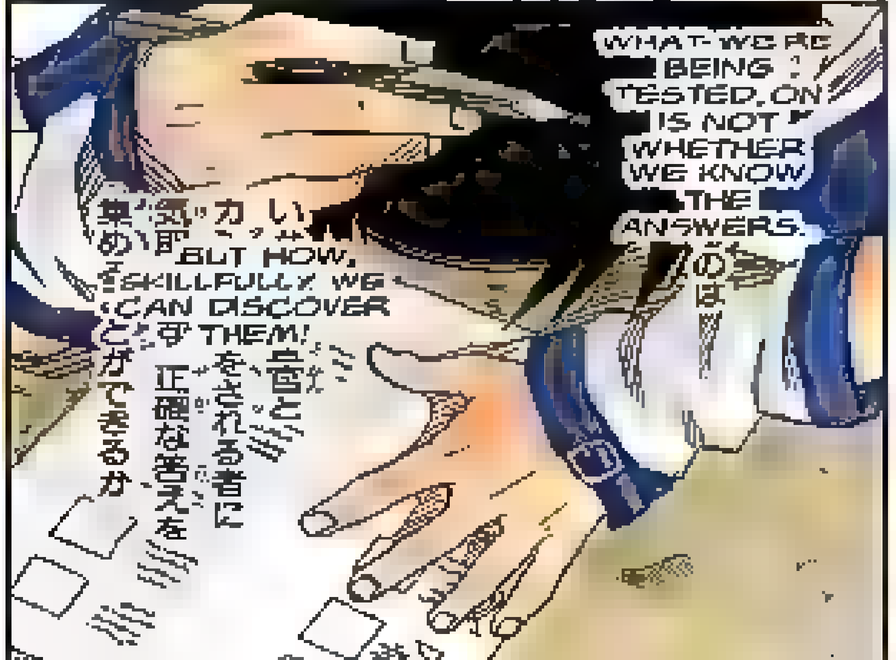

YOU'RE HISTORY IF YOU DON'T FIGURE IT OUT!
THEY'RE ALSO TESTING...

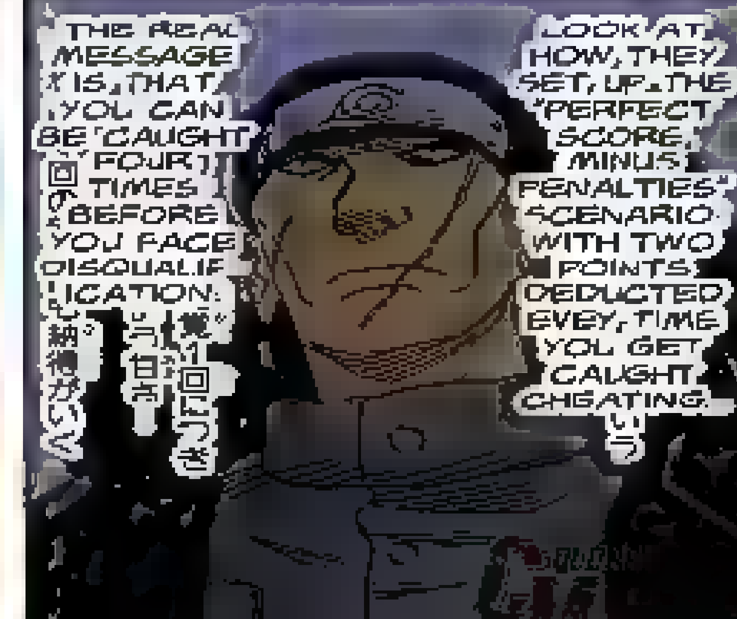


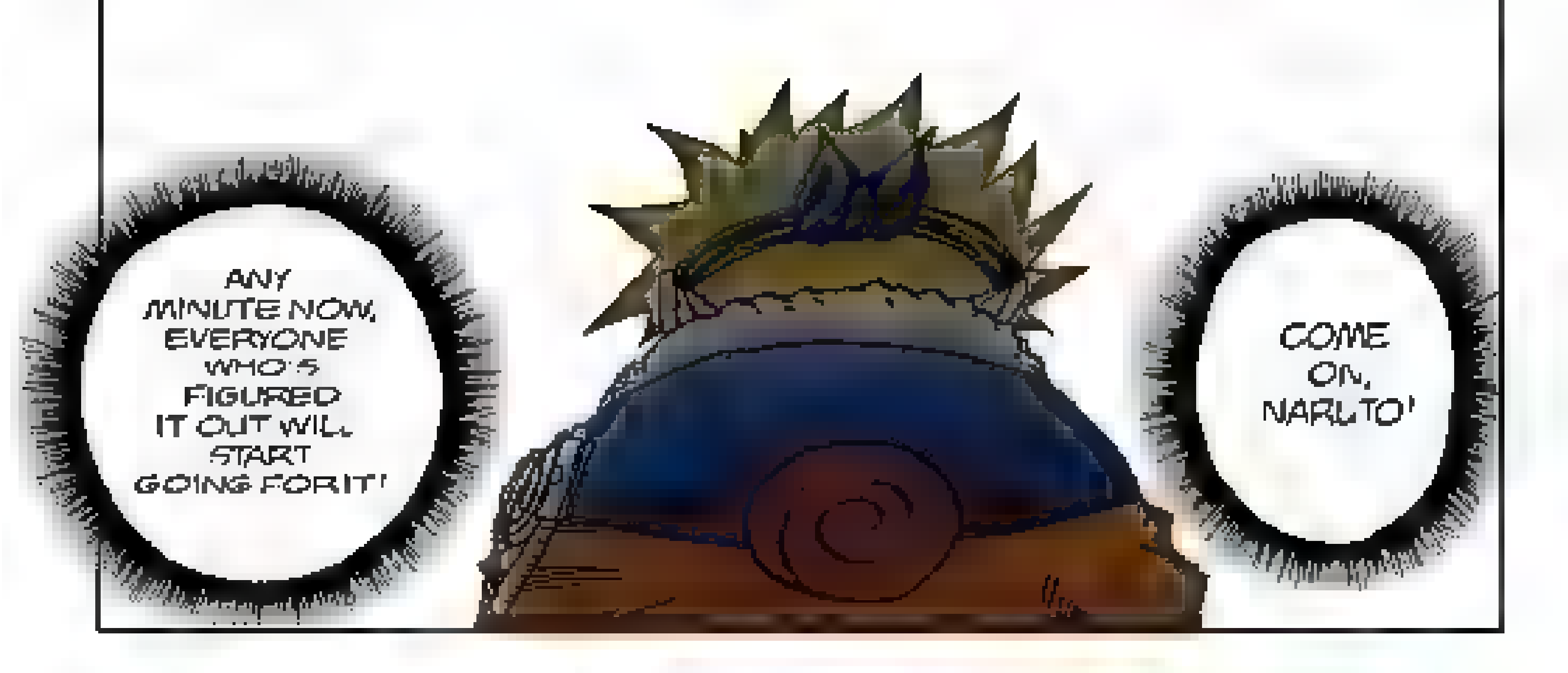
THEY WANT US TO CHEAT... LIKE SHINOBI!

...OUR INFORMATION GATHERING SKILLS!








ANY MINUTE NOW, EVERYONE WHO'S FIGURED IT OUT WILL START GOING FOR IT!
COME ON, NARUTO!



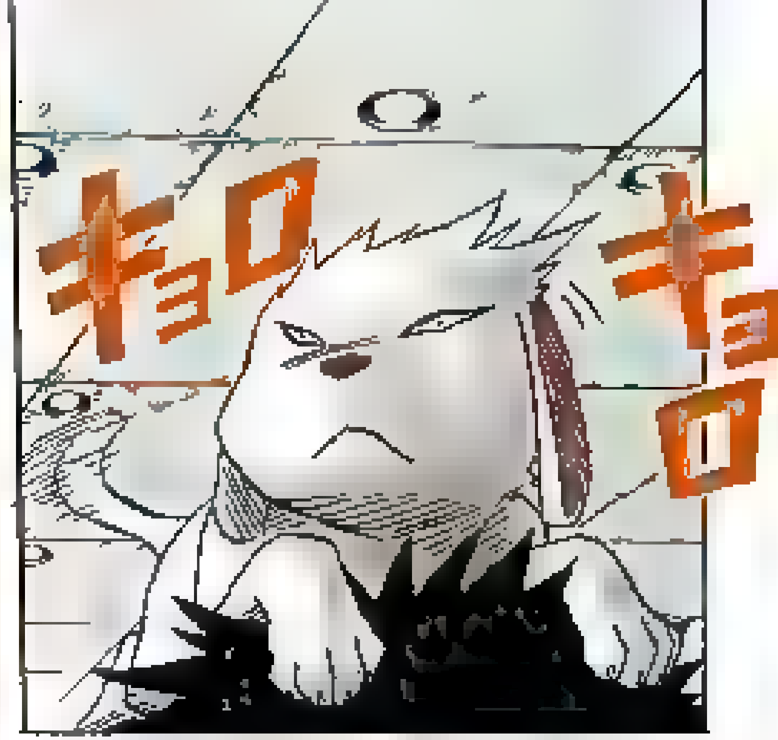

STOP GLARING AT ME
GET IT ALREADY



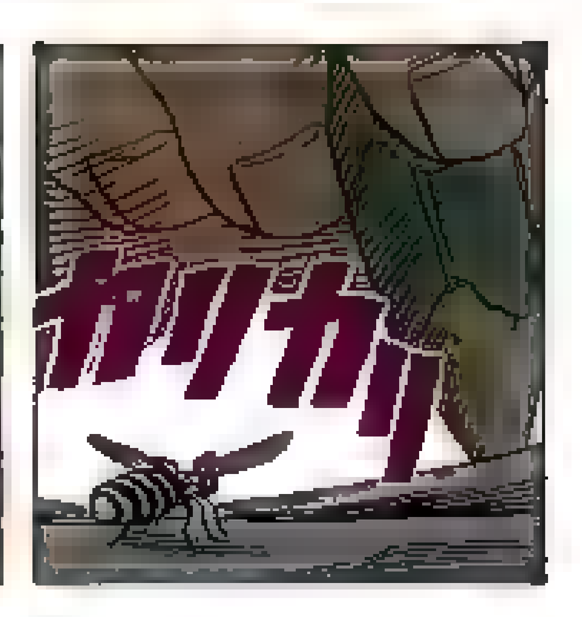



GAARA'S STARTED, TOO, HUH?
DON'T FAIL ME, SCARECROW.

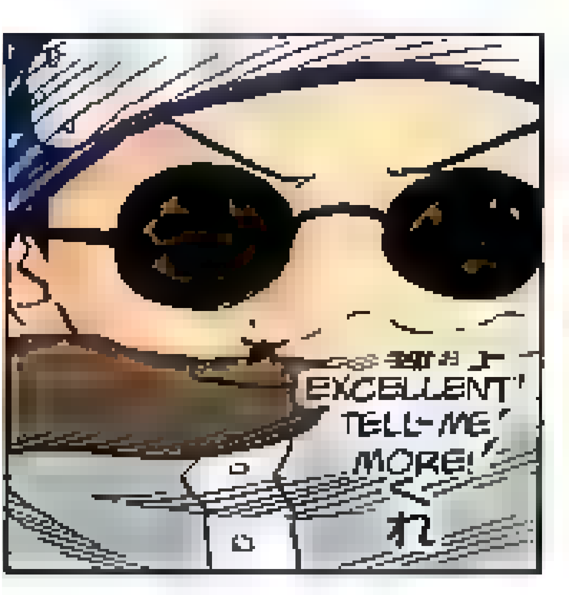


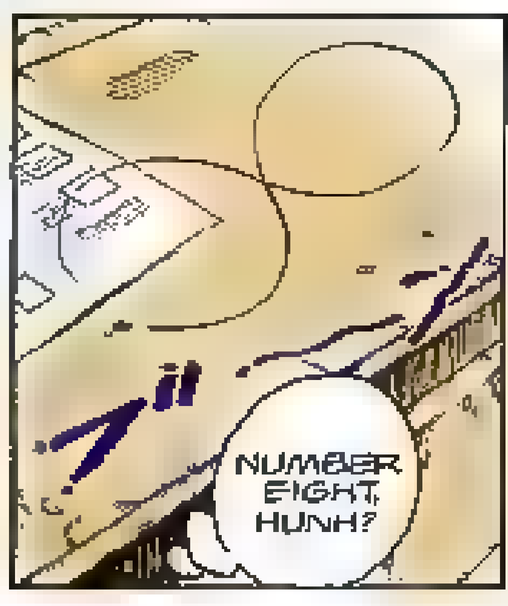

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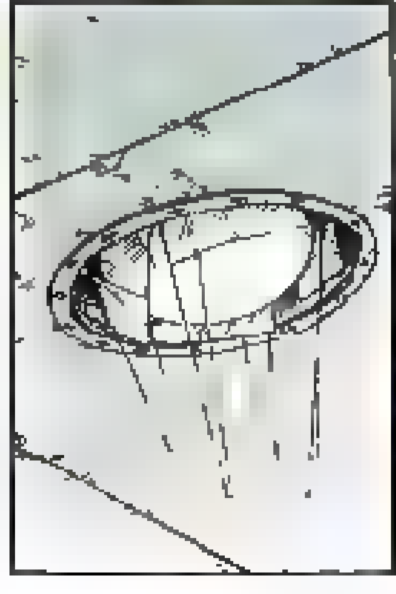

WOOF! WOOF! WOOF!
WOO-HOO! GOOD BOY, AKAMARU! NEXT IS QUESTION NUMBER 4...

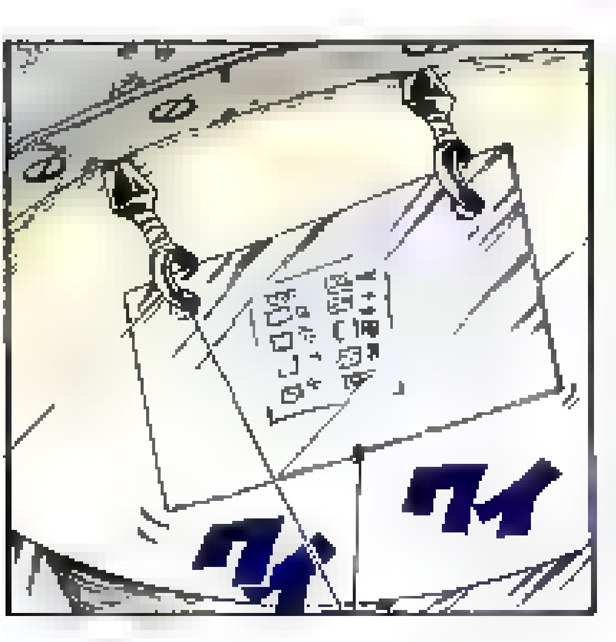

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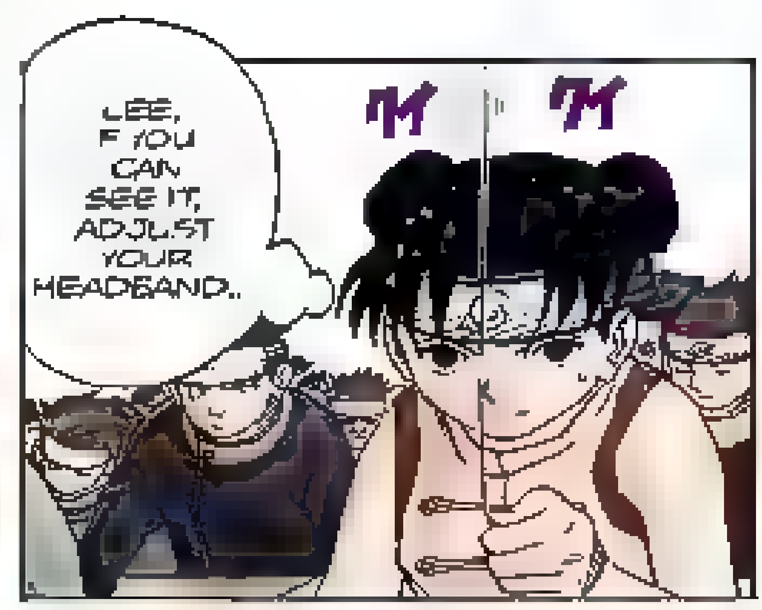

EXCELLENT! TELL ME MORE!


NUMBER EIGHT, HUNH?




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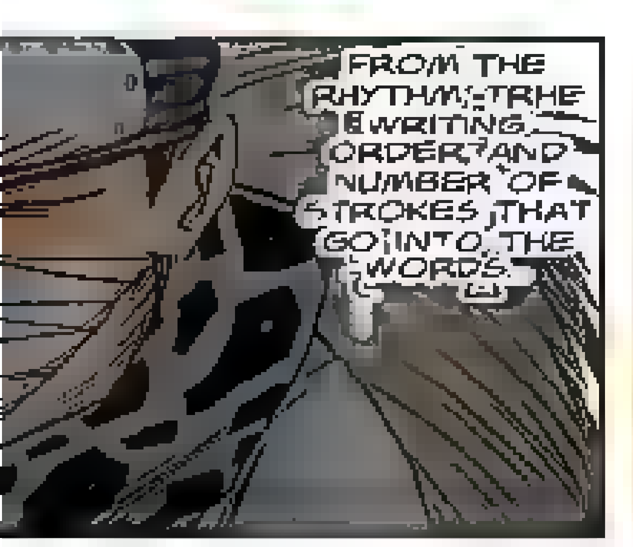

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MANGA.COM

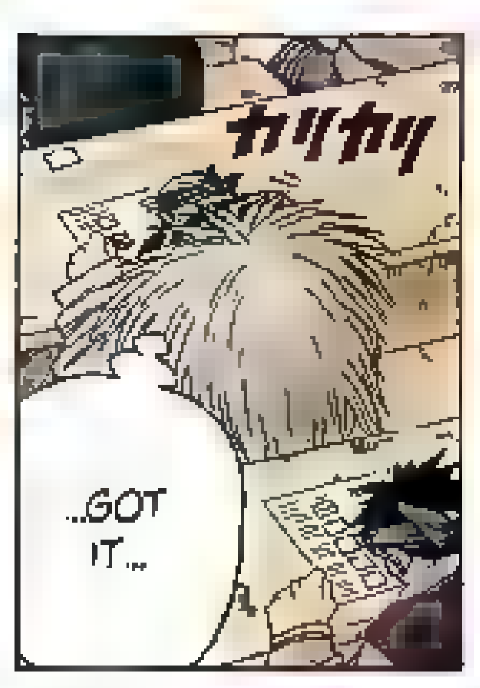

LEE, IF YOU CAN SEE IT, ADJUST YOUR HEADBAND..


ギュ!!

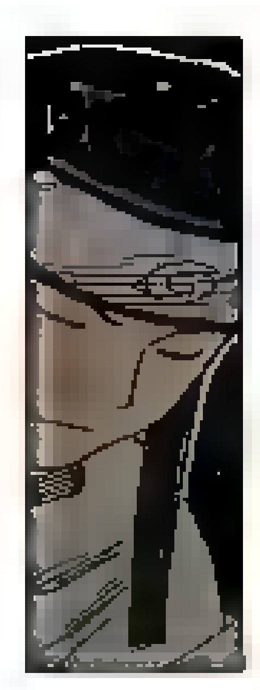

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FROM THE RHYTHM, THE WRITING ORDER AND NUMBER OF STROKES THAT GO INTO THE WORDS.


カリカリ
...GOT IT...





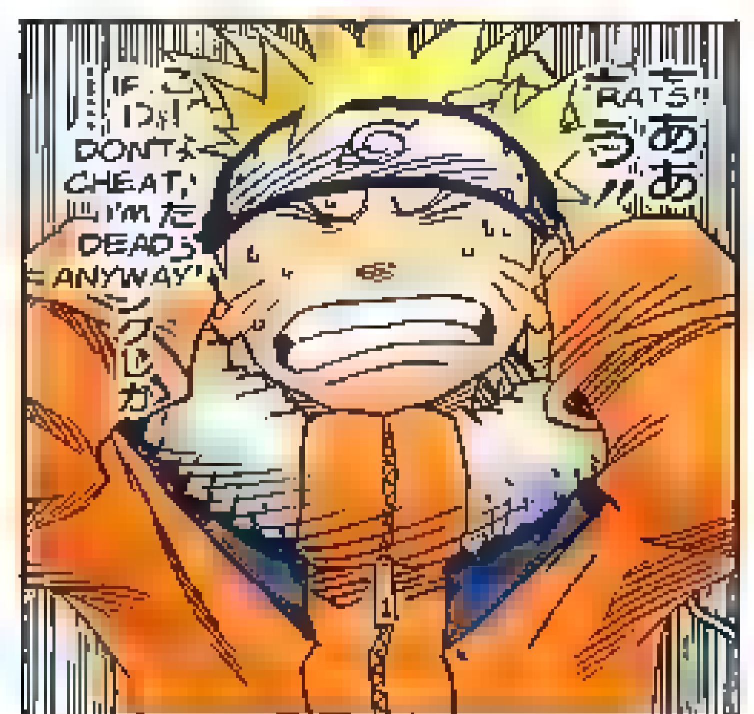

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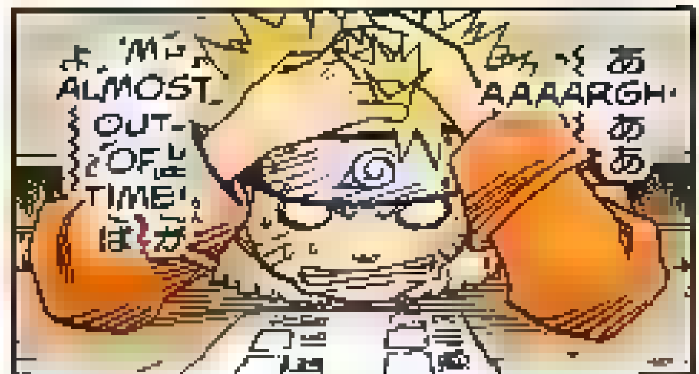


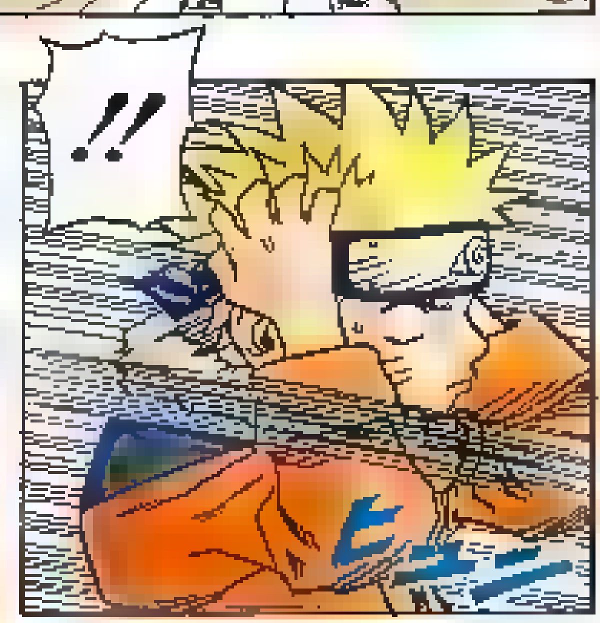
BYAKUGAN! THE ALL-SEEING EVIL EYE!
スウ。
THAT'S THE ONE. 'M GOING TO MIMIC HIS EVERY...
...MOVE!

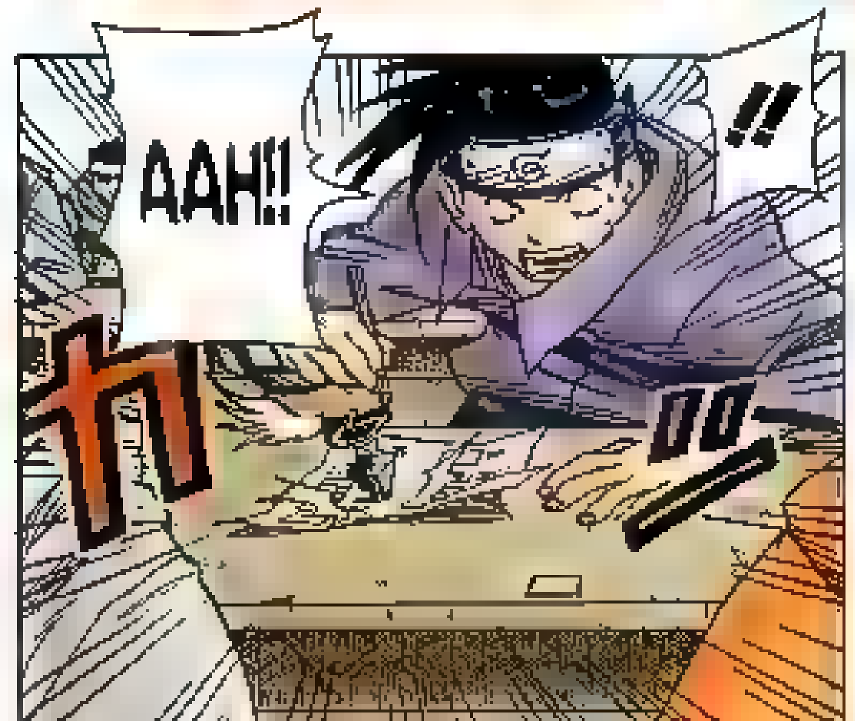

USING THE SHARINGAN COPY EYE!!



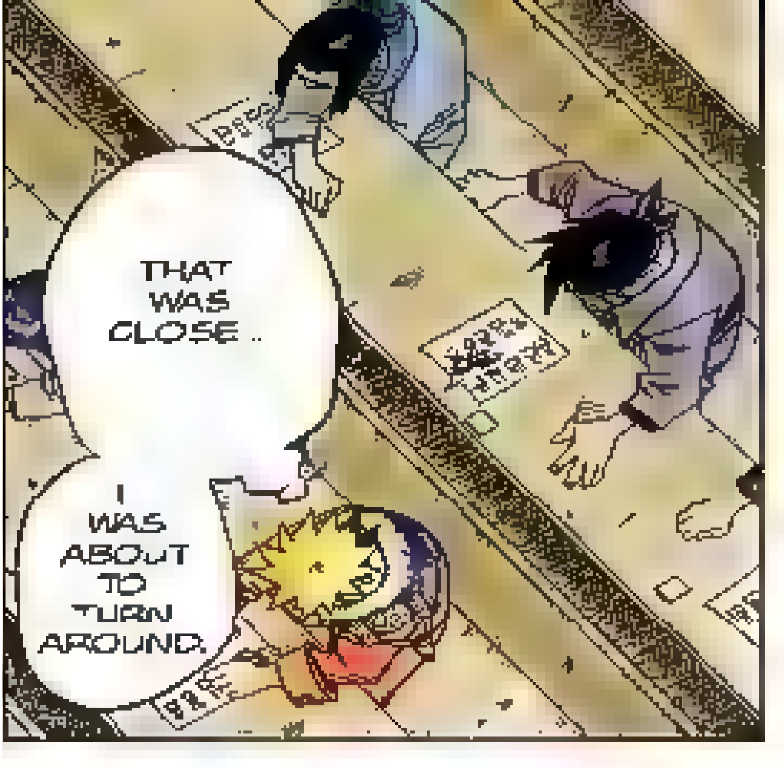

RATS!!
IF I DON'T CHEAT, I'M DEAD ANYWAY!

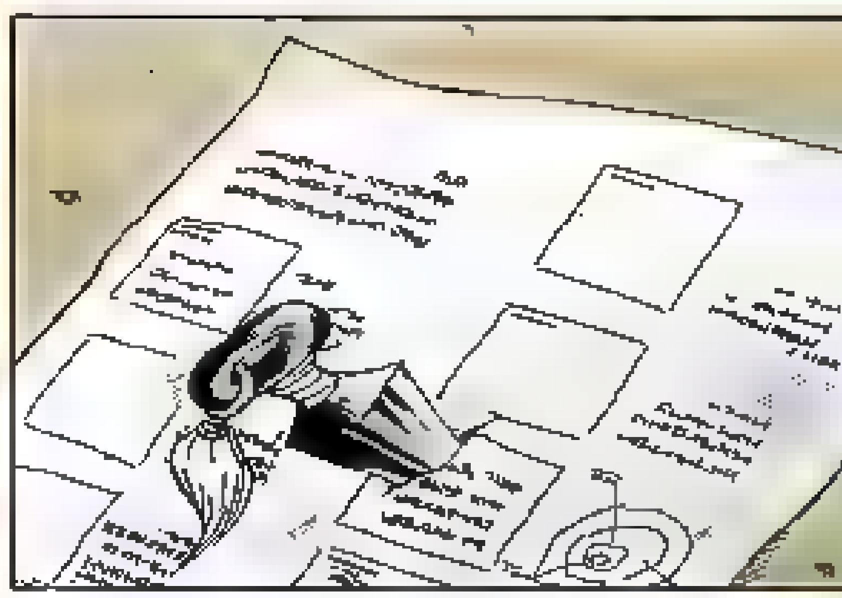

AAAARGH!
I'M ALMOST OUT OF TIME!


!!

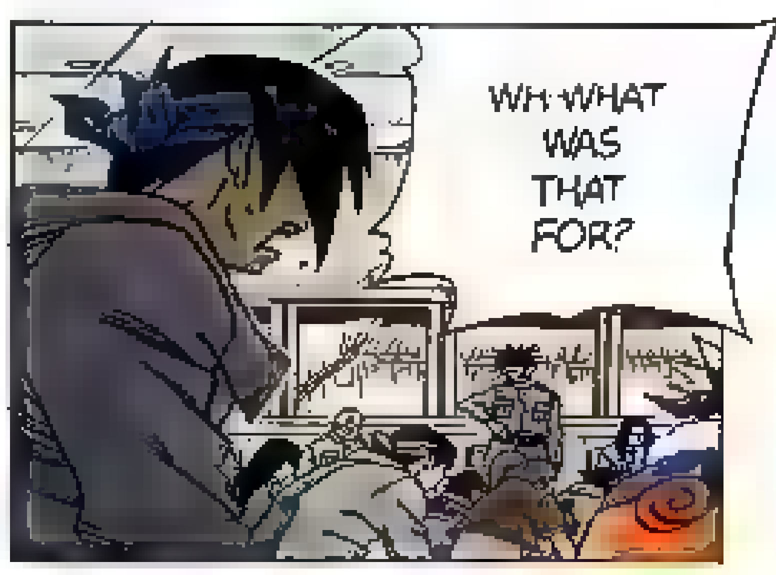

!!
AAH!!

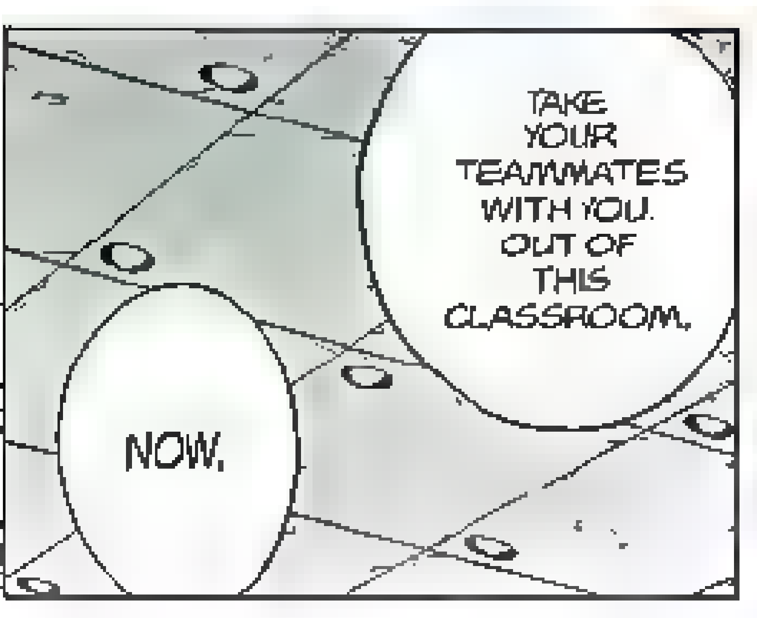

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THAT WAS CLOSE...
I WAS ABOUT TO TURN AROUND.



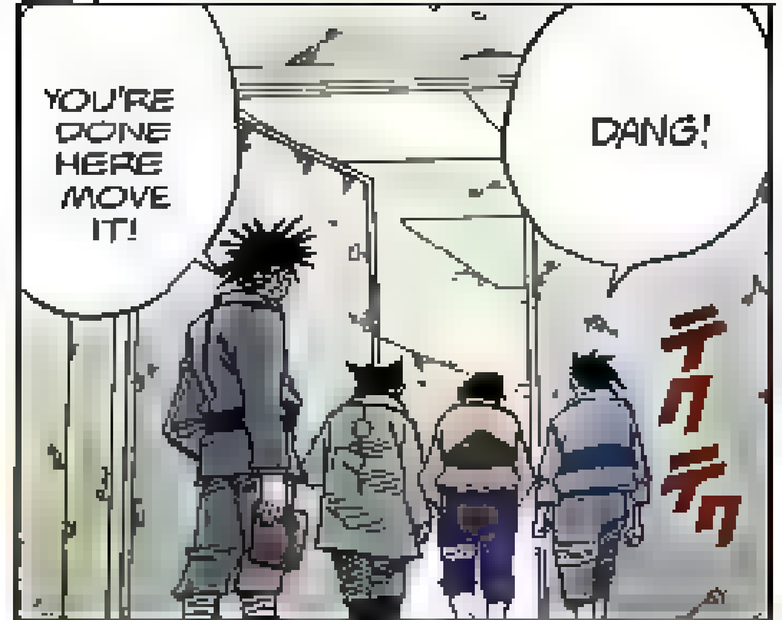

THAT'S FIVE STRIKES...
...AND YOU'RE OUT!

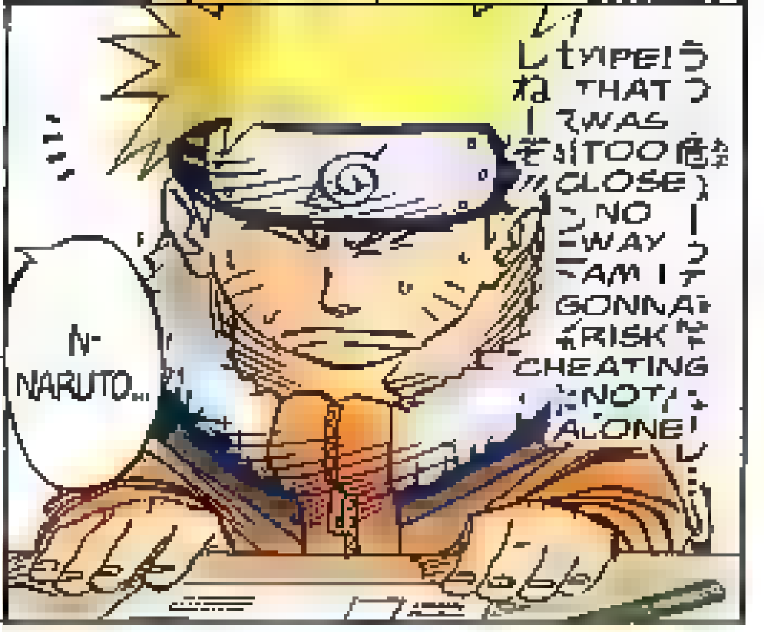

WH-WHAT WAS THAT FOR?


TAKE YOUR TEAMMATES WITH YOU. OUT OF THIS CLASSROOM.
NOW.

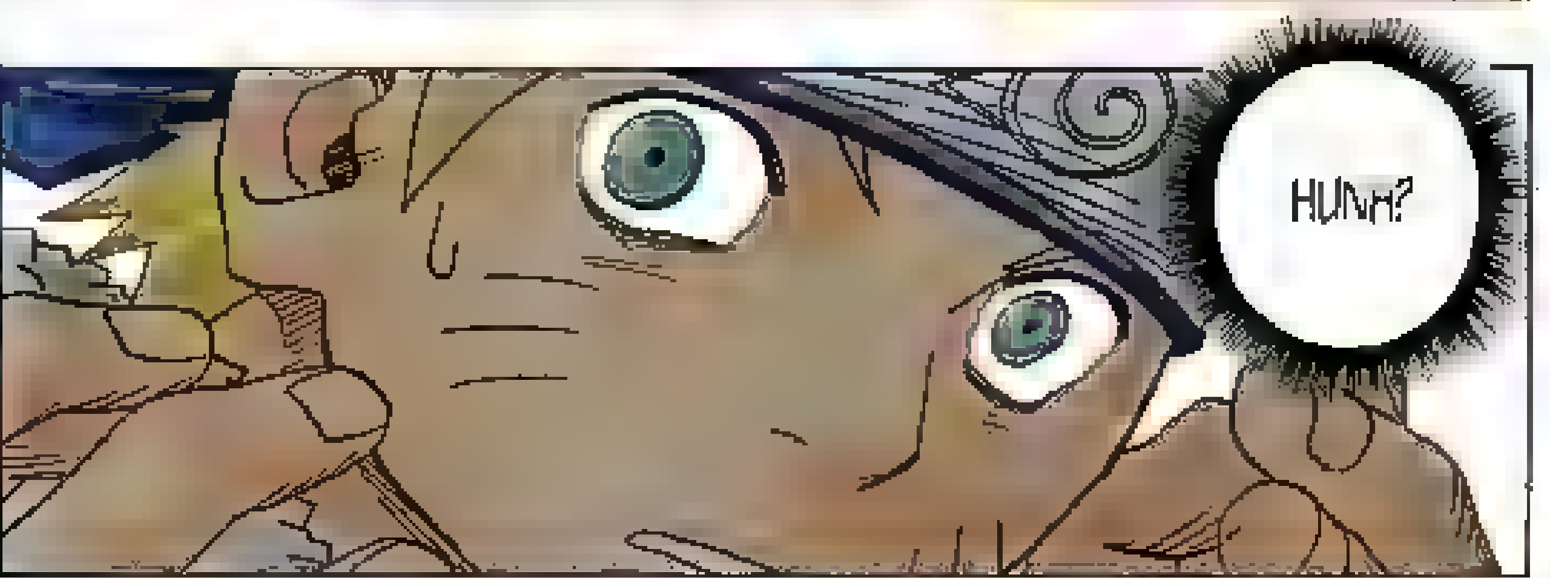

NO WAY...
N...




DANG!
YOU'RE DONE HERE MOVE IT!
テクテク


YIPE! THAT WAS TOO CLOSE NO WAY AM I GONNA RISK CHEATING NOT ALONE!
N-NARUTO...


!
YOU CAN LOOK AT MY PAPER, IF YOU WANT TO...


HUNH?


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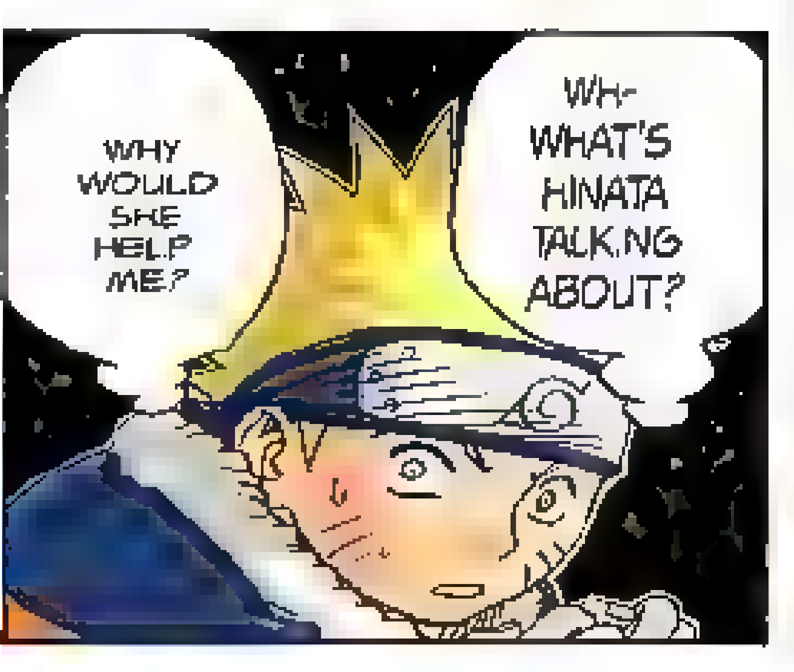


HUNH?

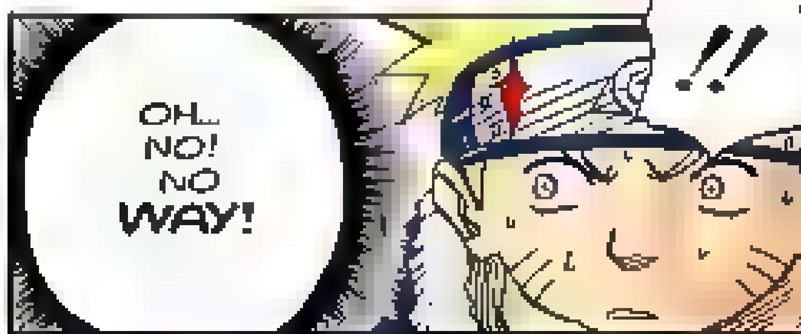


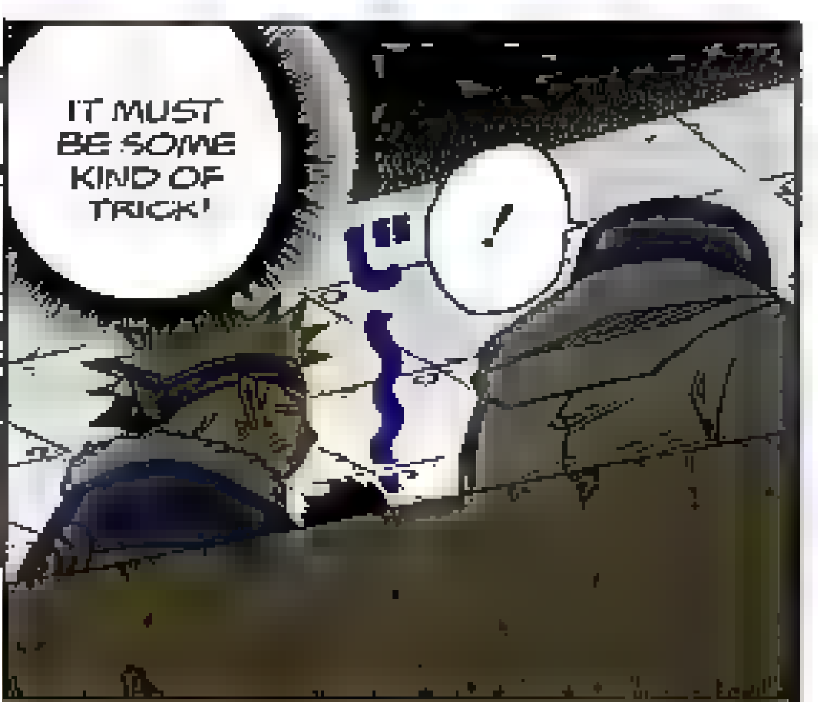
To Each His Own

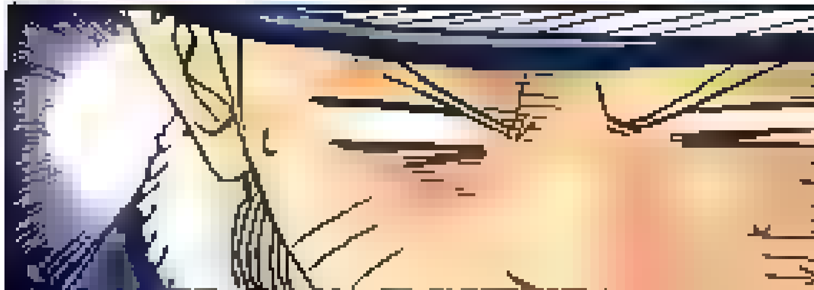

NARUTO... PLEASE...
LOOK AT MY ANSWERS.


WH- WHAT'S HINATA TALKING ABOUT?
WHY WOULD SHE HELP ME?


!

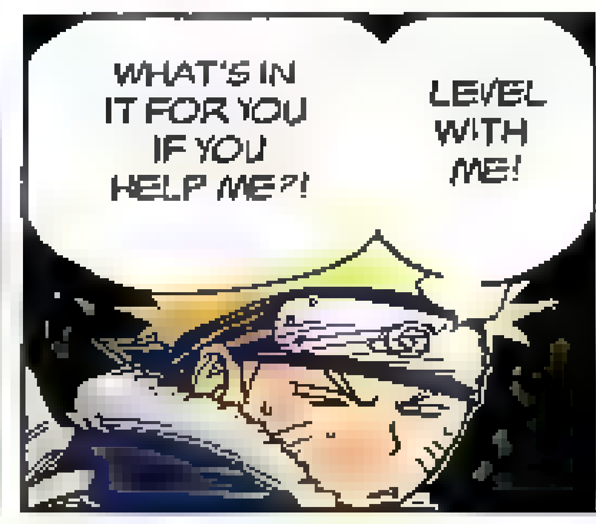

!!
OH... NO! NO WAY!


!
IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF TRICK!

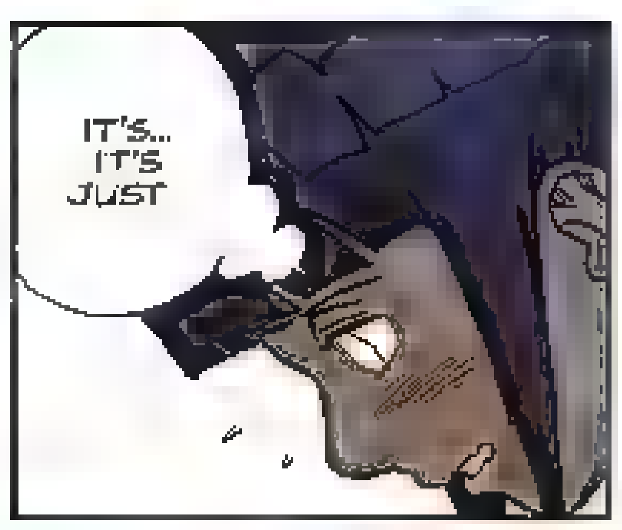




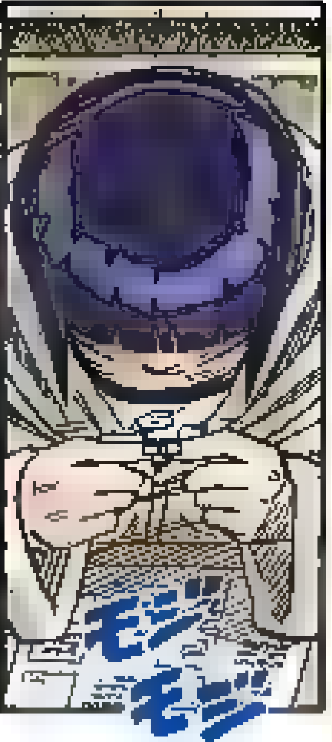

BUT THAT WOULD BE SUCH A DIRTY TRICK. HINATA'S NOT THAT KIND OF GIRL
UNLESS KIBA AND THE OTHERS PUT HER UP TO IT.. FORCED HER.

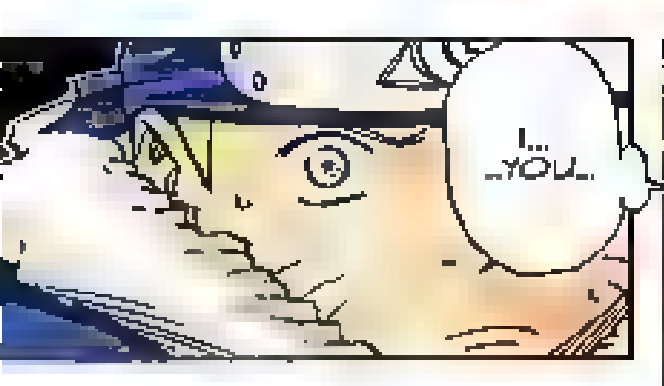

LEVEL WITH ME!
WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU IF YOU HELP ME?!

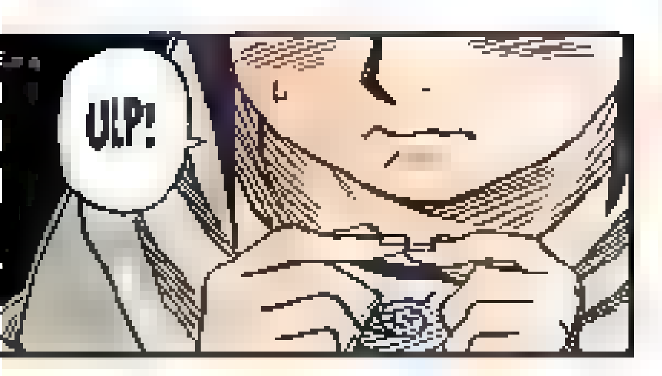



IT'S... IT'S JUST

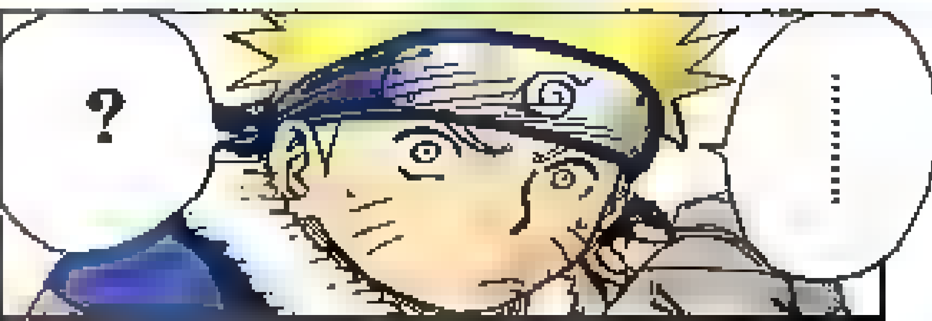




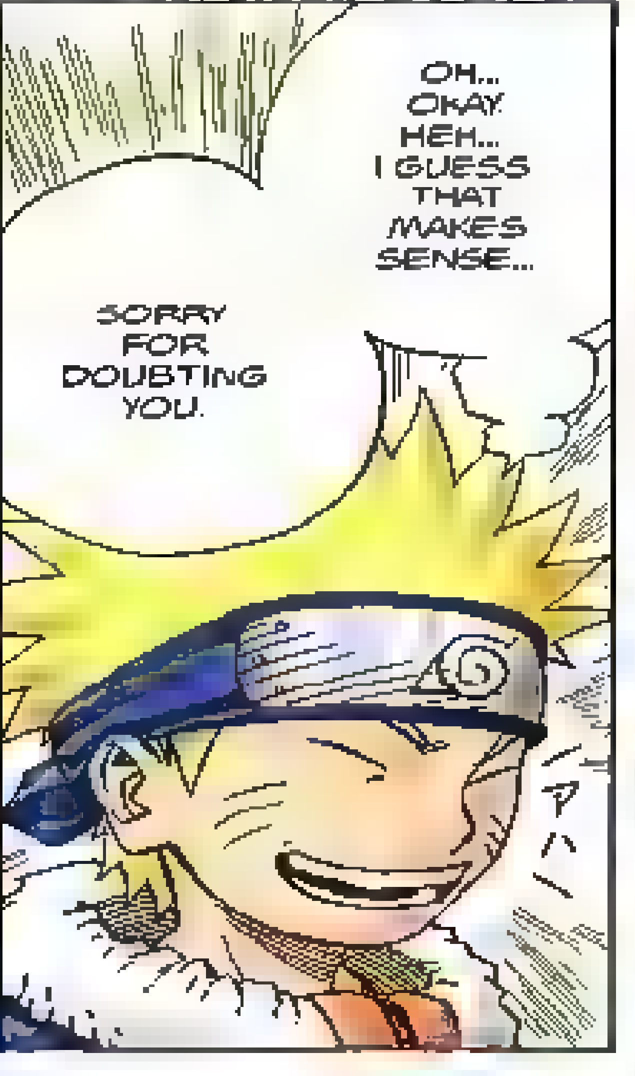

I... ...YOU...

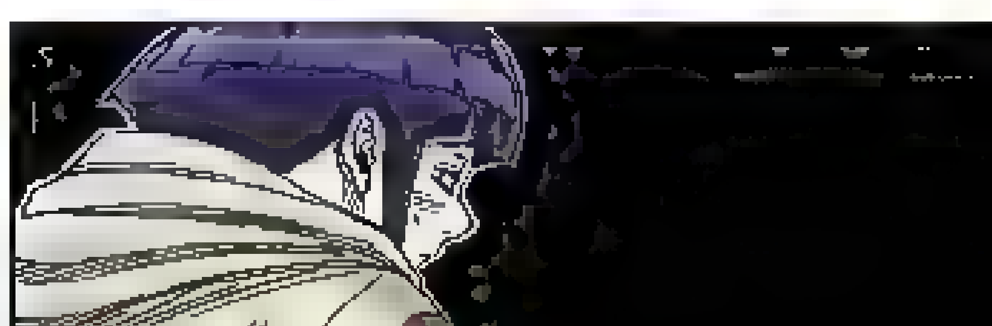

ULP!

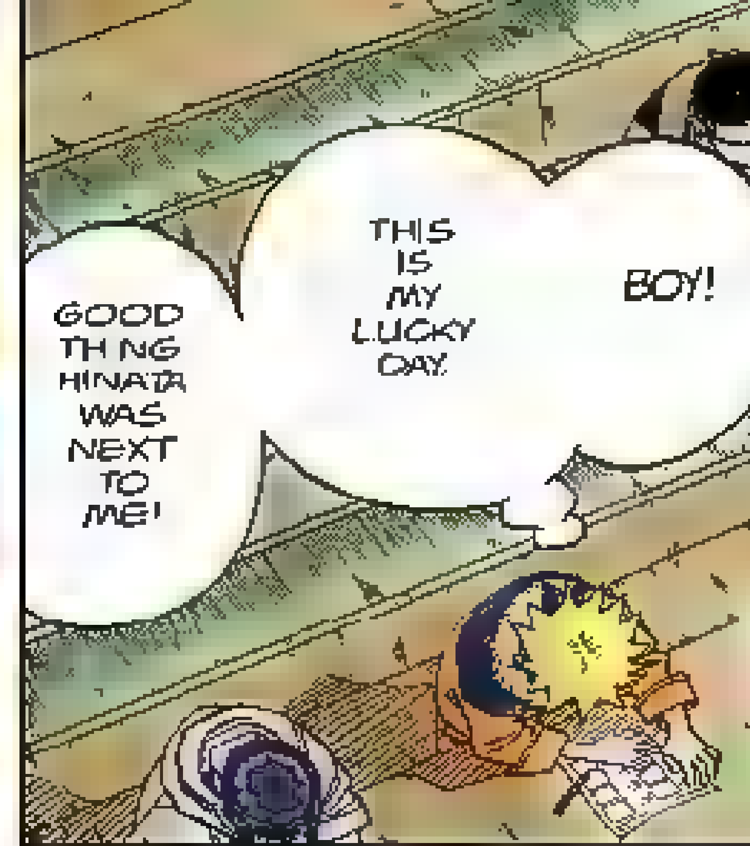
I DON'T WANT YOU... TO HAVE TO LEAVE SO SOON, NARUTO.

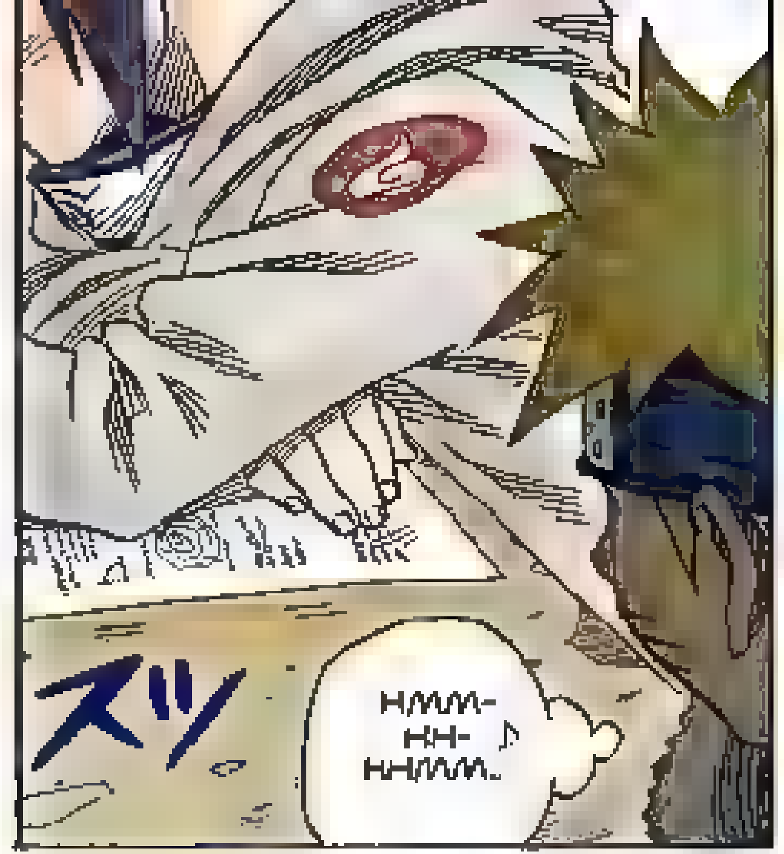









BOY!
THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY.
GOOD THING HINATA WAS NEXT TO ME!

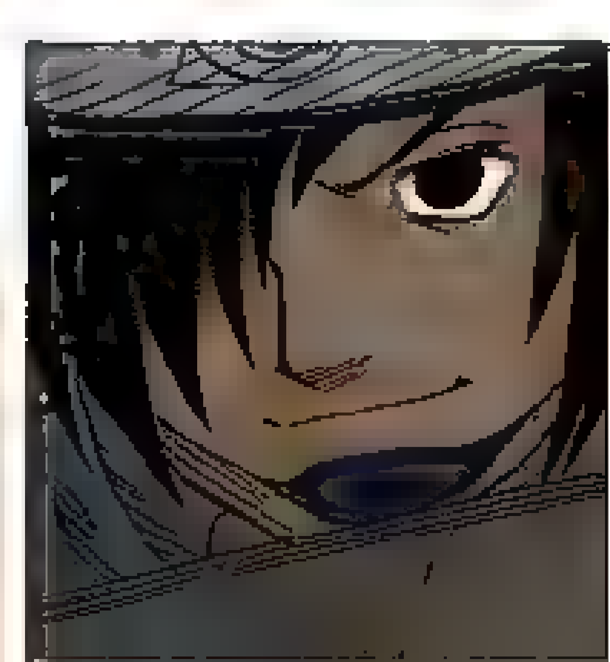

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HMM-HH-HHMM..♪


!!
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EH?




カリカリ


....

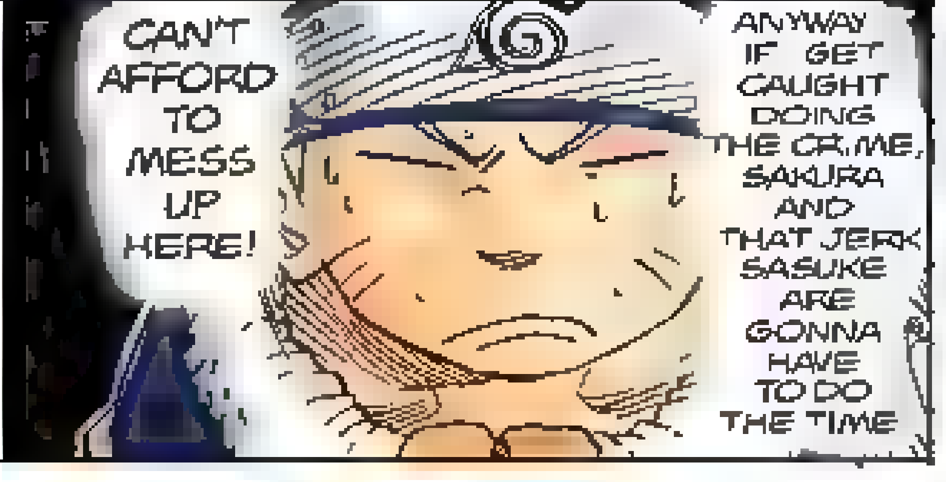



HINATA...
DON'T YOU GET IT?

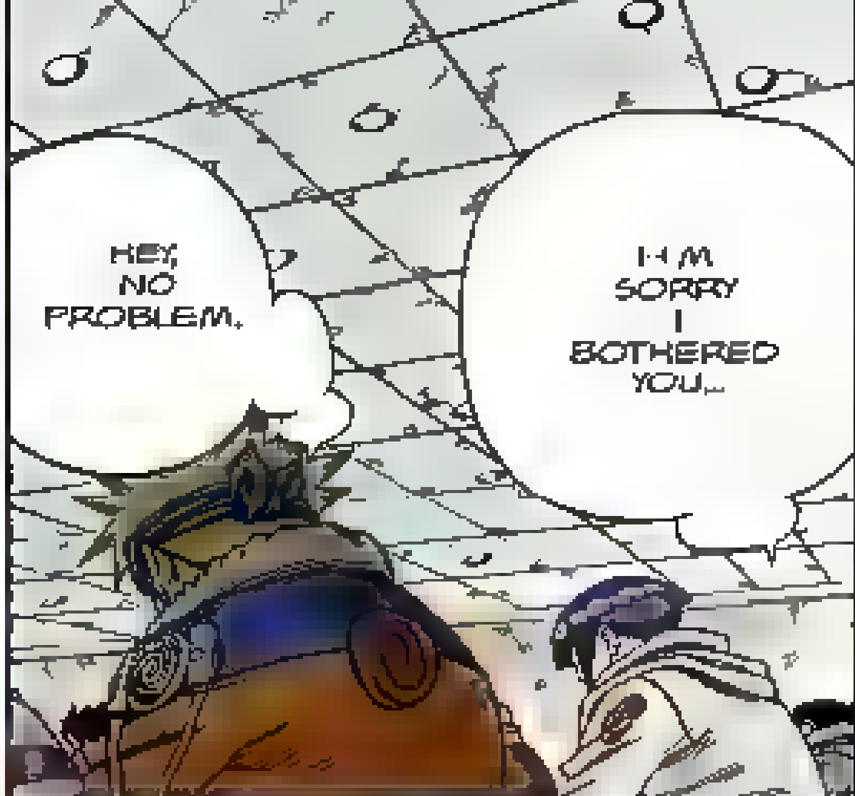

HUH?

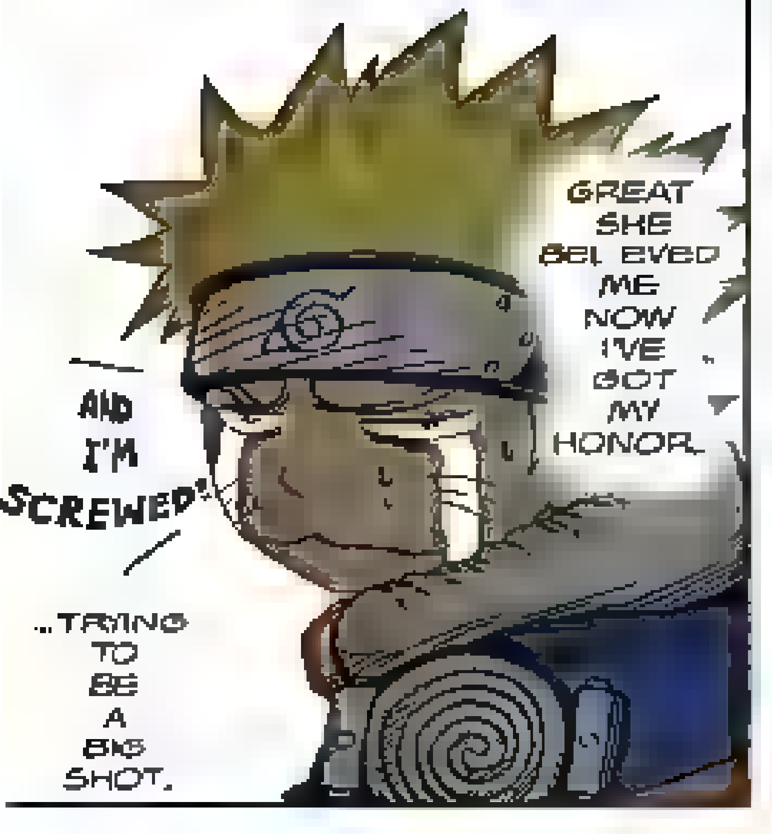
A WORLD CLASS NINJA LIKE ME JUST ISN'T THE KIND OF GUY WHO CHEATS!

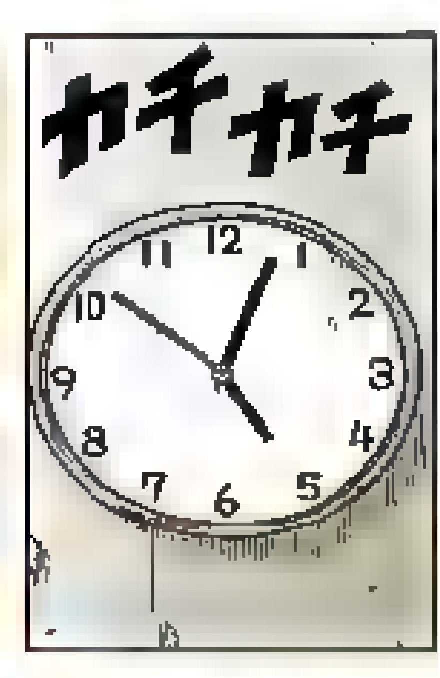


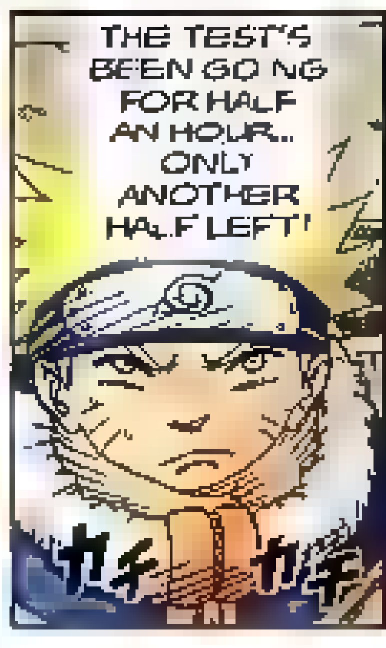




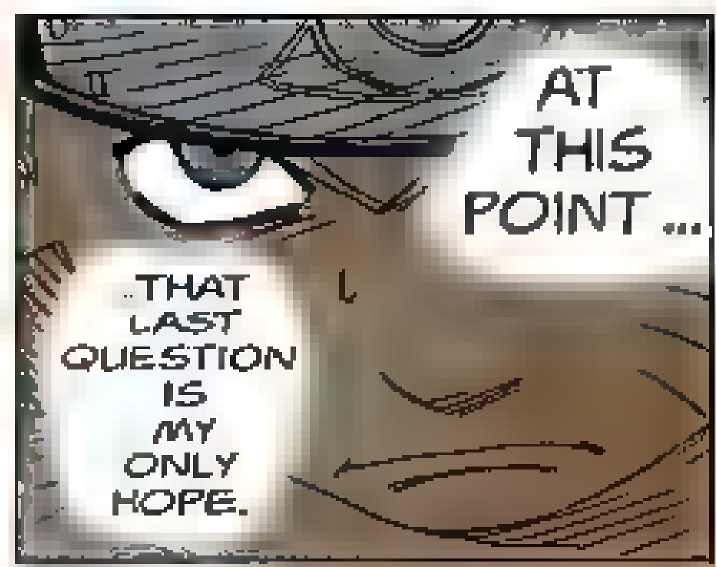

I-I'M SORRY I BOTHERED YOU...
HEY, NO PROBLEM.


GREAT SHE BELIEVED ME NOW I'VE GOT MY HONOR.
AND I'M SCREWED!
...TRYING TO BE A BIG SHOT.

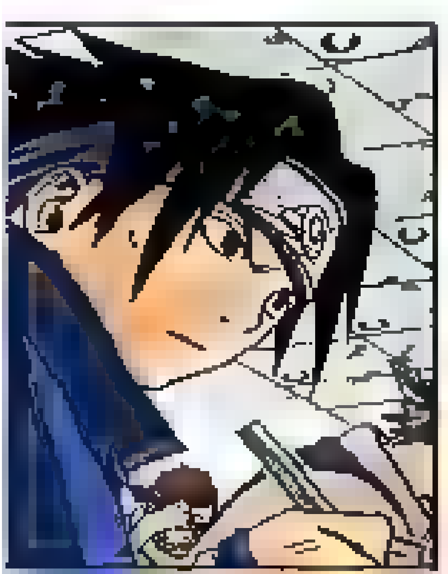

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THE TEST'S BEEN GOING FOR HALF AN HOUR... ONLY ANOTHER HALF LEFT!
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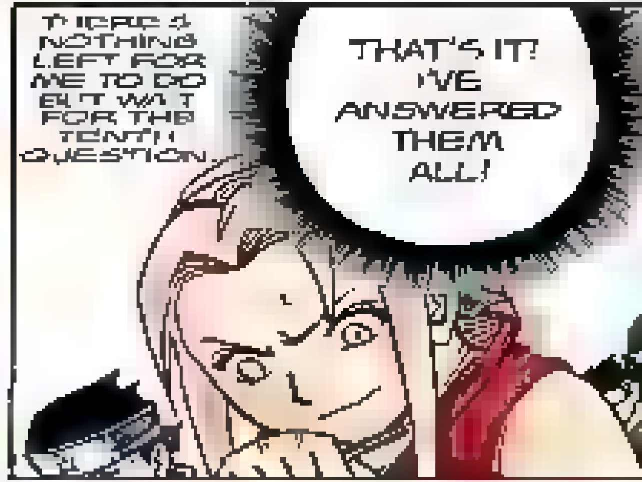

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AT THIS POINT...
...THAT LAST QUESTION IS MY ONLY HOPE.

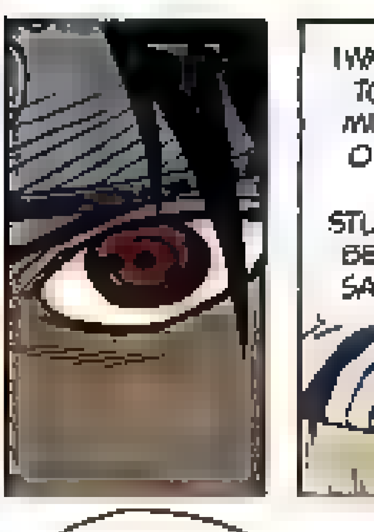


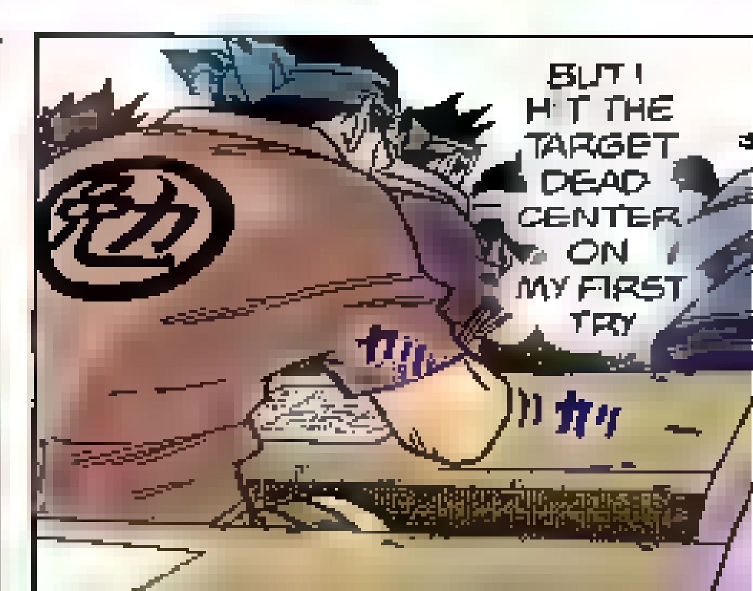


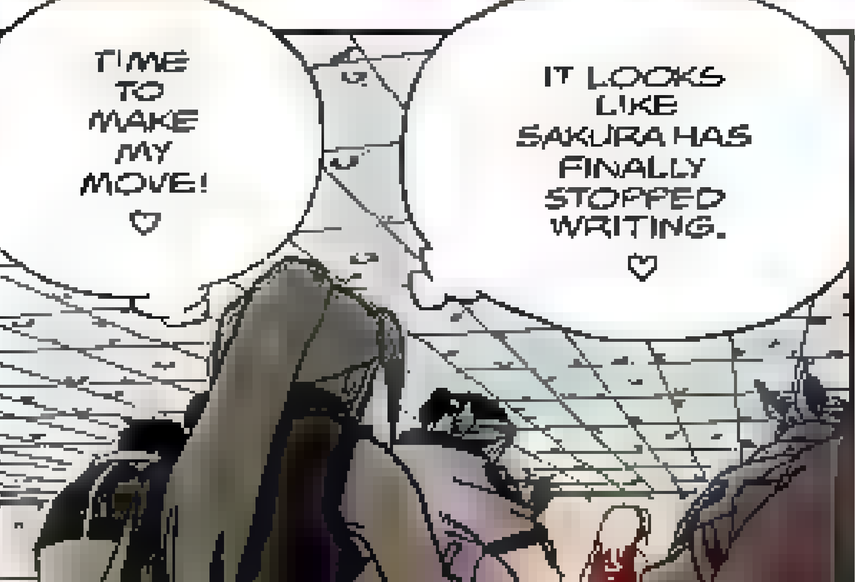
QUESTION NUMBER 10
THIS QUESTION WILL NOT BE PROVIDED UNTIL FORTY-FIVE MINUTES INTO THE EXAM.
AT THAT TIME, PLEASE ANSWER THE PROCTOR'S QUESTION TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY.





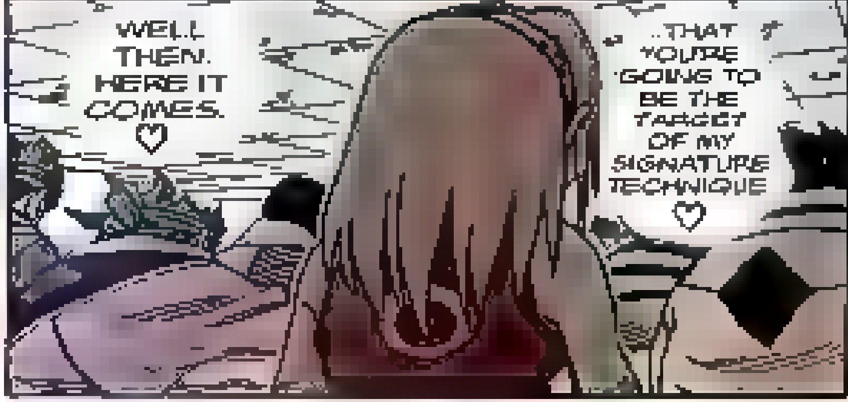






SAKURA... YOUR BROAD BROW AND BIG BRAIN HAVE EARNED MY RESPECT...

...SO YOU OUGHT TO FEEL HONORED... ♡





INO'S ASLEEP.

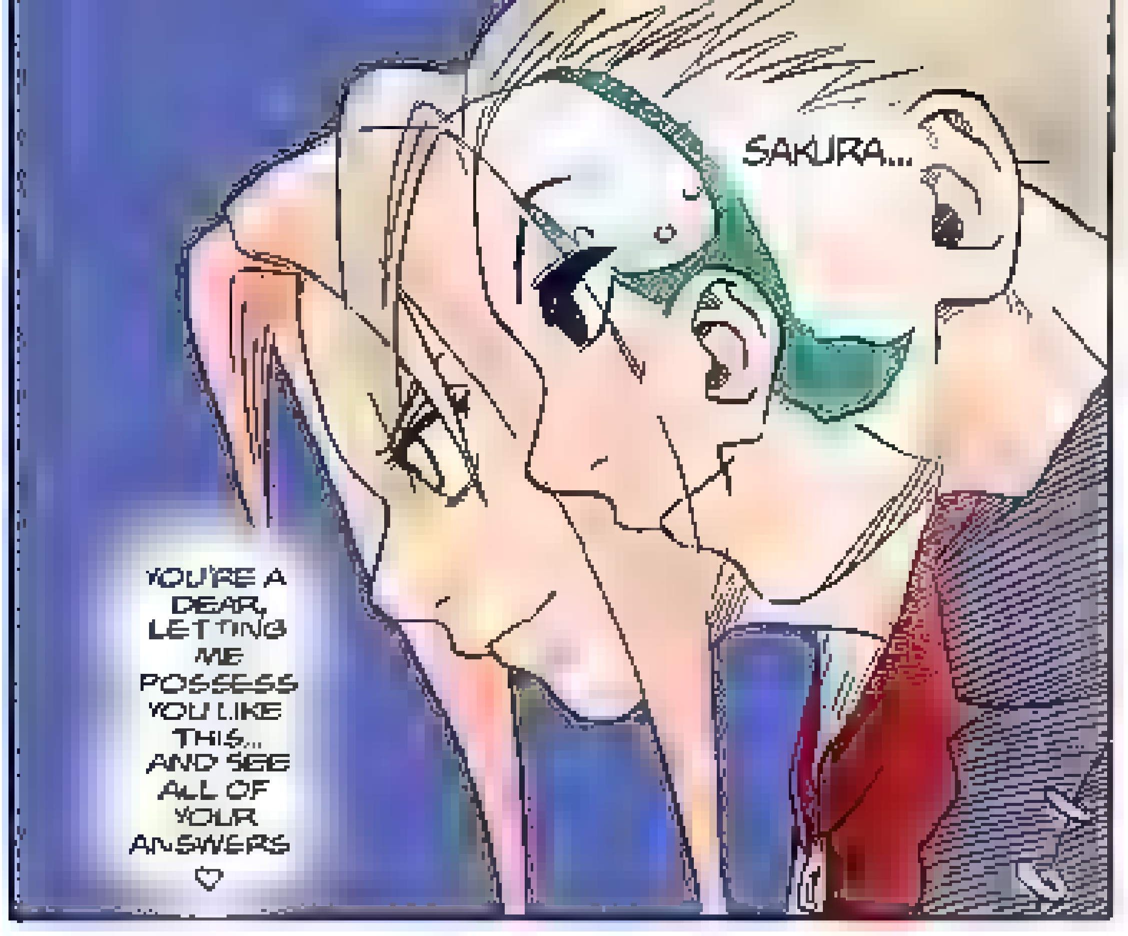
SHE MUST BE USING THAT TECHNIQUE OF HERS.

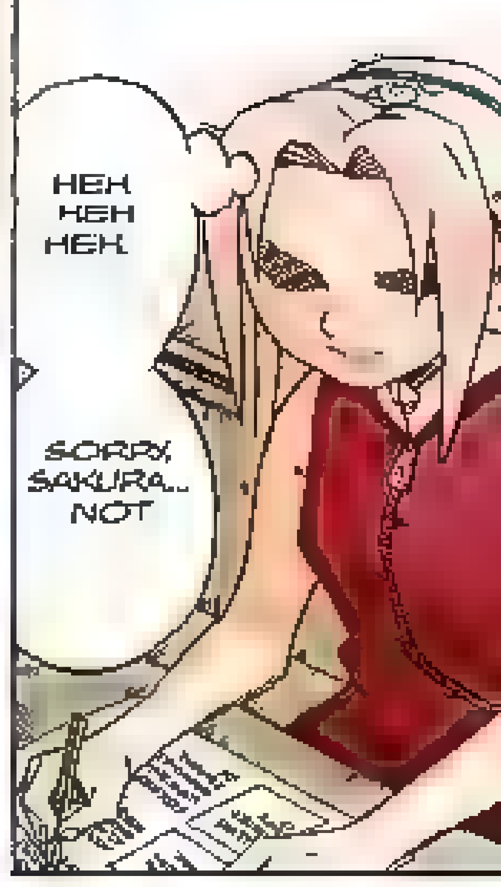
NO ONE CAN WITHSTAND HER WHEN SHE STARTS THAT ASTRAL-PROJECTION STUFF!

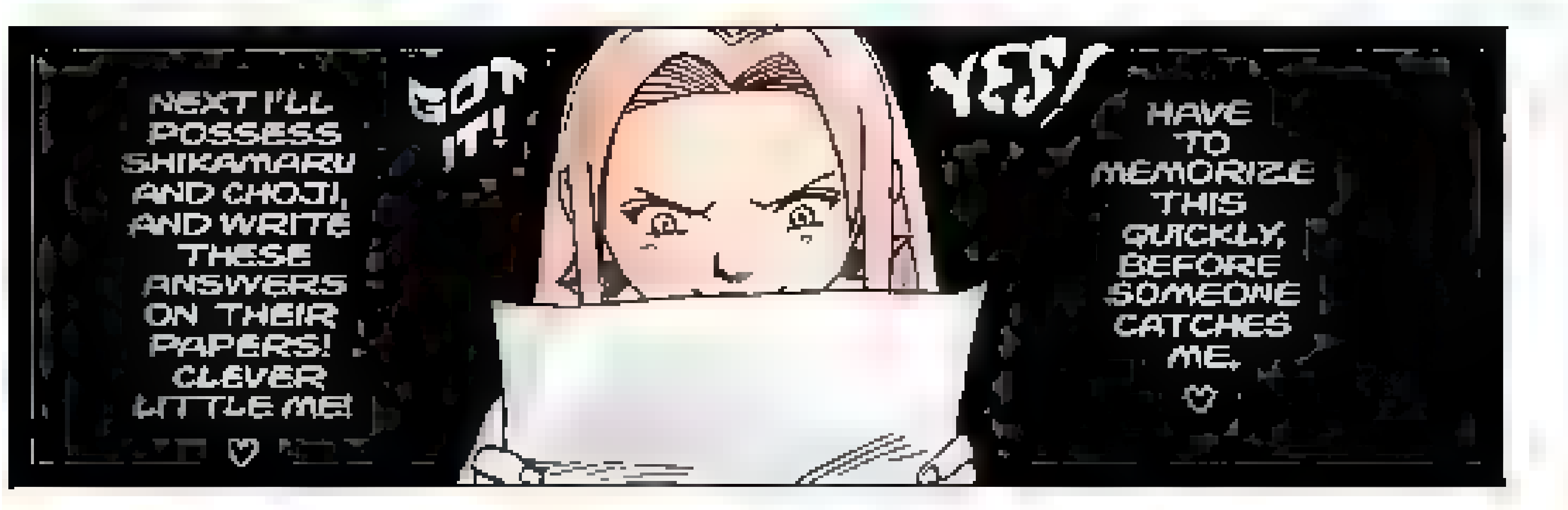
ZZZ

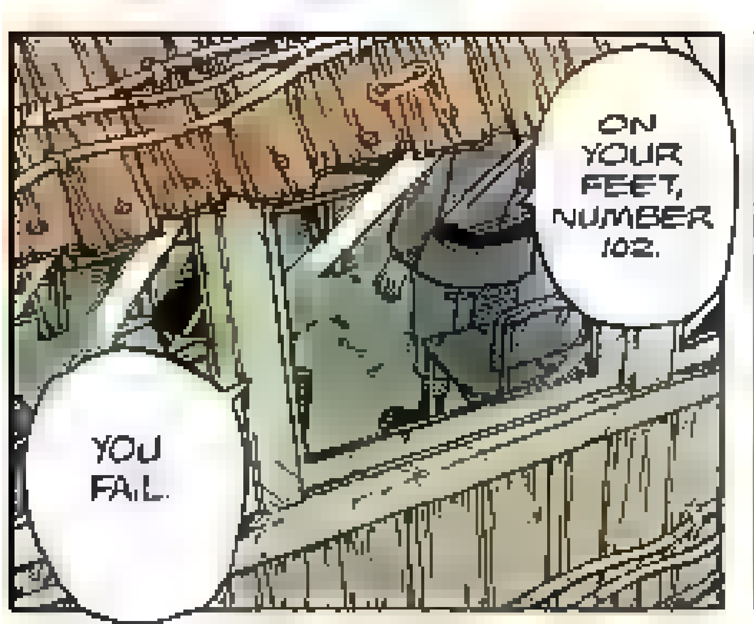
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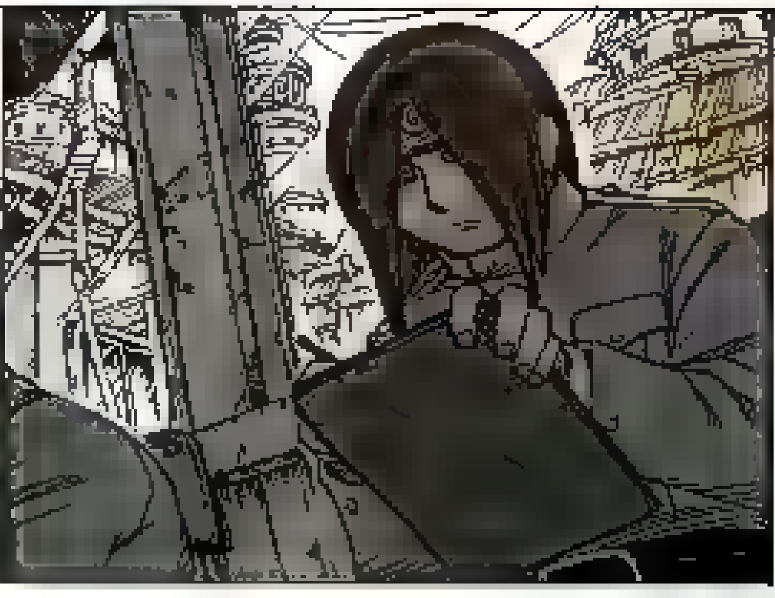
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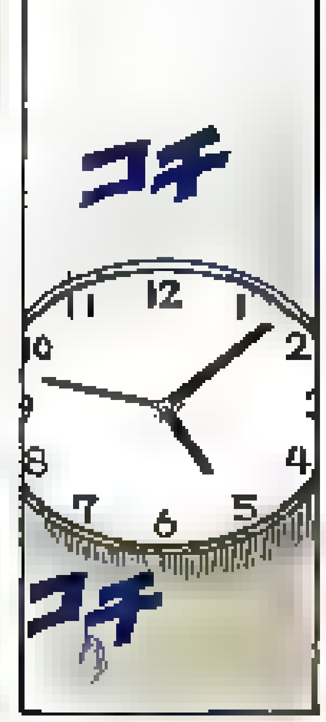

SAKURA...
YOU'RE A DEAR, LETTING ME POSSESS YOU LIKE THIS... AND SEE ALL OF YOUR ANSWERS ♡

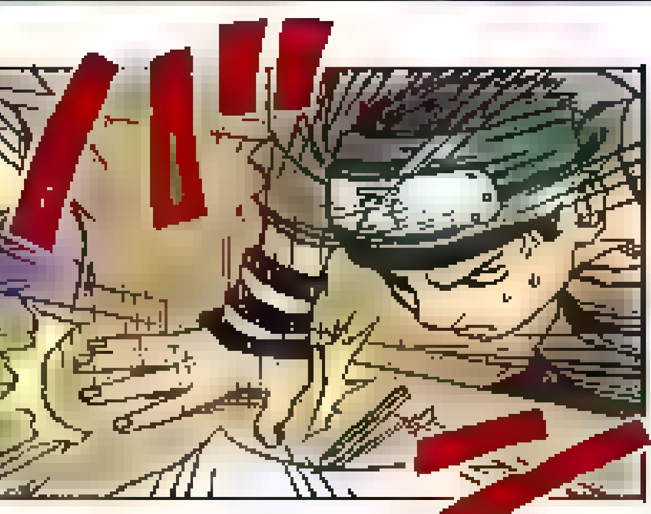
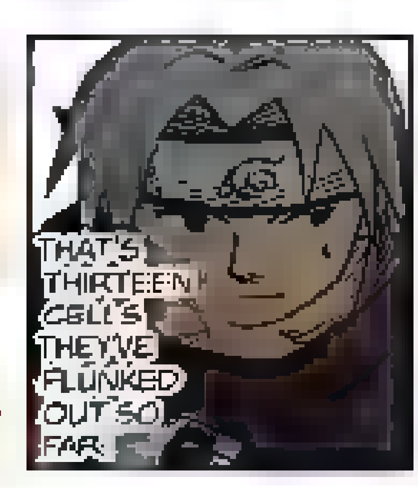
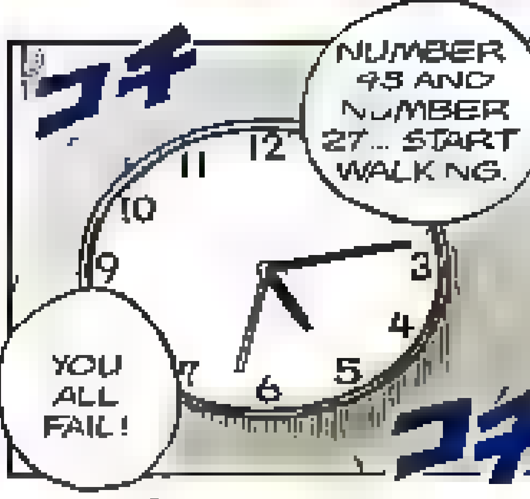
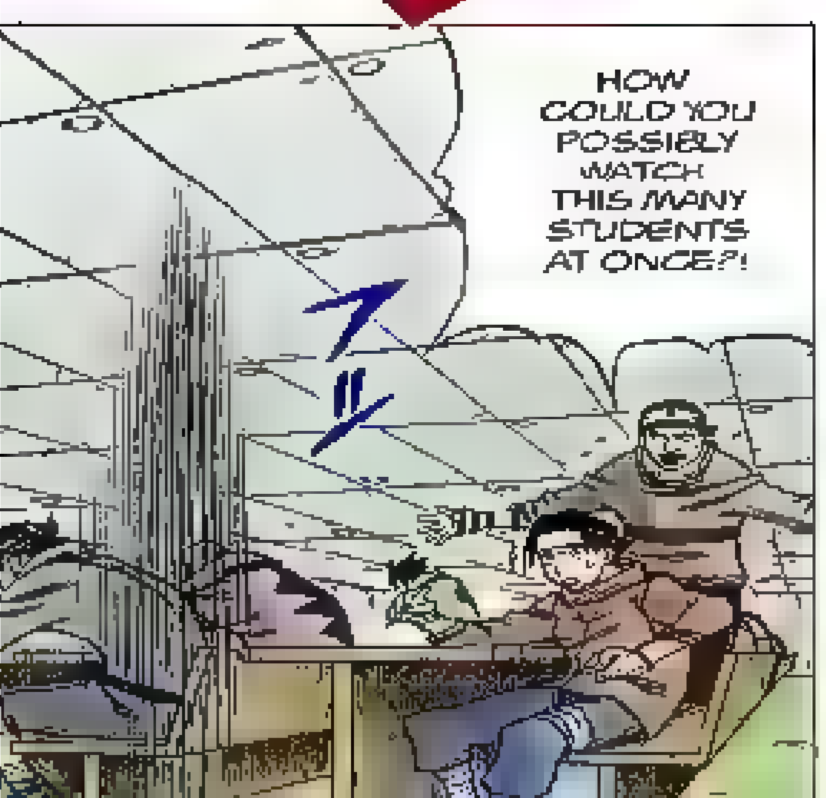
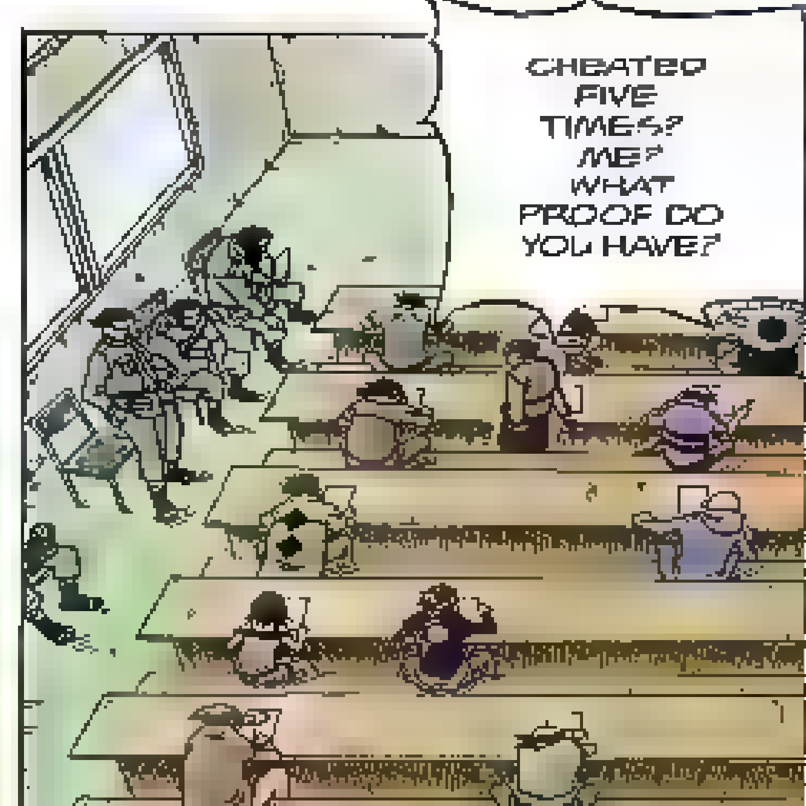

HEH HEH HEH.
SORRY, SAKURA... NOT


NEXT I'LL POSSESS SHIKAMARU AND CHOJI, AND WRITE THESE ANSWERS ON THEIR PAPERS! CLEVER LITTLE ME! ♡
GOT IT!
YES!
HAVE TO MEMORIZE THIS QUICKLY, BEFORE SOMEONE CATCHES ME. ♡


ON YOUR FEET, NUMBER 102.
YOU FAIL.




NO WAY!!
YOU TOO, NUMBER 23.
YOU'RE OUT!

コチ
コチ

DANG... D...


THAT'S THIRTEEN CELLS THEY'VE FLUNKED OUT SO FAR.

コチ
NUMBER 43 AND NUMBER 27... START WALKING.
YOU ALL FAIL!

HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY WATCH THIS MANY STUDENTS AT ONCE?!

CHEATED FIVE TIMES? ME? WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE?

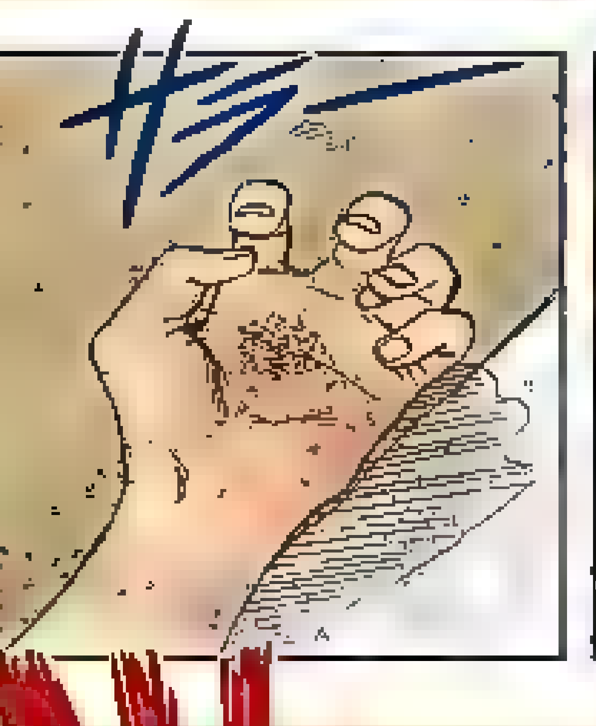

AAGH!!
YOU FEEL THIS? ... I AM AS SKILLED AS I AM POWERFUL!
!!
LISTEN UP AND LISTEN GOOD. WE PROCTORS ARE THE ... EVEN IN A GROUP AS SKILLED AS THE ONE GATHERED HERE TODAY WE ARE FAR AND AWAY THE BEST. WE MISS NOTHING!
OW...
!!!
YOU GOT THAT, KIDS?
GULP!





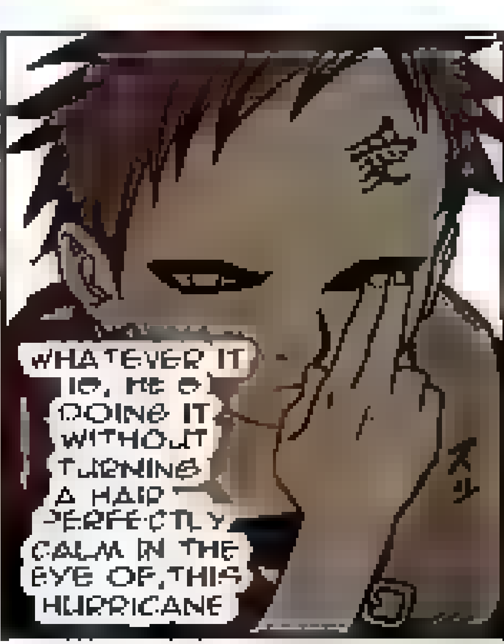
THAT BRAT IS UP TO SOME THING
HMMF



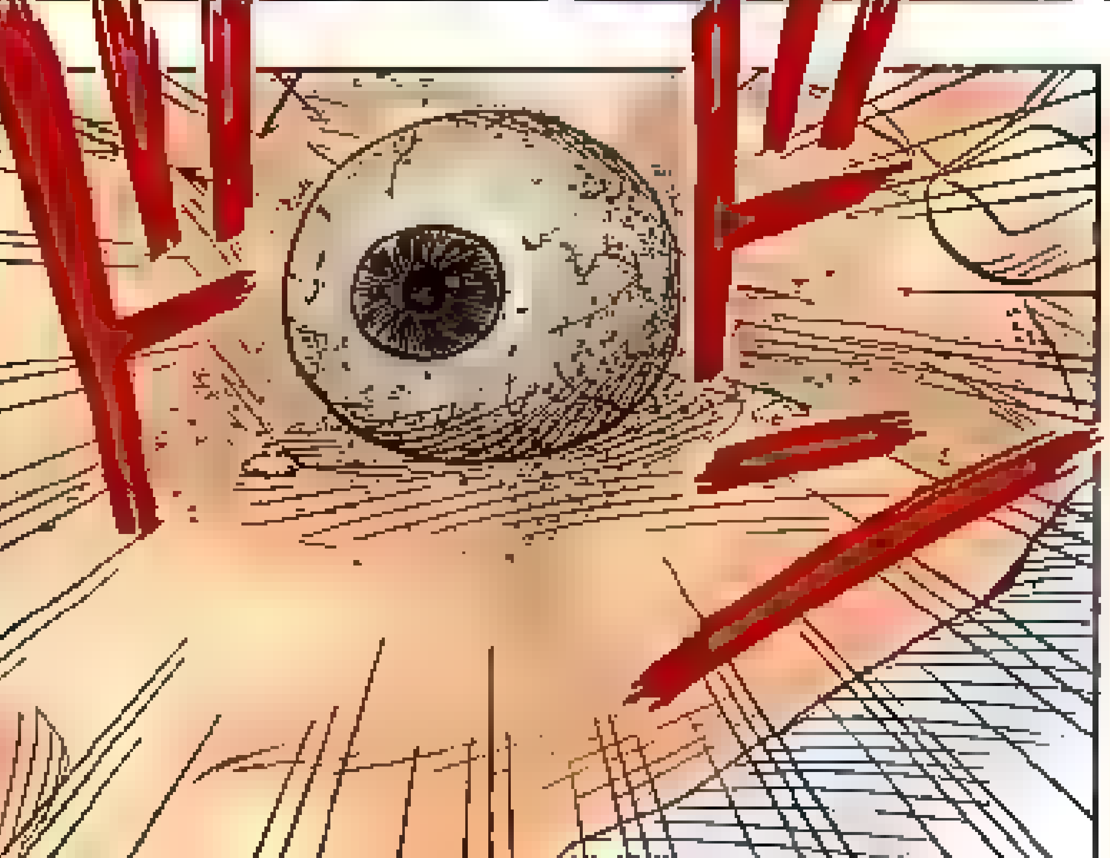




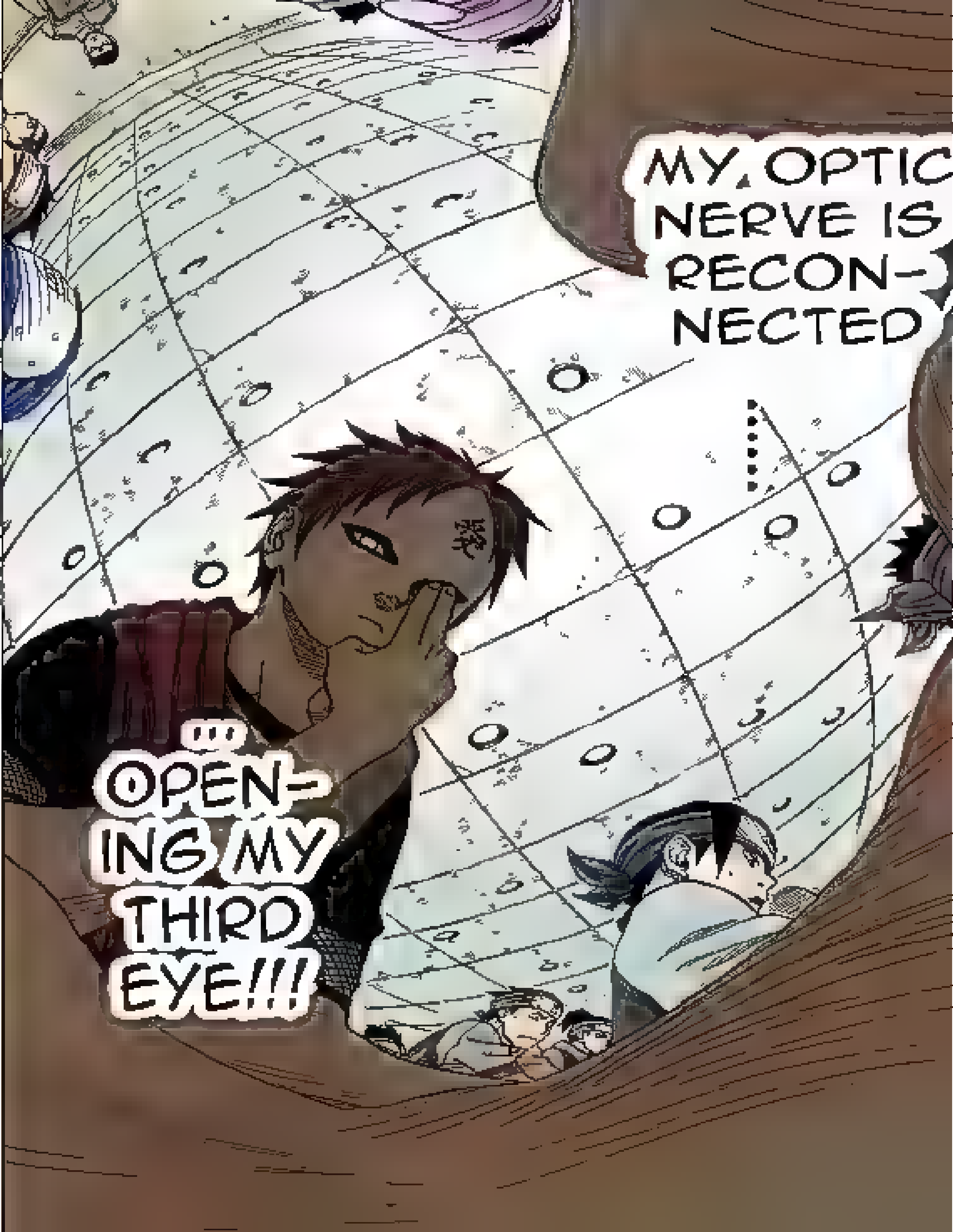
FOR A ROOKIE HE'S AMAZING.



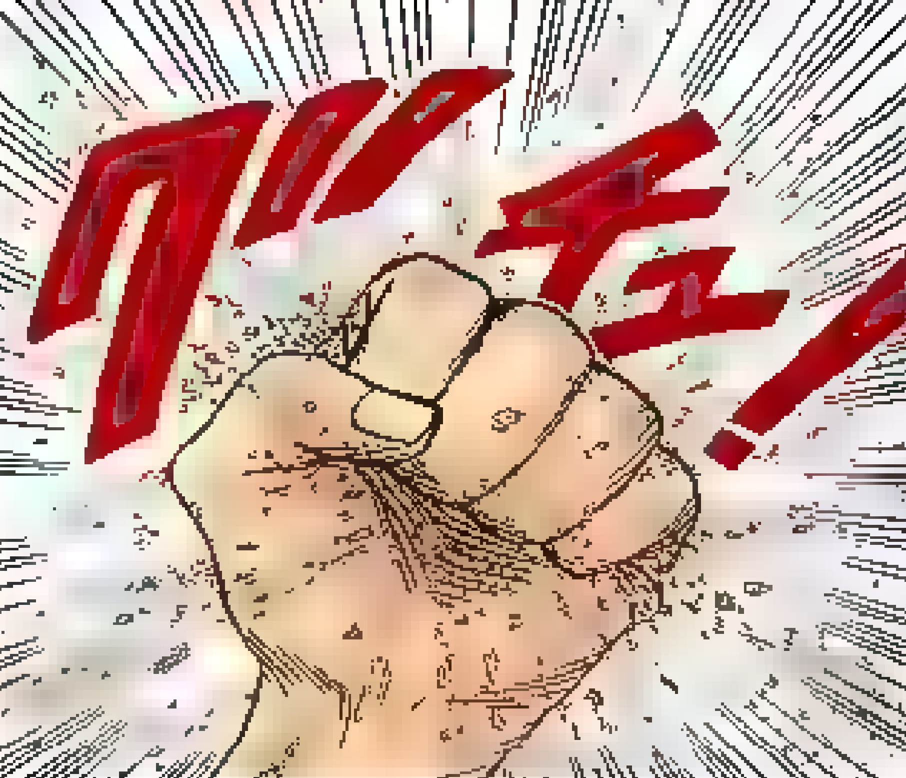
WHATEVER IT IS, HE'S DOING IT WITHOUT TURNING A HAIR PERFECTLY CALM IN THE EYE OF THIS HURRICANE







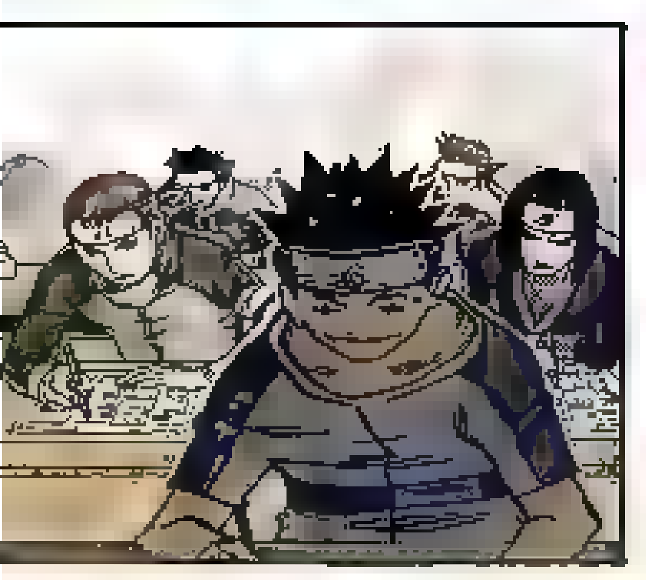
MY OPTIC NERVE IS RECON-NECTED
...
...OPEN-ING MY THIRD EYE!!!




SKUFF

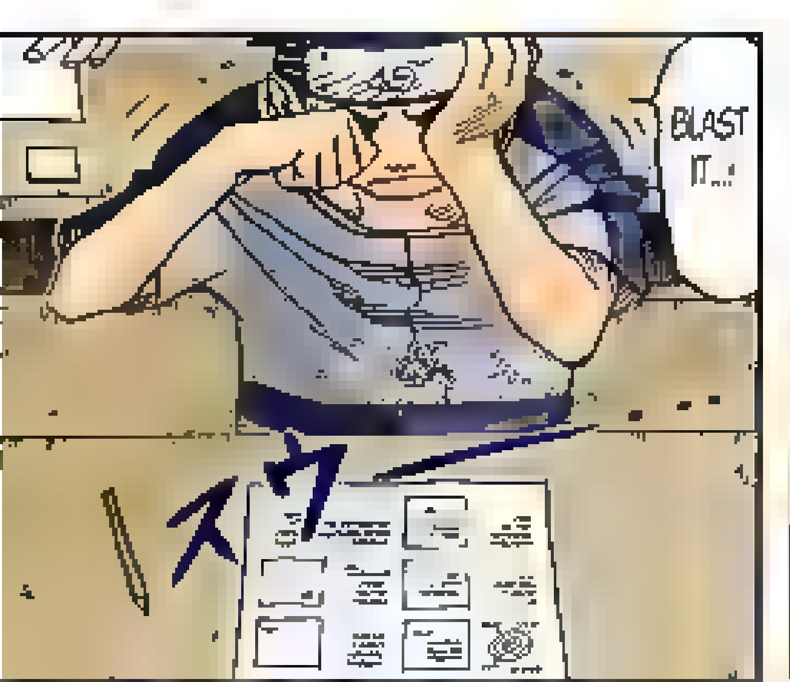


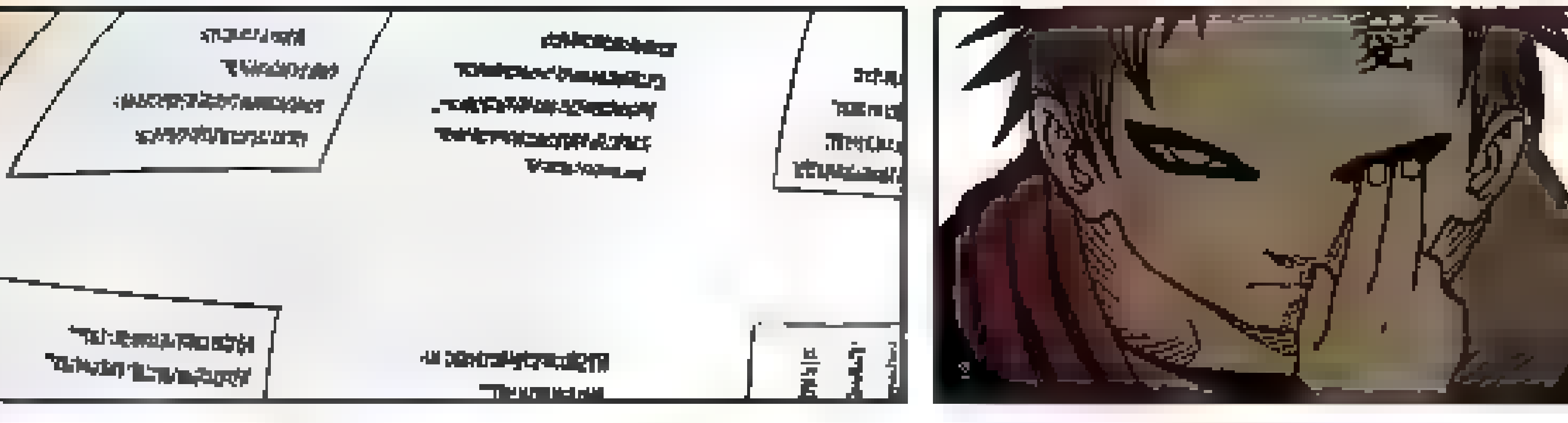


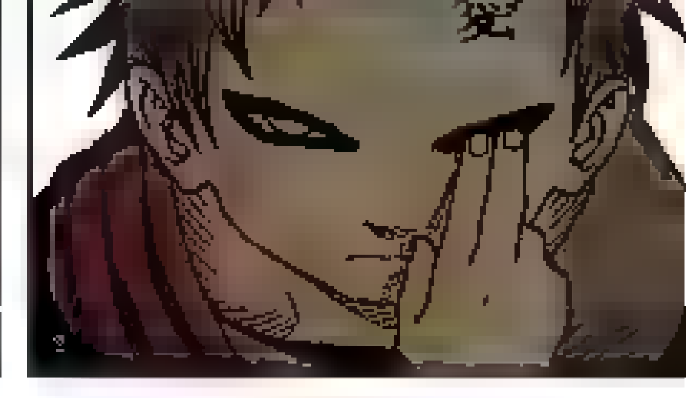





OW!
SOME-THING IN MY EYE...


BLAST IT...!



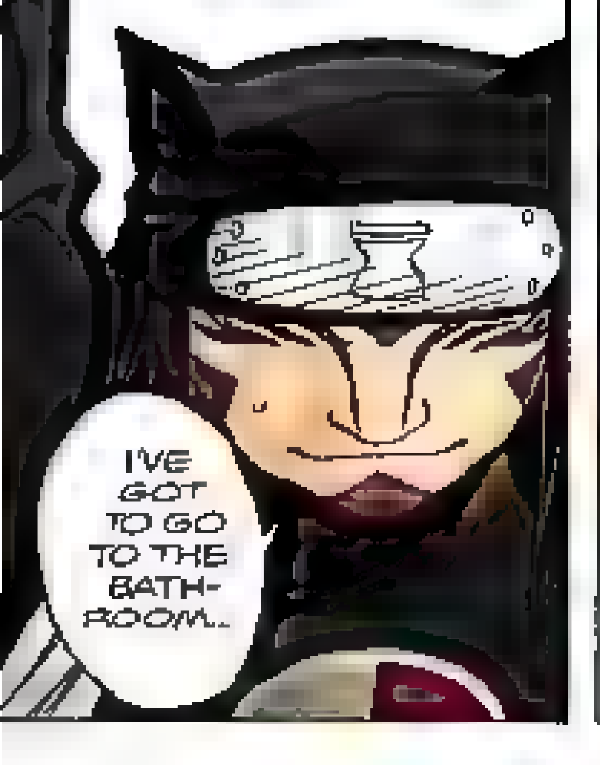



OWW...!

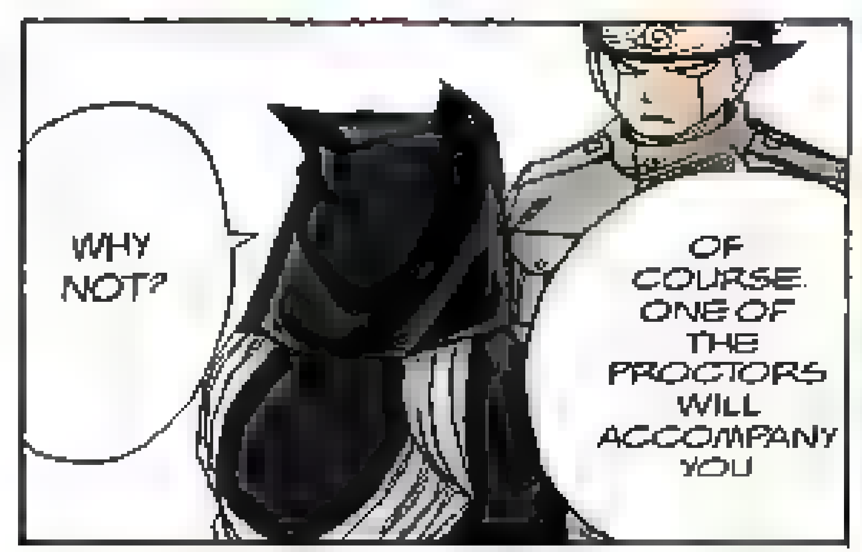





EXCUSE ME.
WHAT IS IT?

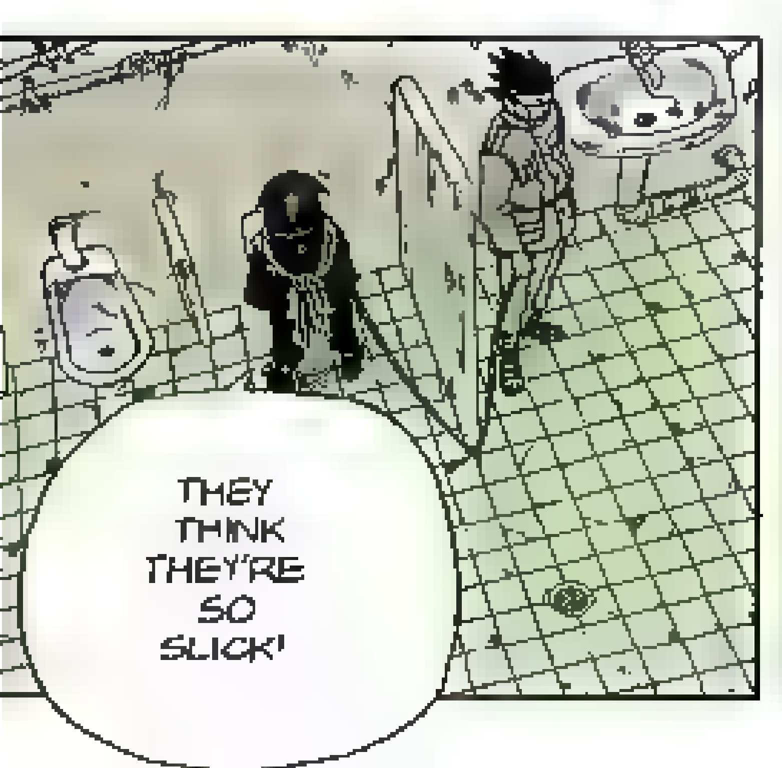

I'VE GOT TO GO TO THE BATH-ROOM..

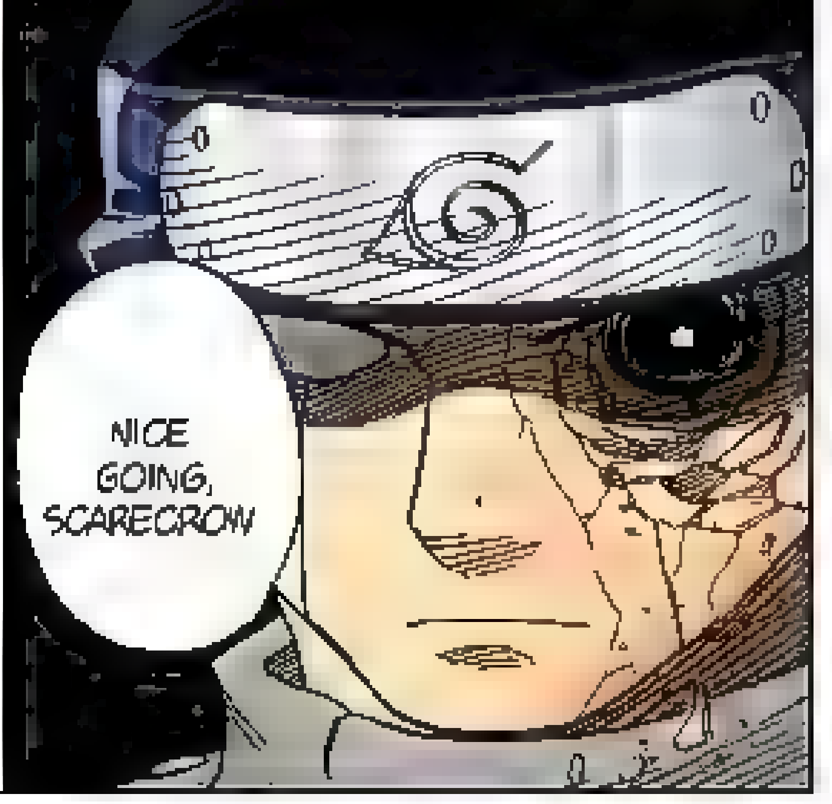


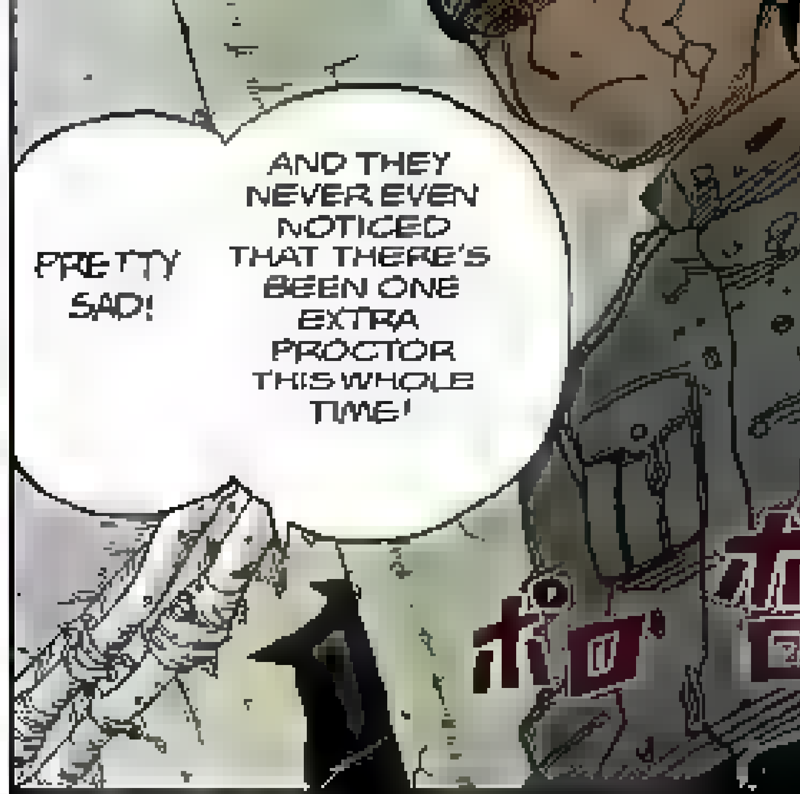

OF COURSE. ONE OF THE PROCTORS WILL ACCOMPANY YOU
WHY NOT?

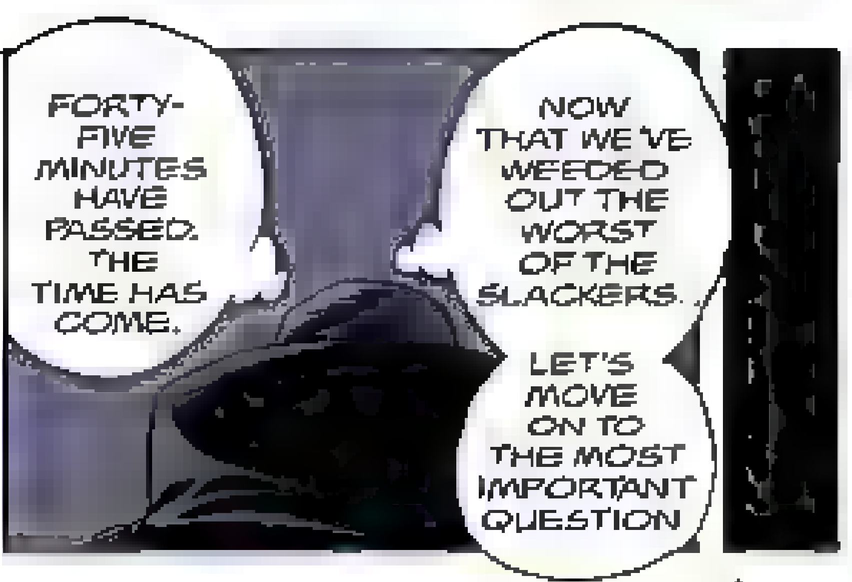


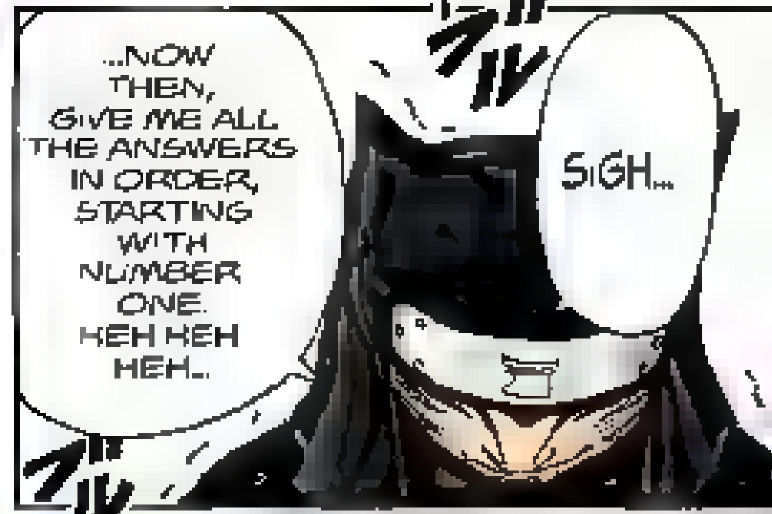

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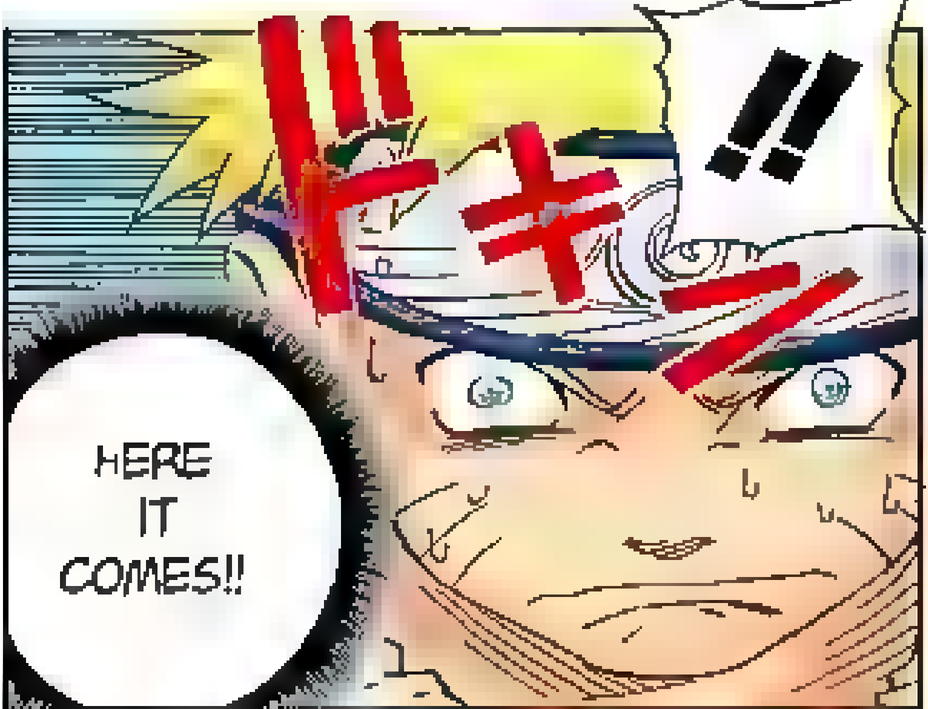

THEY THINK THEY'RE SO SLICK!

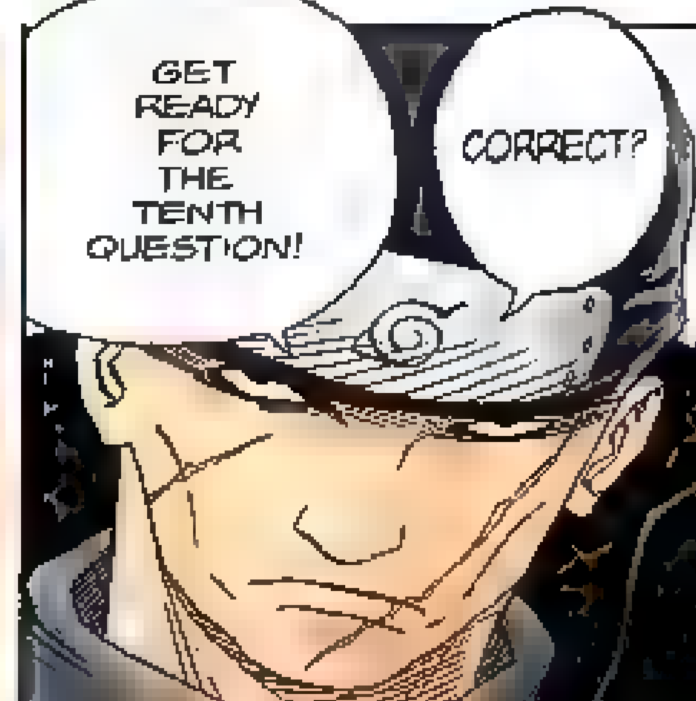

NICE GOING, SCARECROW


PRETTY SAD!
AND THEY NEVER EVEN NOTICED THAT THERE'S BEEN ONE EXTRA PROCTOR THIS WHOLE TIME!


FORTY-FIVE MINUTES HAVE PASSED. THE TIME HAS COME.
NOW THAT WE'VE WEEDED OUT THE WORST OF THE SLACKERS...
LET'S MOVE ON TO THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION


...NOW THEN, GIVE ME ALL THE ANSWERS IN ORDER, STARTING WITH NUMBER ONE. HEH HEH HEH...
SIGH...


ドキン
!!
HERE IT COMES!!

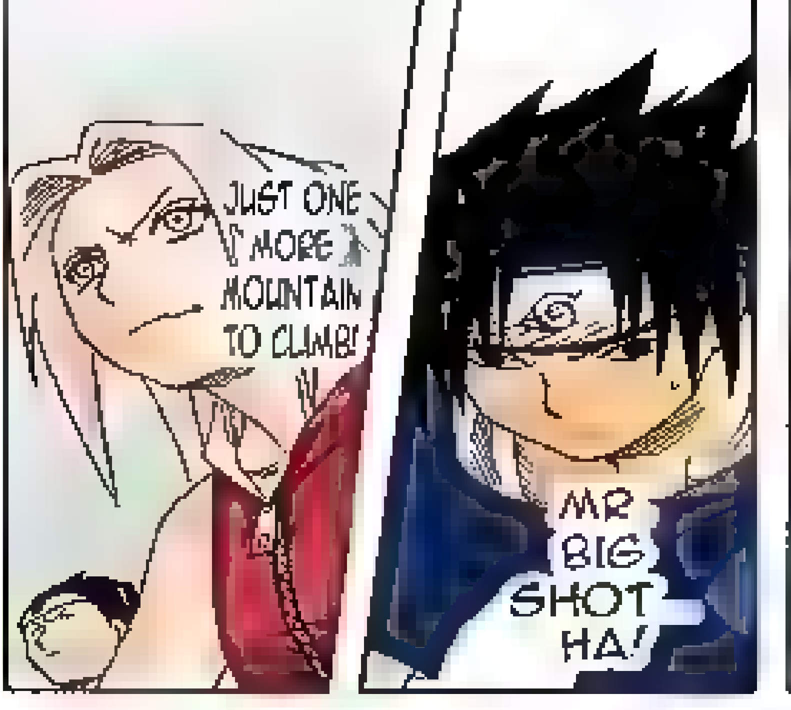

GET READY FOR THE TENTH QUESTION!
CORRECT?

ALL RIGHT! HERE IT COMES.

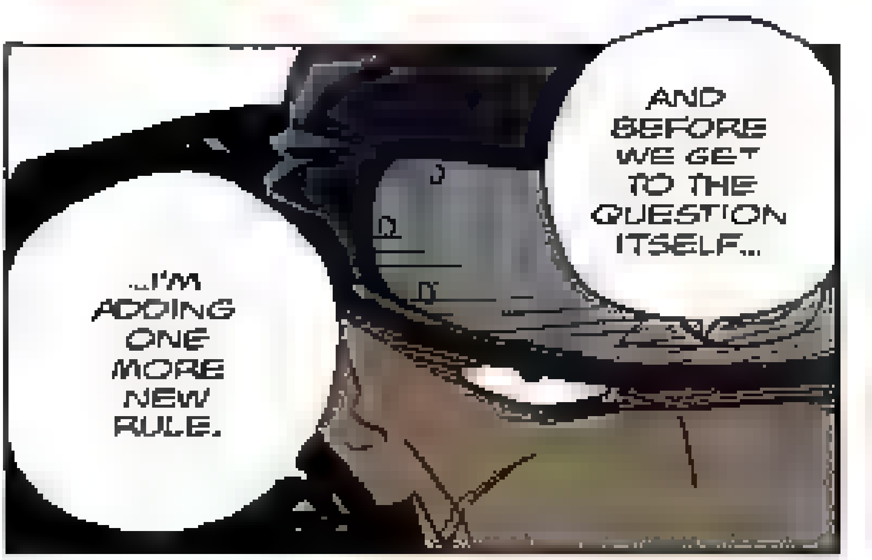
GET READY FOR THE TENTH QUESTION.

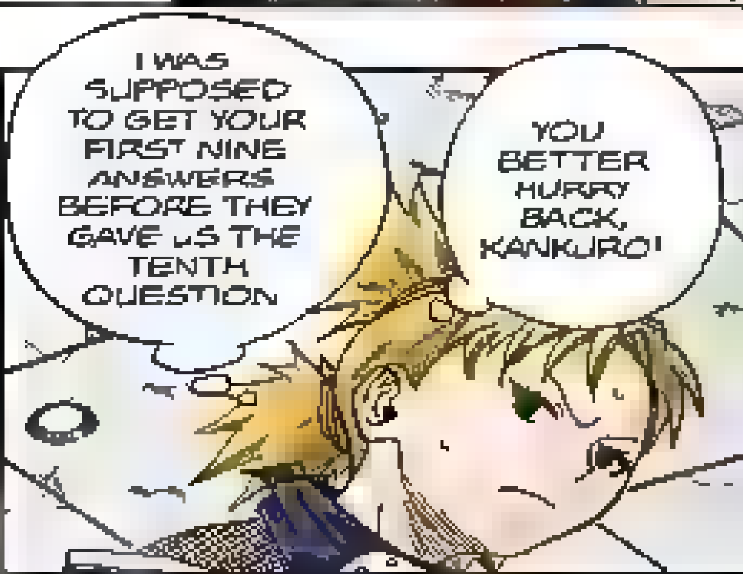


Number 43: The Tenth Question

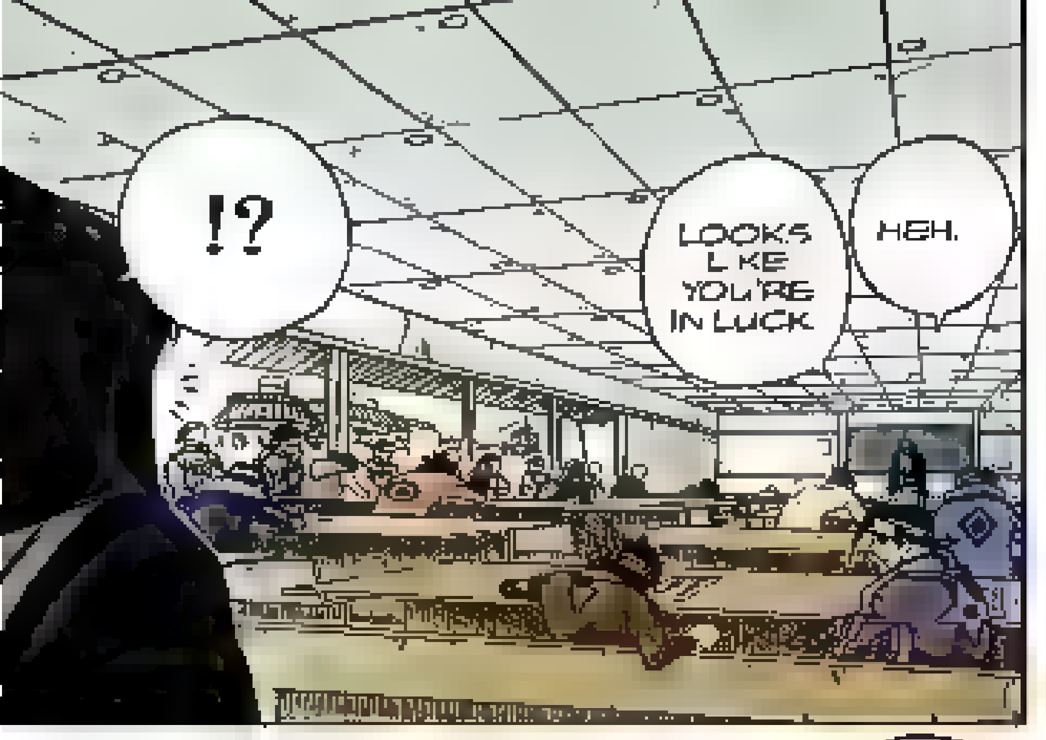

JUST ONE MORE MOUNTAIN TO CLIMB!
MR BIG SHOT HA!


...!!
I'M RISKING IT ALL ON ONE ROLL OF THE DICE.


AND BEFORE WE GET TO THE QUESTION ITSELF...
...I'M ADDING ONE MORE NEW RULE.

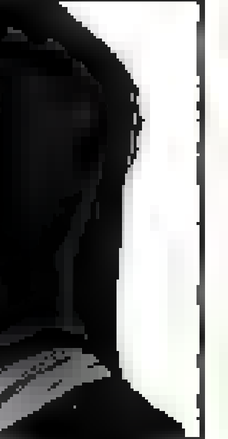

I WAS SUPPOSED TO GET YOUR FIRST NINE ANSWERS BEFORE THEY GAVE US THE TENTH QUESTION
YOU BETTER HURRY BACK, KANKURO!

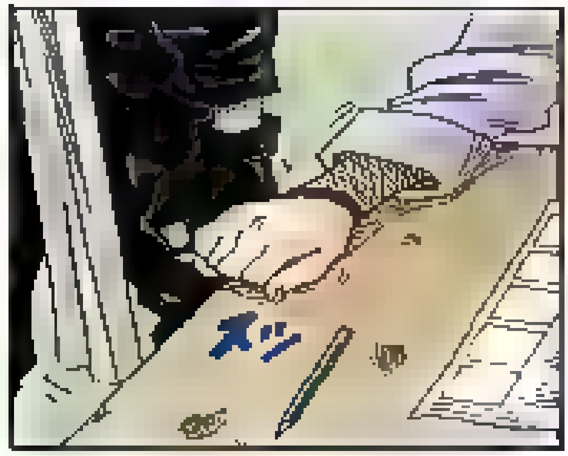
!!?


HEH.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE IN LUCK.
!?

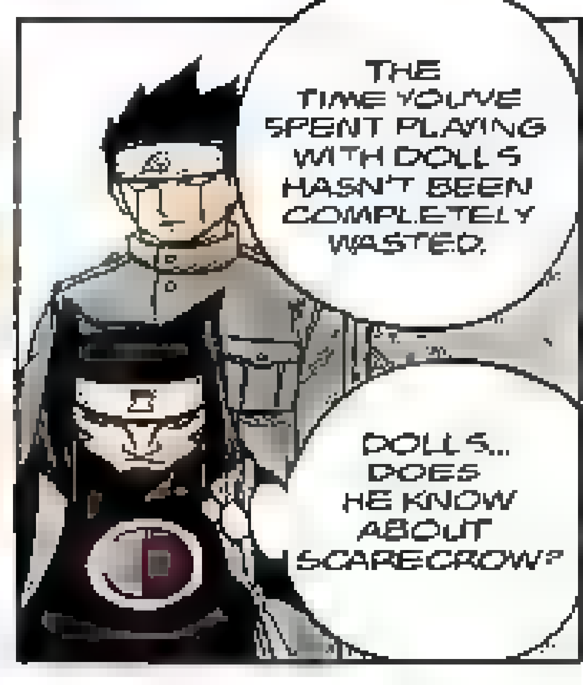

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DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT SIT DOWN




ズッ




THE TIME YOU'VE SPENT PLAYING WITH DOLLS HASN'T BEEN COMPLETELY WASTED.
DOLLS... DOES HE KNOW ABOUT SCARECROW?


THIS RULE...
...IS ABSOLUTE.


LET ME EXPLAIN.

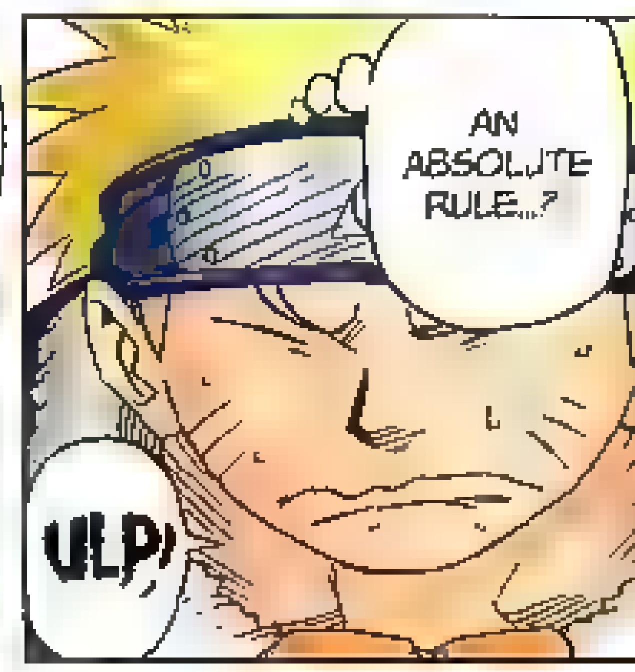

WOW...
人生色々
* JINSEI IROIRO: "THERE ARE MANY DESTINIES."
WITH OUR SUBORDINATES TIED UP IN EXAMS, WE'VE GOT TIME ON OUR HANDS.
IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN GO ON TRAINING MISSIONS WITHOUT THEM.
DON'T WORRY. WE'LL BE BUSY AGAIN BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.
WHY?
WORD IS, THIS YEAR'S FIRST CHIEF EXAMINATION OFFICER IS MORINO IBIKI.
THAT SADIST?! WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE IBIKI?!
SADIST?
!
KURENAI, YOU'RE STILL A NEWBIE TO THE JÔNIN ELITE, SO YOU HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING.
WILL THEY EVEN MAKE IT PAST THE FIRST EXAM?

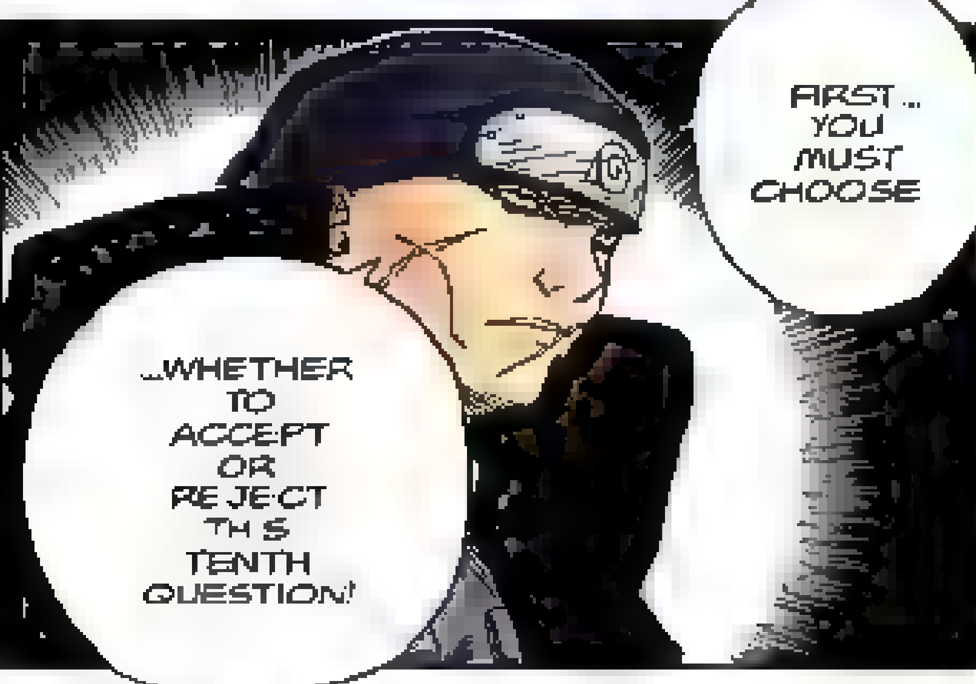


WHY? WHAT'S HE LIKE?
HE'S A PRO. A PRO'S PRO..
A PRO?
AT WHAT?
SIZZLE
TORTURE AND INTERROGATION!
......!
TORTURE AND INTERROGATION!
KONOHA BLACK OPS TORTURE AND INTERROGA-TION CORPS UNIT LEADER
JONIN COMMANDER
MORINO IBIKI!

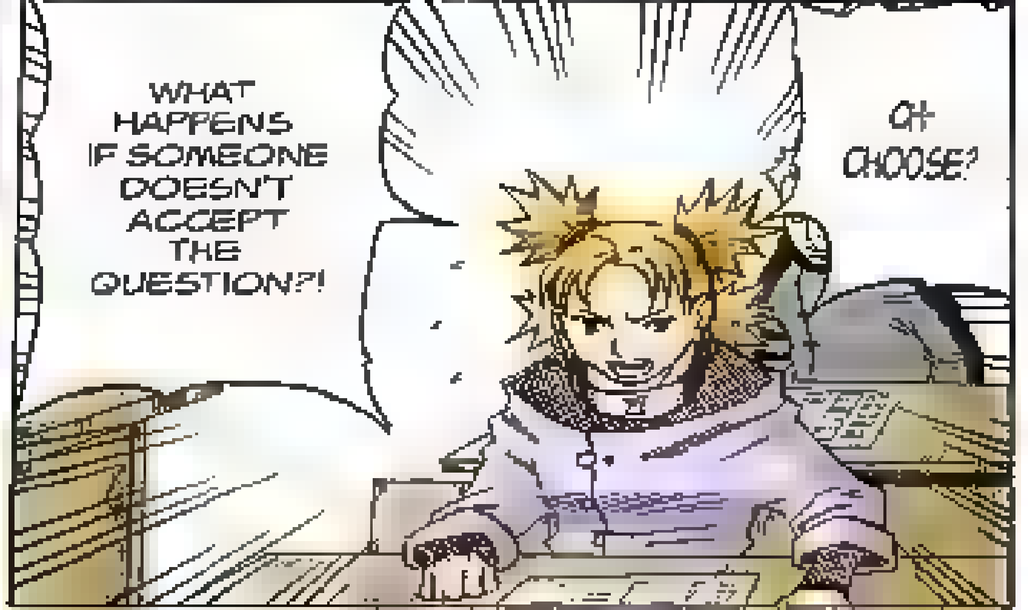
IN THE EXAM THAT'S PRESENTLY UNDERWAY... WHILE THERE MAY BE NO PHYSICAL TORTURE...

...THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THE APPLICANTS ARE BEING SUBJECTED TO THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURES THAT MAKE HIM INFAMOUS AS AN INTERROGATOR.





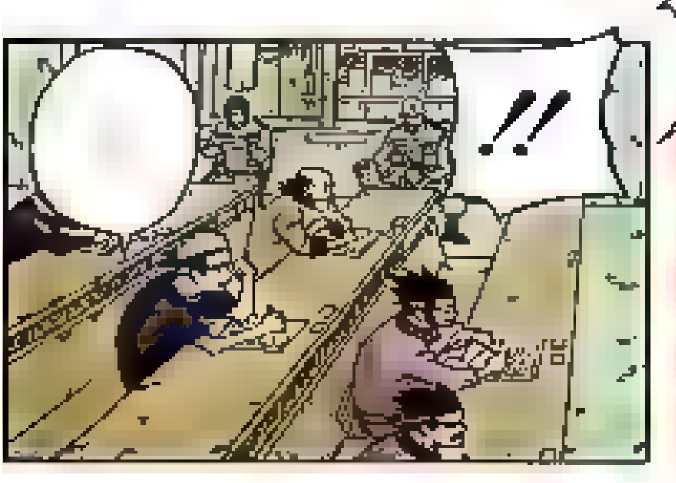


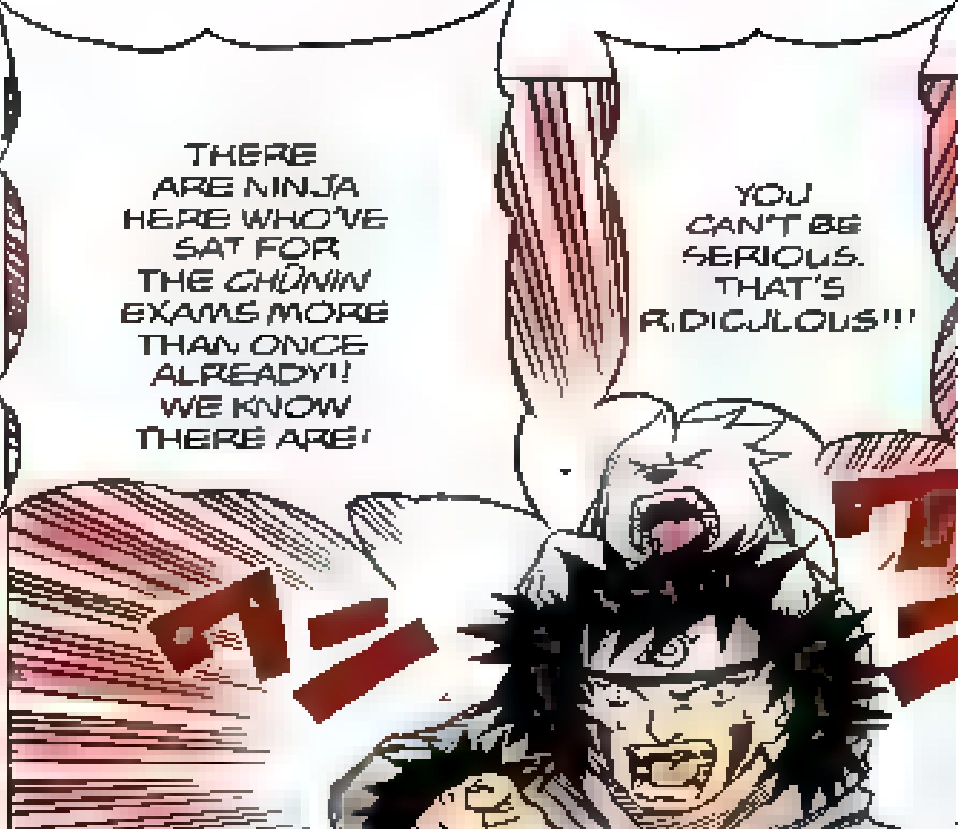




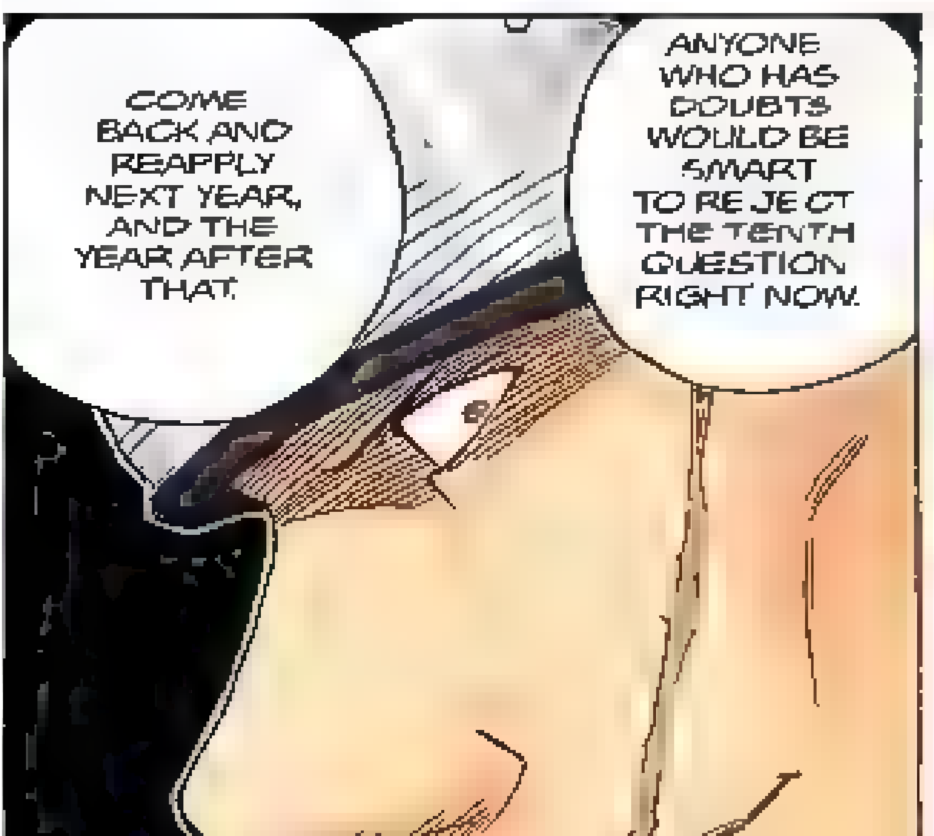

IF YOU REJECT THE QUESTION AND DON'T EVEN TRY TO ANSWER IT, YOU'LL LOSE ALL YOUR POINTS IMMEDIATELY
...AND FAIL!
AND BOTH OF YOUR TEAMMATES WILL FAIL RIGHT ALONG WITH YOU.
SAY WHAT?!
THEN WHY WOULD ANYONE CHOOSE TO REJECT IT?
BECAUSE.
...OF THE OTHER RULE.
!
OH COME ON, WHAT MORE CAN HE ADD?
IF YOU TRY TO ANSWER THE QUESTION...
AND YOU GET IT WRONG...
...YOU WILL NEVER BE PERMITTED TO APPLY FOR THE JOURNEYMAN NINJA EXAMS AGAIN. NOT EVER.
!!


HEH HEH...
HEH HEH HEH HEH.


!!


YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS. THAT'S RIDICULOUS!!!
THERE ARE NINJA HERE WHO'VE SAT FOR THE CHŪNIN EXAMS MORE THAN ONCE ALREADY!! WE KNOW THERE ARE!


JUST YOUR ROTTEN LUCK. I WASN'T MAKING THE RULES IN PAST YEARS.
I AM NOW.


ANYONE WHO HAS DOUBTS WOULD BE SMART TO REJECT THE TENTH QUESTION RIGHT NOW.
COME BACK AND REAPPLY NEXT YEAR, AND THE YEAR AFTER THAT.


I'VE BEEN UP FRONT WITH YOU. YOU CAN TAKE A FAILING GRADE NOW, AND TRY AGAIN LATER.
HUH?

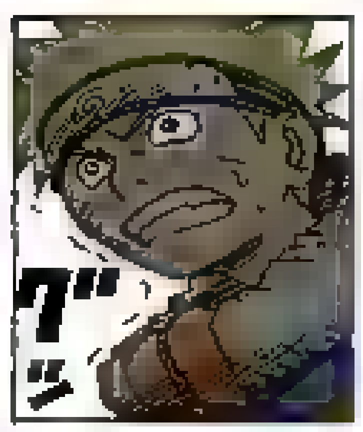
IF EVEN ONE MEMBER OF A CELL REJECTS THE QUESTION, THEN ALL THREE TEAM MEMBERS FAIL FOR THE YEAR.

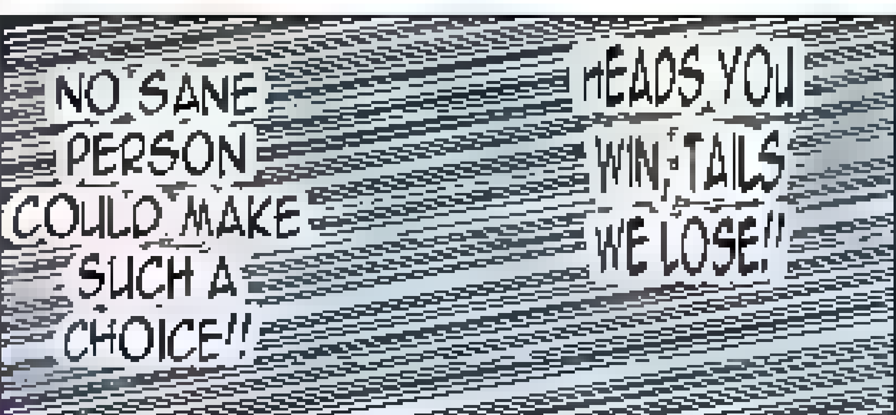
IF ANYONE ACCEPTS THE QUESTION AND CAN'T ANSWER IT...

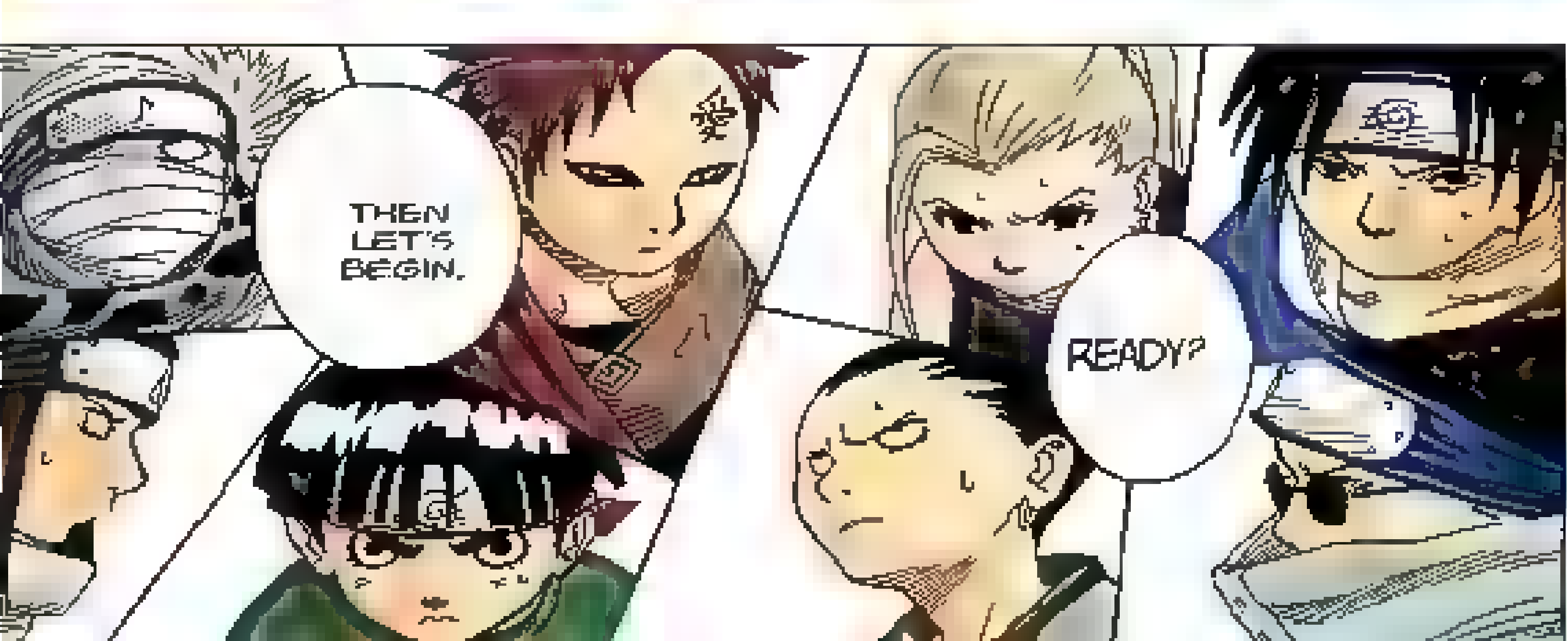
HE'LL BE STUCK AT THE JUNIOR LEVEL FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!

TALK ABOUT A NO-WIN SITUATION!



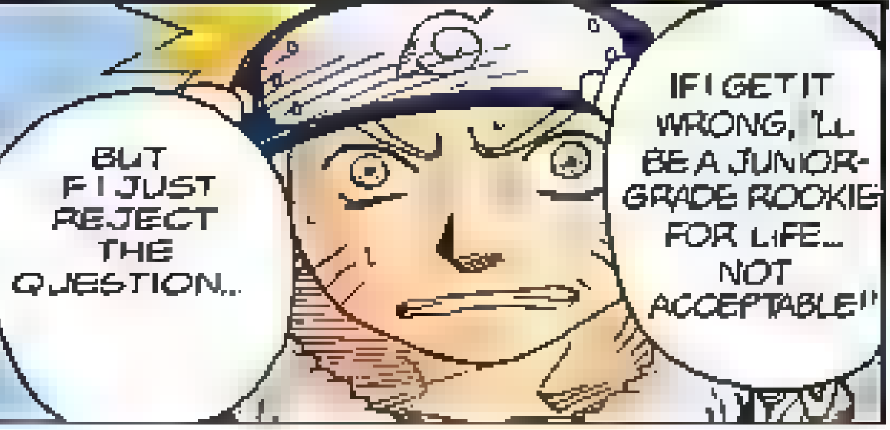


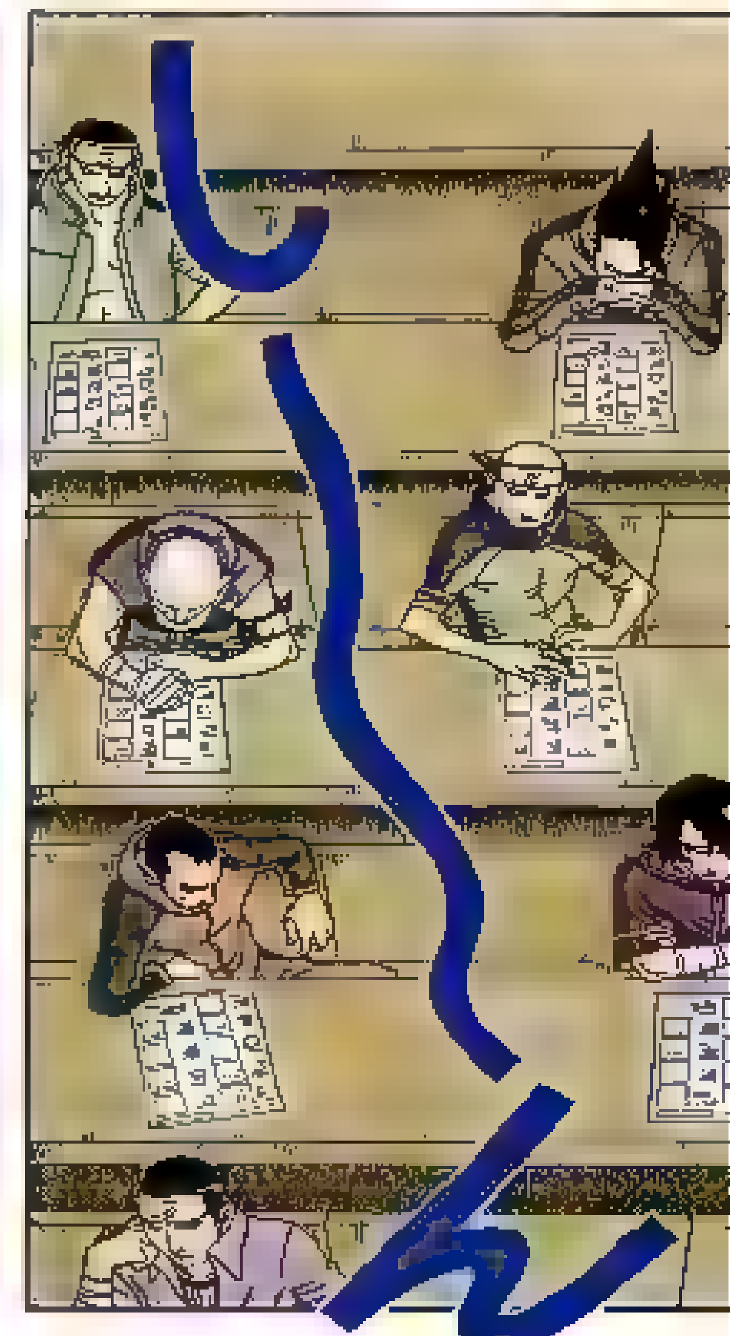




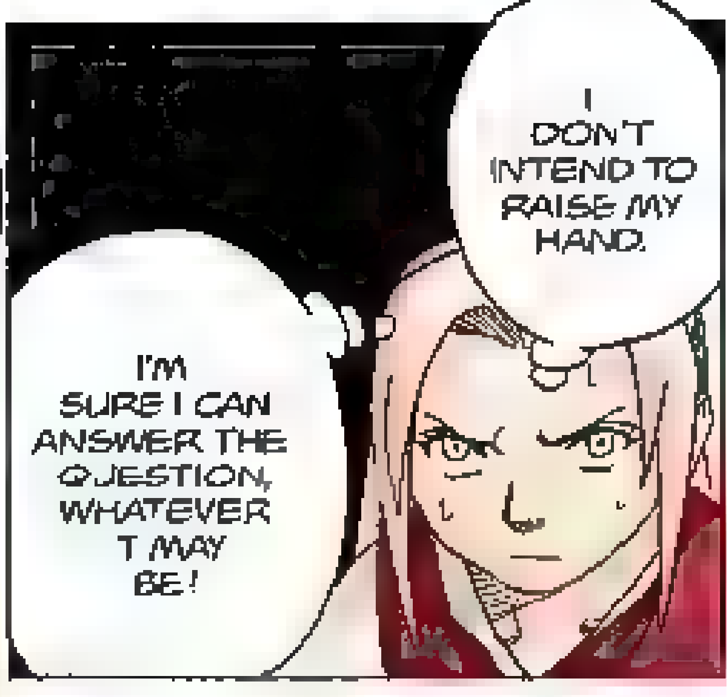
THOSE WHO CHOOSE NOT TO ACCEPT SHOULD RAISE THEIR HANDS.
ONCE THEIR NUMBER HAS BEEN CONFIRMED, THEY WILL LEAVE THE ROOM.

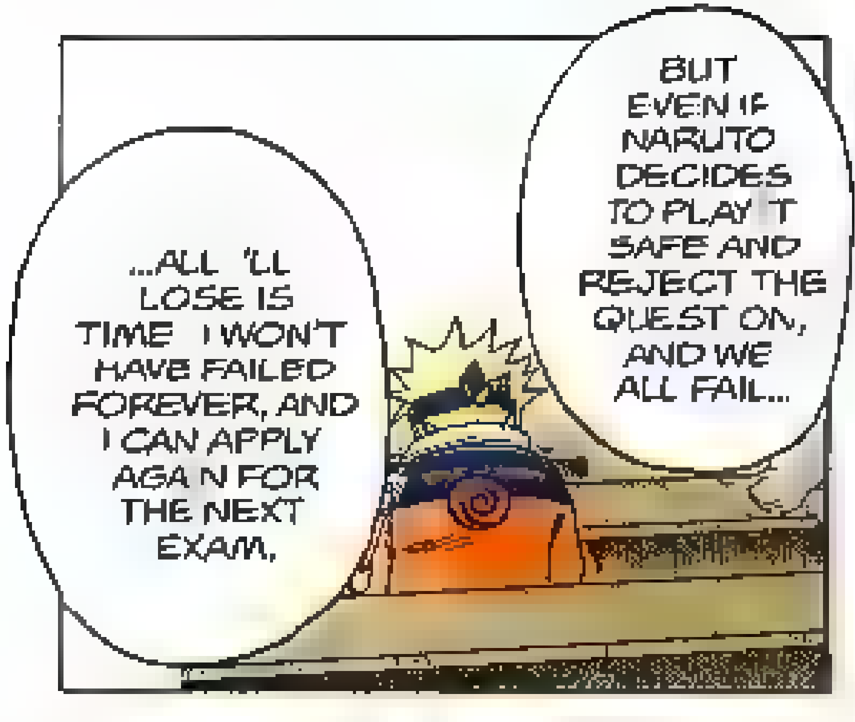




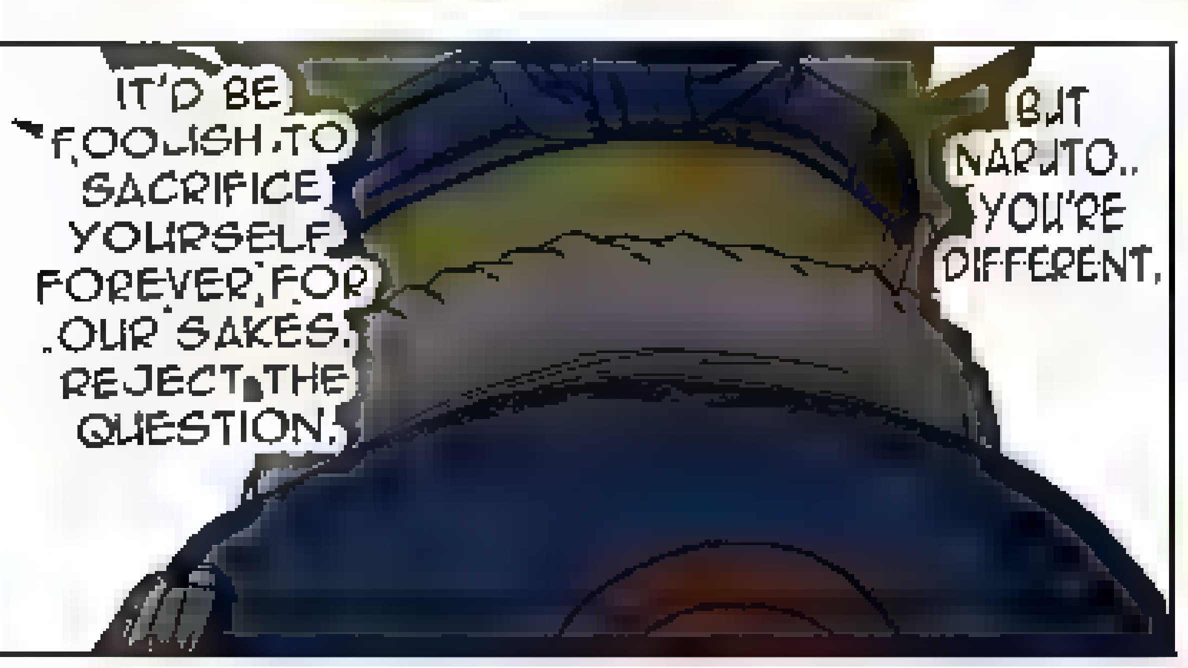




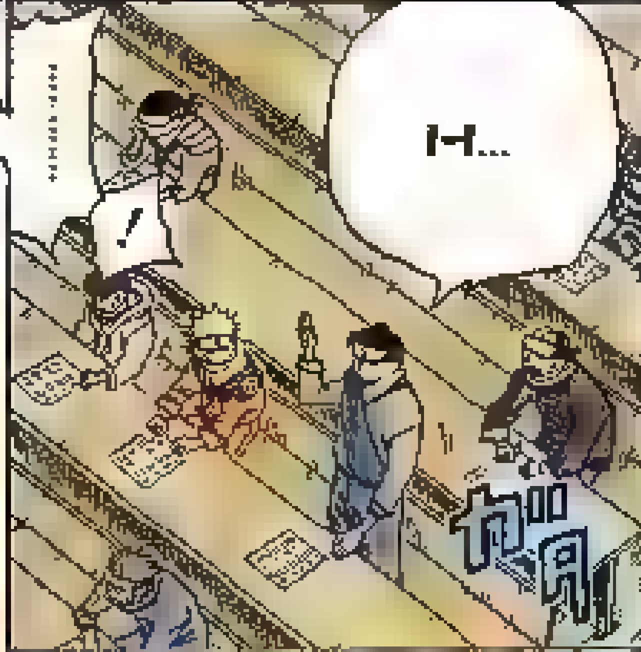

I DON'T INTEND TO RAISE MY HAND.
I'M SURE I CAN ANSWER THE QJESTION, WHATEVER T MAY BE!


BUT EVEN IF NARUTO DECIDES TO PLAY T SAFE AND REJECT THE QUEST ON, AND WE ALL FAIL...
...ALL 'LL LOSE IS TIME I WON'T HAVE FAILED FOREVER, AND I CAN APPLY AGA N FOR THE NEXT EXAM.


BUT...

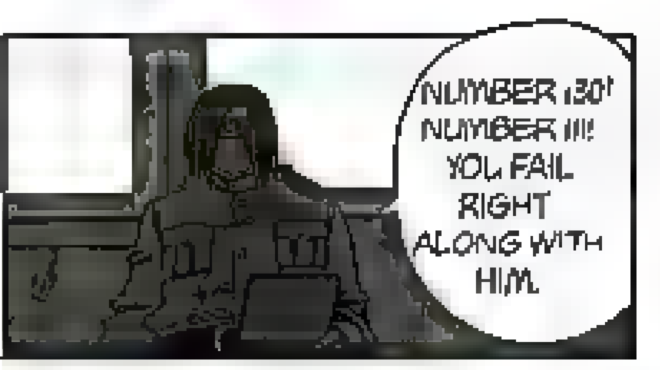

BUT NARUTO.. YOU'RE DIFFERENT.
IT'D BE FOOLISH TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF FOREVER FOR OUR SAKES. REJECT THE QUESTION.

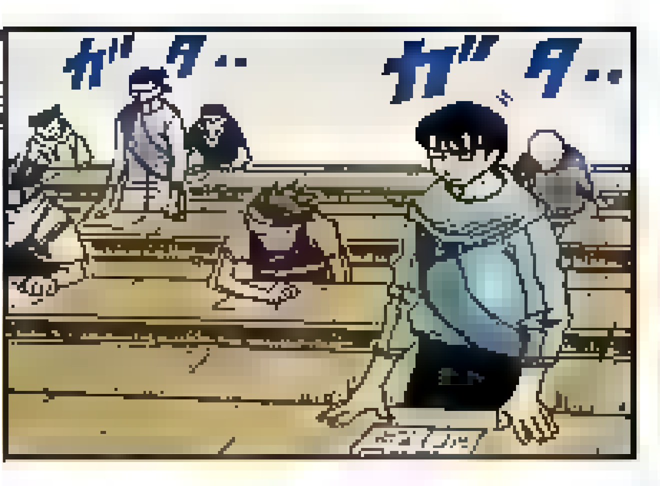


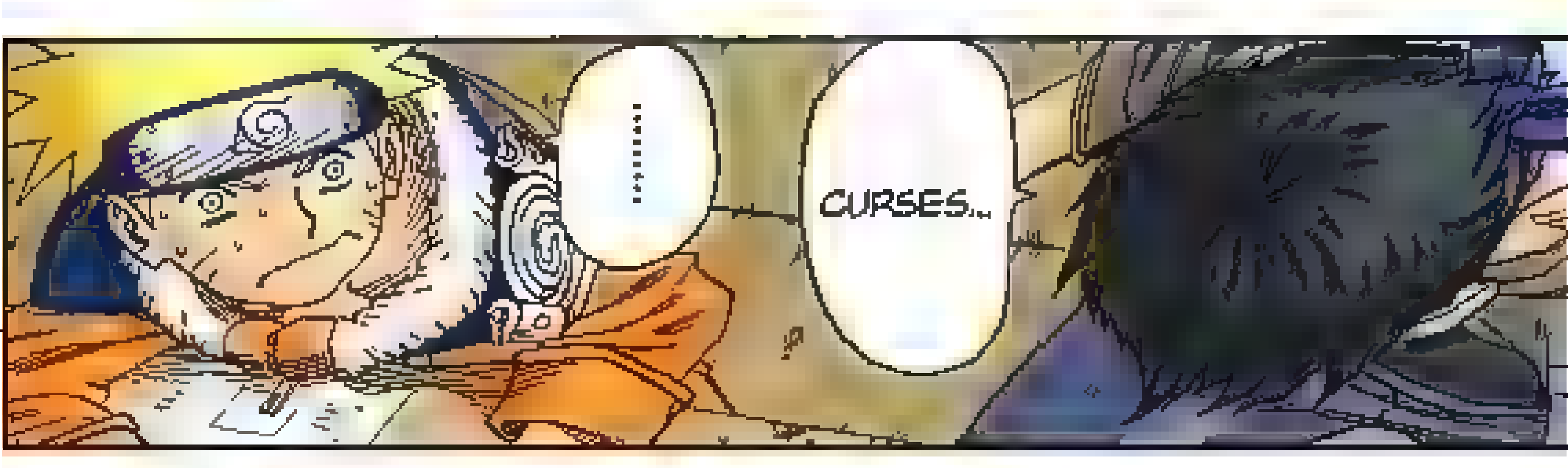

H...
!


I QUIT! I'M REJECTING THE QUESTION.


NUMBER 50! FAILED!
GENNAI!! INAHO!! PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
!


NUMBER 130! NUMBER 111! YOU FAIL RIGHT ALONG WITH HIM.


ガタ..
ガタ..


CURSES...
....

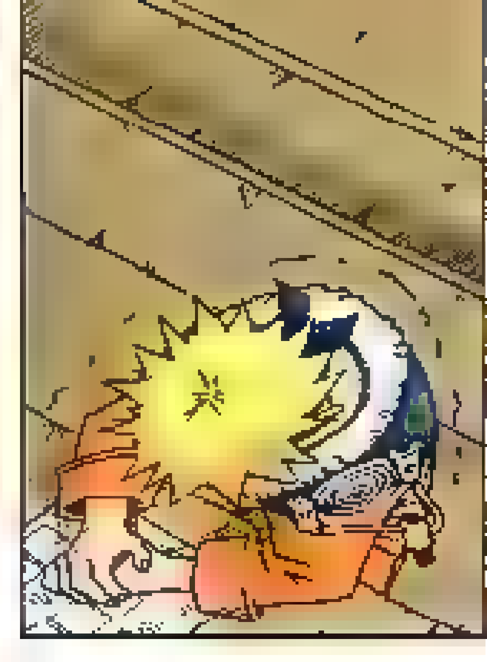

M-ME TOO!!

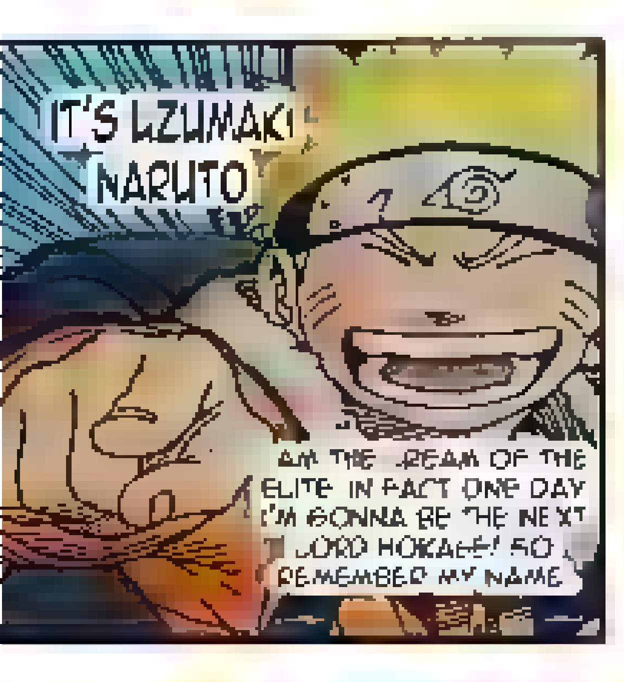

ME TOO
I QUIT, TOO!!
I-I'M SORRY, GUYS!!
ME TOO...





WHY DON'T YOU RAISE YOUR HAND?
...NARUTO...

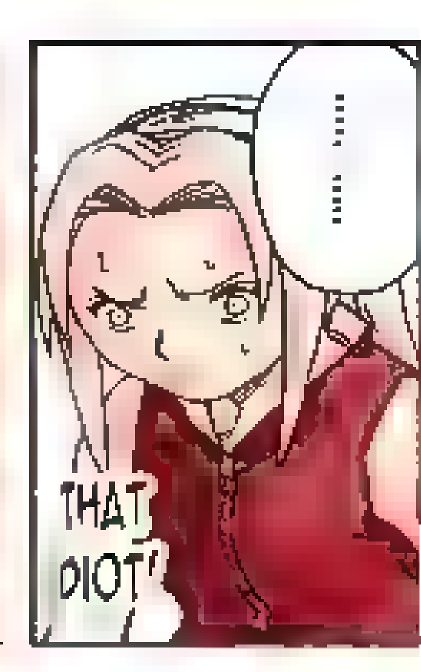




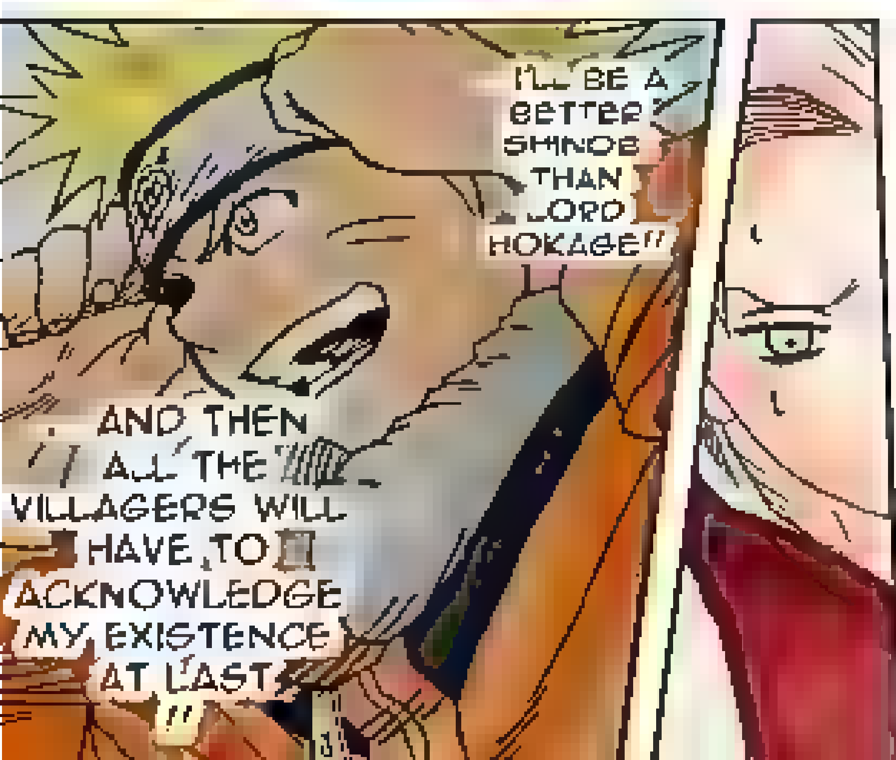
IT'S UZUMAKI NARUTO
AM THE CREAM OF THE ELITE IN FACT ONE DAY I'M GONNA BE THE NEXT LORD HOKAGE! SO REMEMBER MY NAME



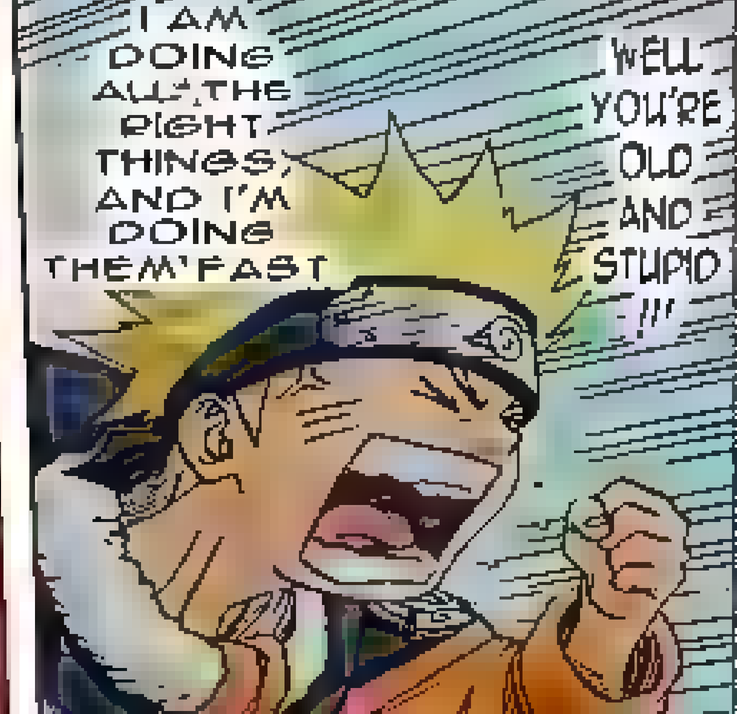
NINJA! NINJA! NINJA!!!
I DID IT! I DID IT! I'M A NINJA



......
THAT IDIOT!

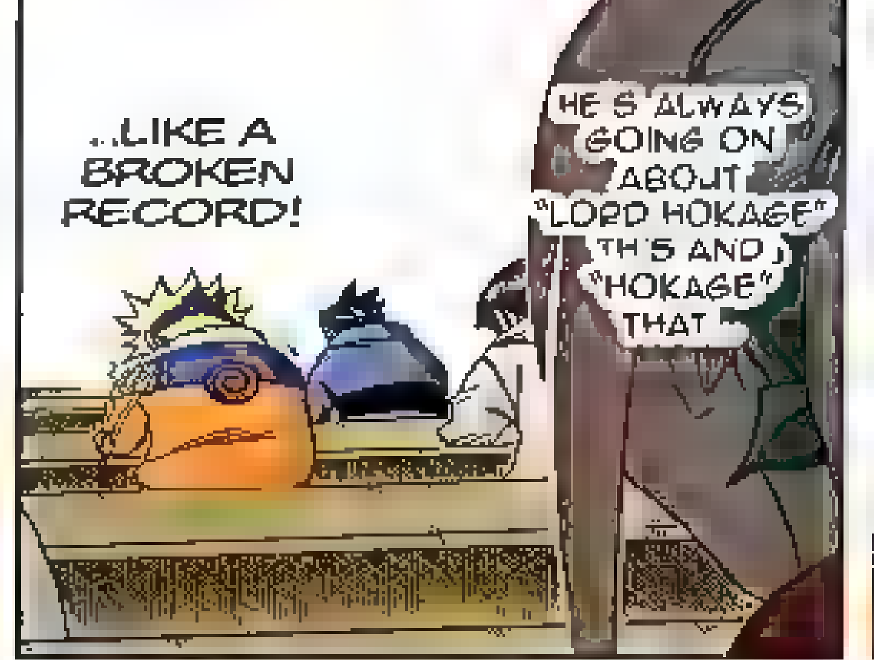


I'LL BE A BETTER SHINOBI THAN LORD HOKAGE!!
AND THEN ALL THE VILLAGERS WILL HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY EXISTENCE AT LAST!!



I AM DOING ALL THE RIGHT THINGS, AND I'M DOING THEM FAST
WELL YOU'RE OLD AND STUPID!!!

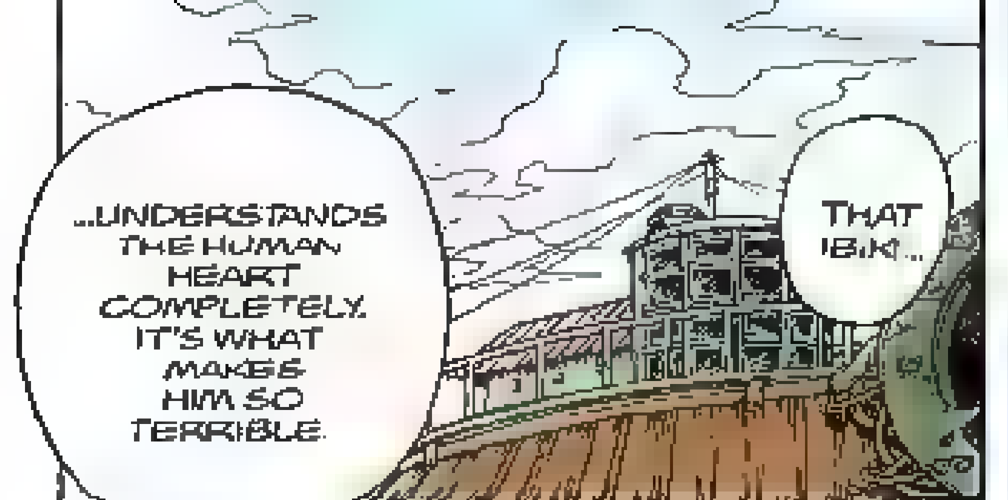
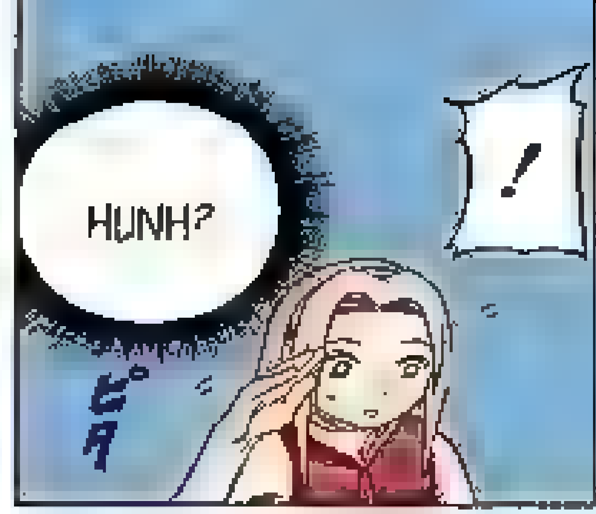




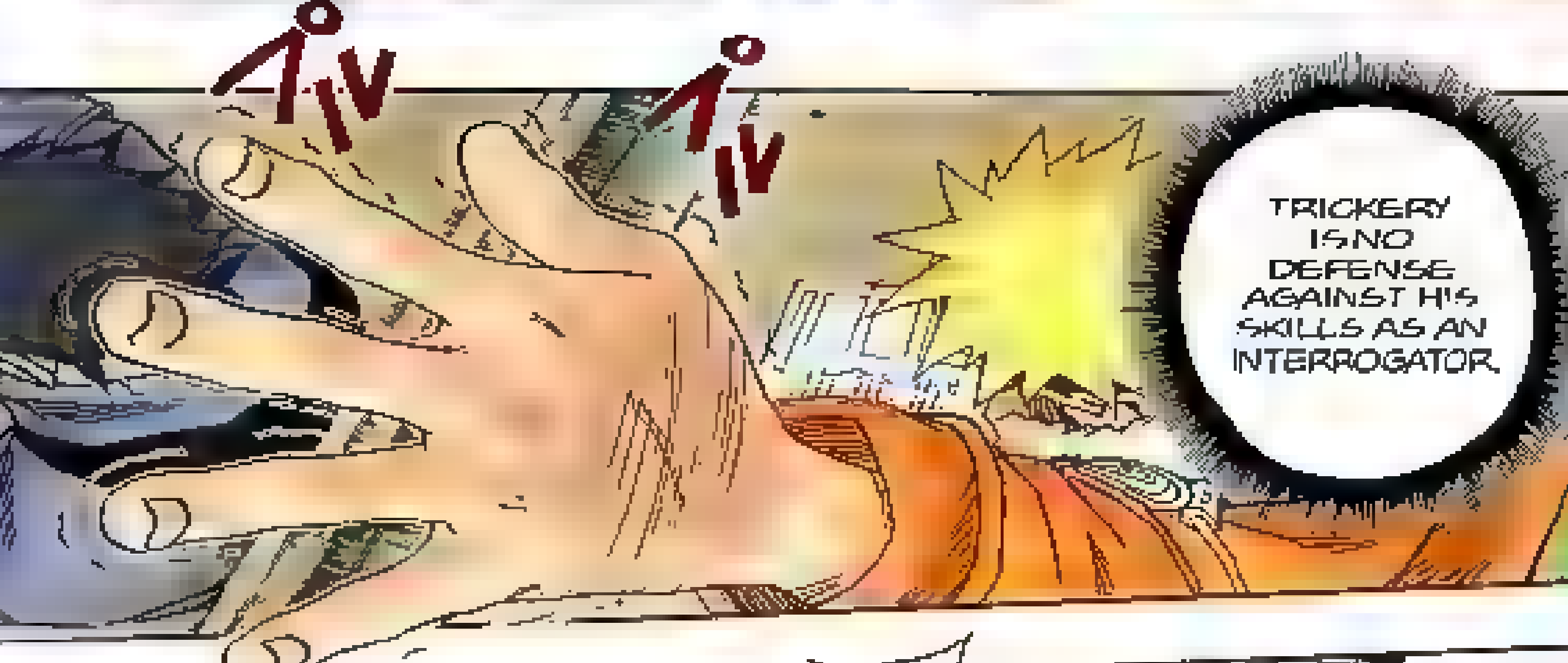


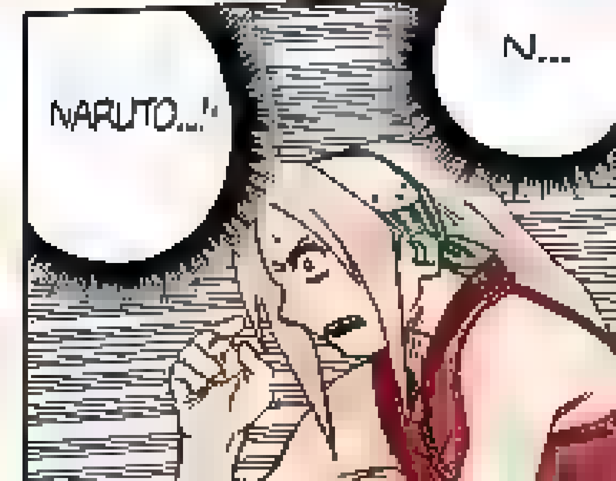


... BUT I DON'T WANT IT TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU FOREVER


THAT IBIKI...
...UNDERSTANDS THE HUMAN HEART COMPLETELY. IT'S WHAT MAKES HIM SO TERRIBLE.

!
HUNH?

...AND USING THOSE WEAKNESSES TO MAKE THEM CRACK!

HE USES HIS INSIGHTS MERCILESSLY TO MANIPULATE HIS FOES, BRINGING THEIR HUMAN WEAKNESSES TO THE SURFACE

TRICKERY IS NO DEFENSE AGAINST HIS SKILLS AS AN INTERROGATOR.


!!
!!

N...
NARUTO...!


NEVER UNDERESTIMATE ME!!!
I DON'T QUIT, AND I WON'T RUN!!

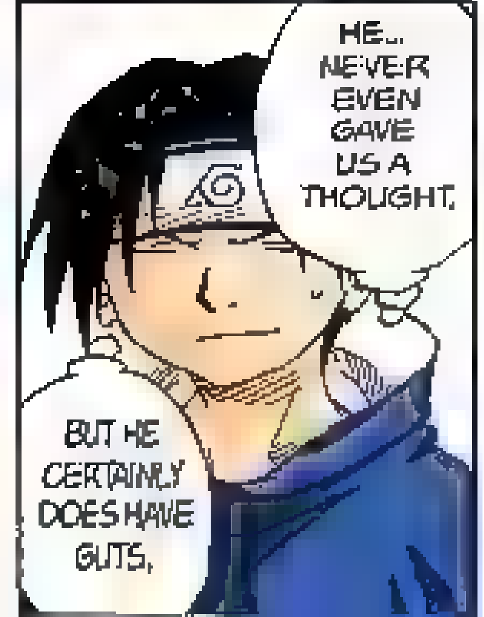
EVEN IF I RISK ENDING UP A ROOKIE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE...

I'LL ACCEPT YOUR STUPID QUESTION!!

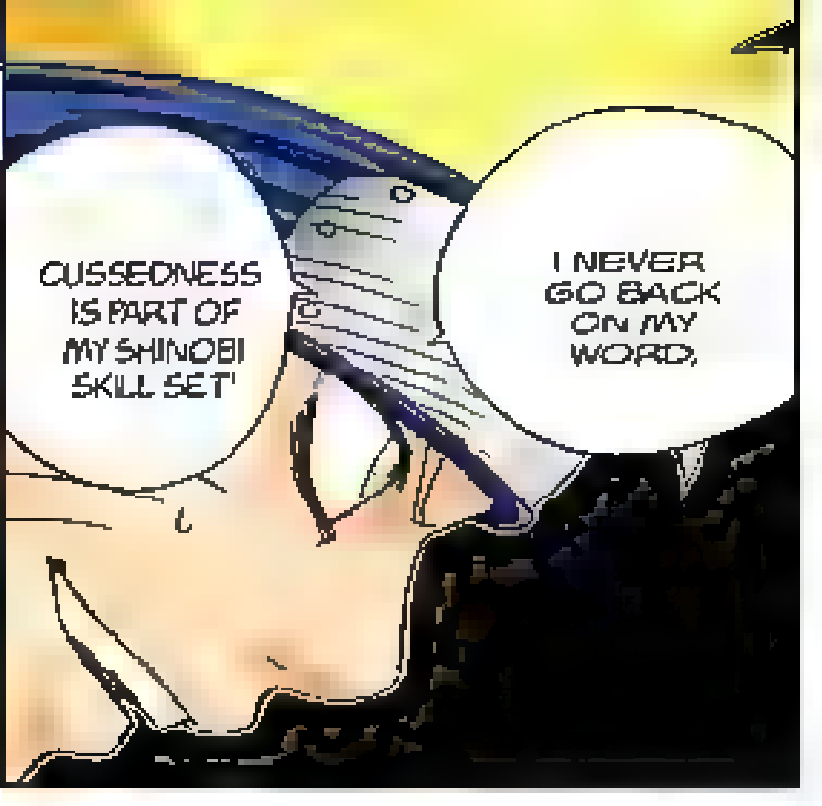
...I'LL STILL BECOME LORD HOKAGE, EVEN IF I CAN ONLY MAKE IT BY PURE STUBBORNNESS. I DON'T CARE!!

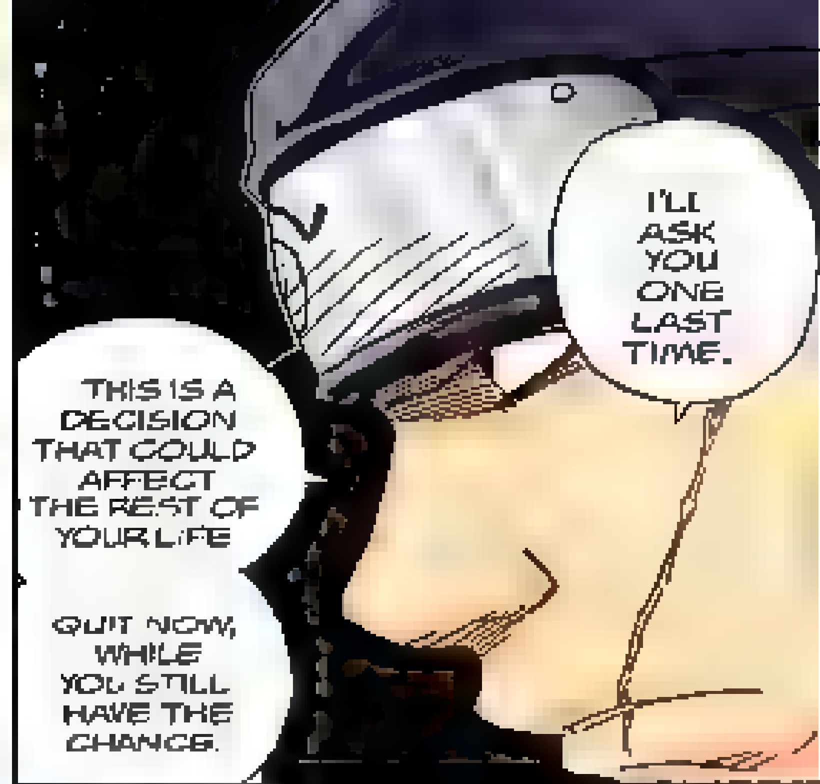
I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU!!



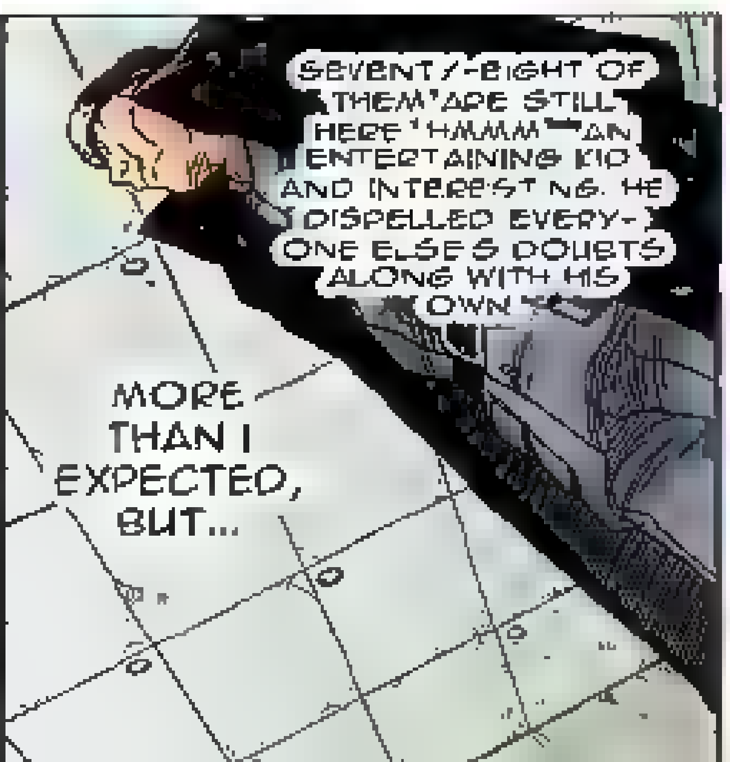





I NEVER GO BACK ON MY WORD.
CUSSEDNESS IS PART OF MY SHINOBI SKILL SET!

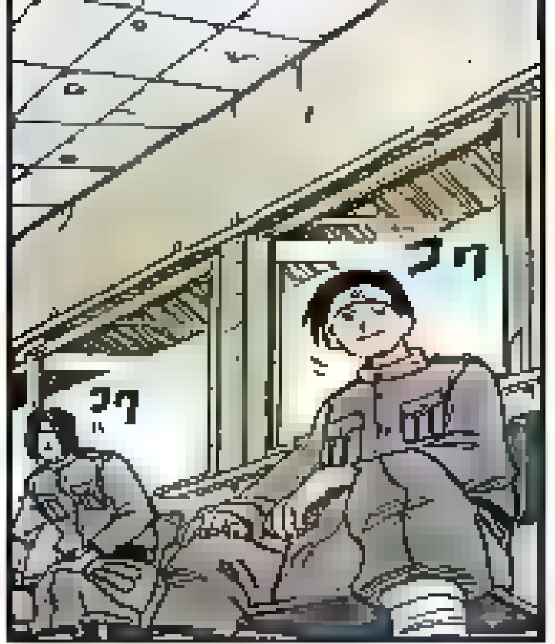
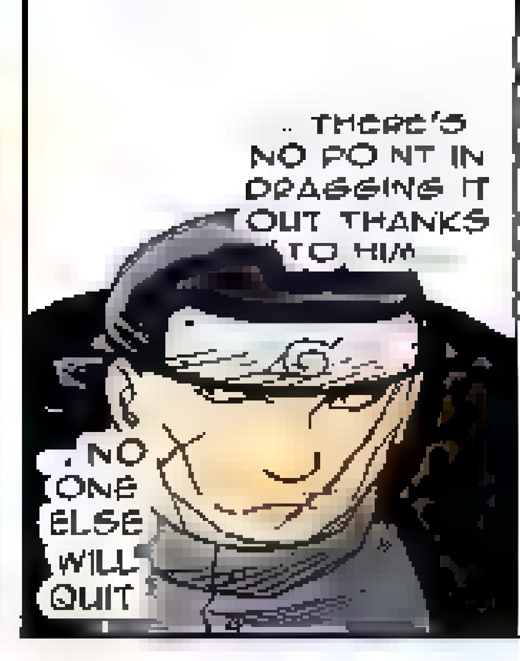
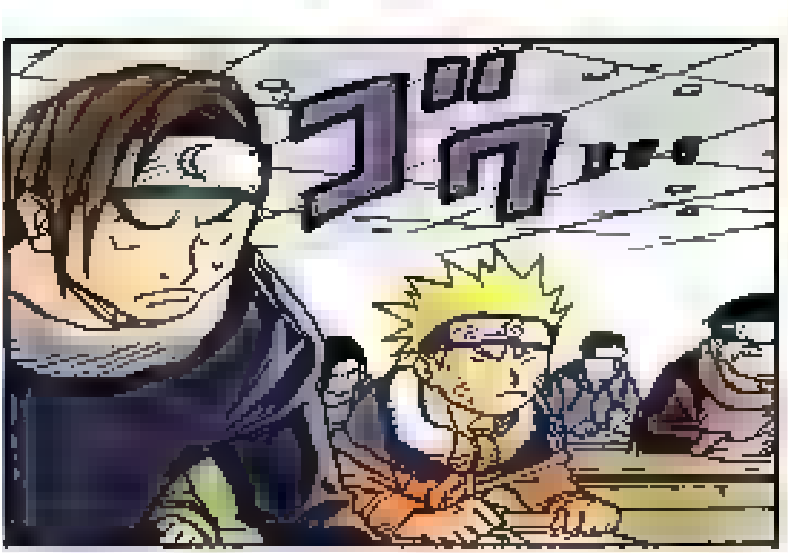

I'LL ASK YOU ONE LAST TIME.
THIS IS A DECISION THAT COULD AFFECT THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
QUIT NOW, WHILE YOU STILL HAVE THE CHANCE.

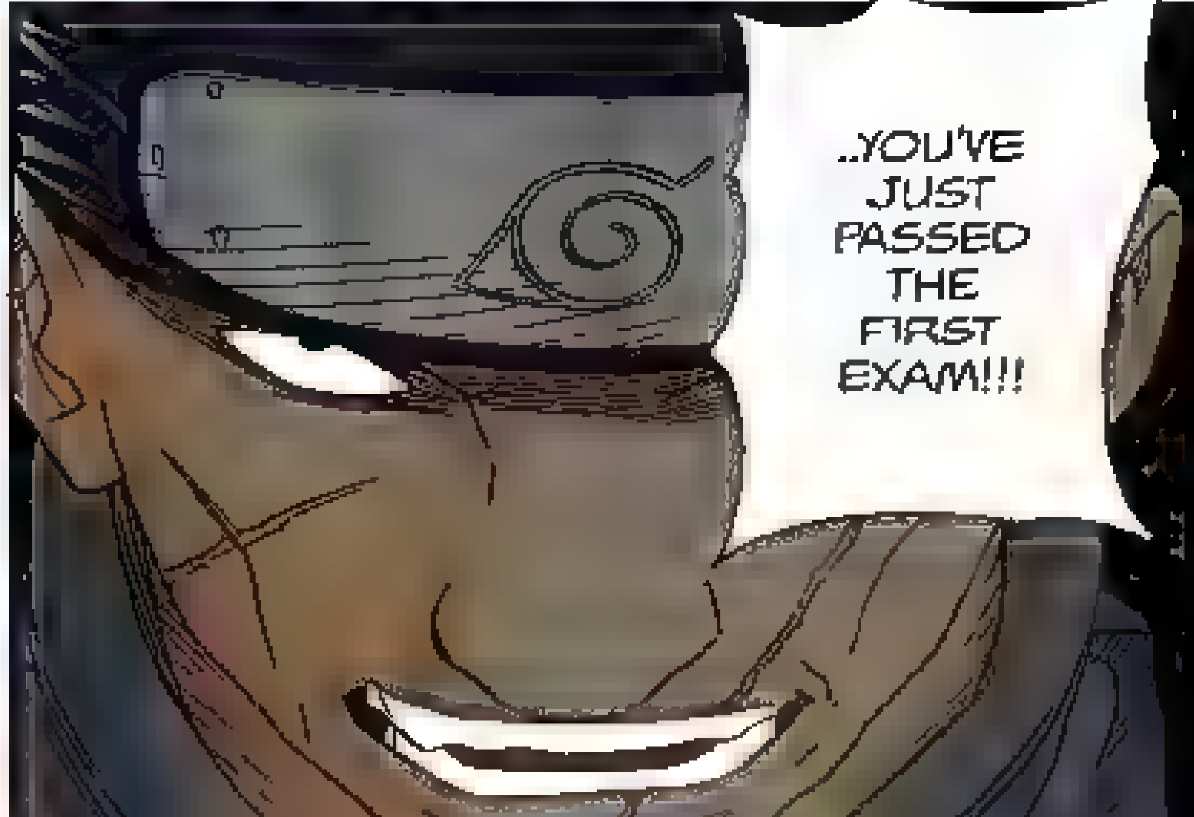



SEVENTY-EIGHT OF THEM ARE STILL HERE! HMMM... AN ENTERTAINING KID AND INTERESTING. HE DISPELLED EVERYONE ELSE'S DOUBTS ALONG WITH HIS OWN.
MORE THAN I EXPECTED, BUT...

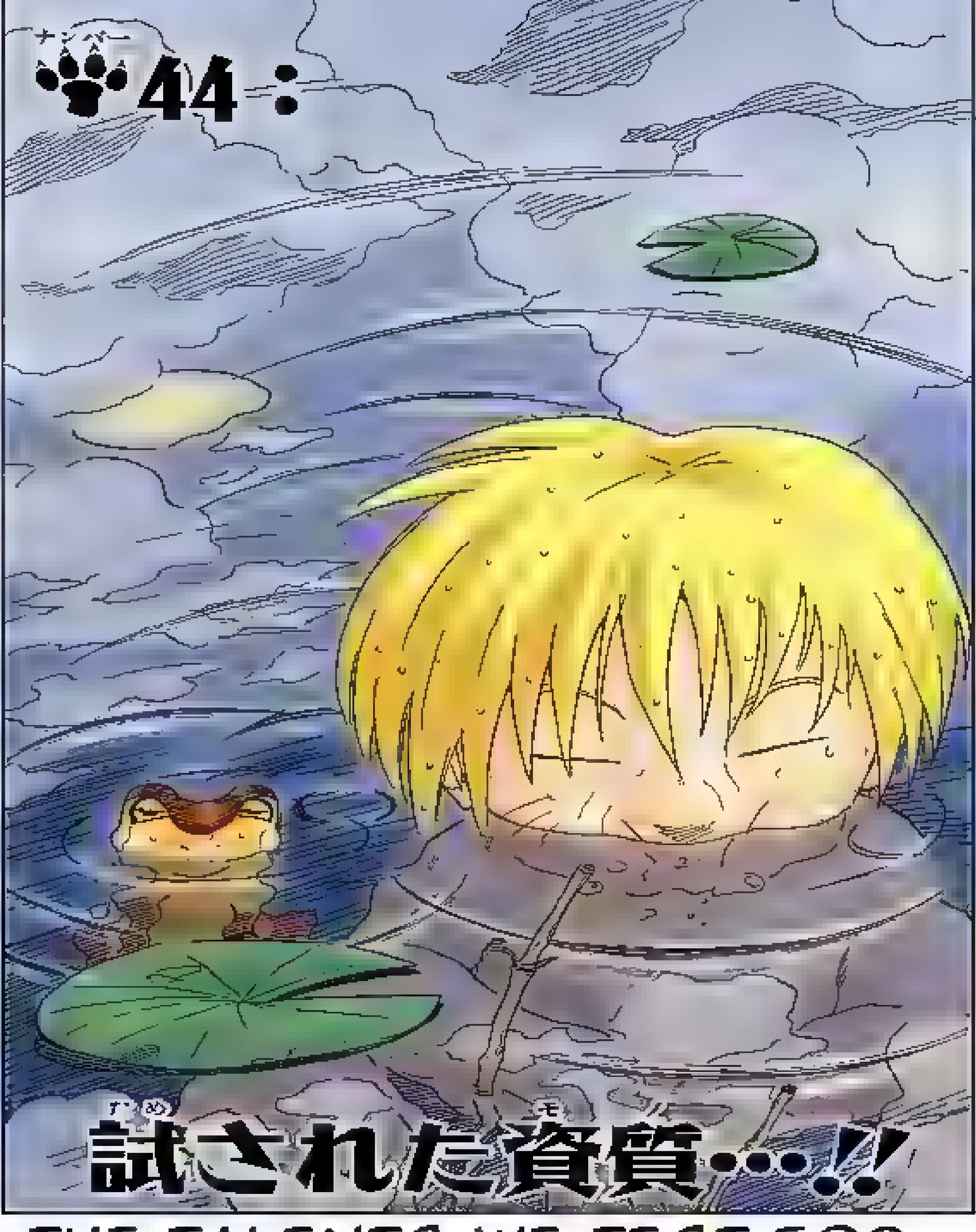




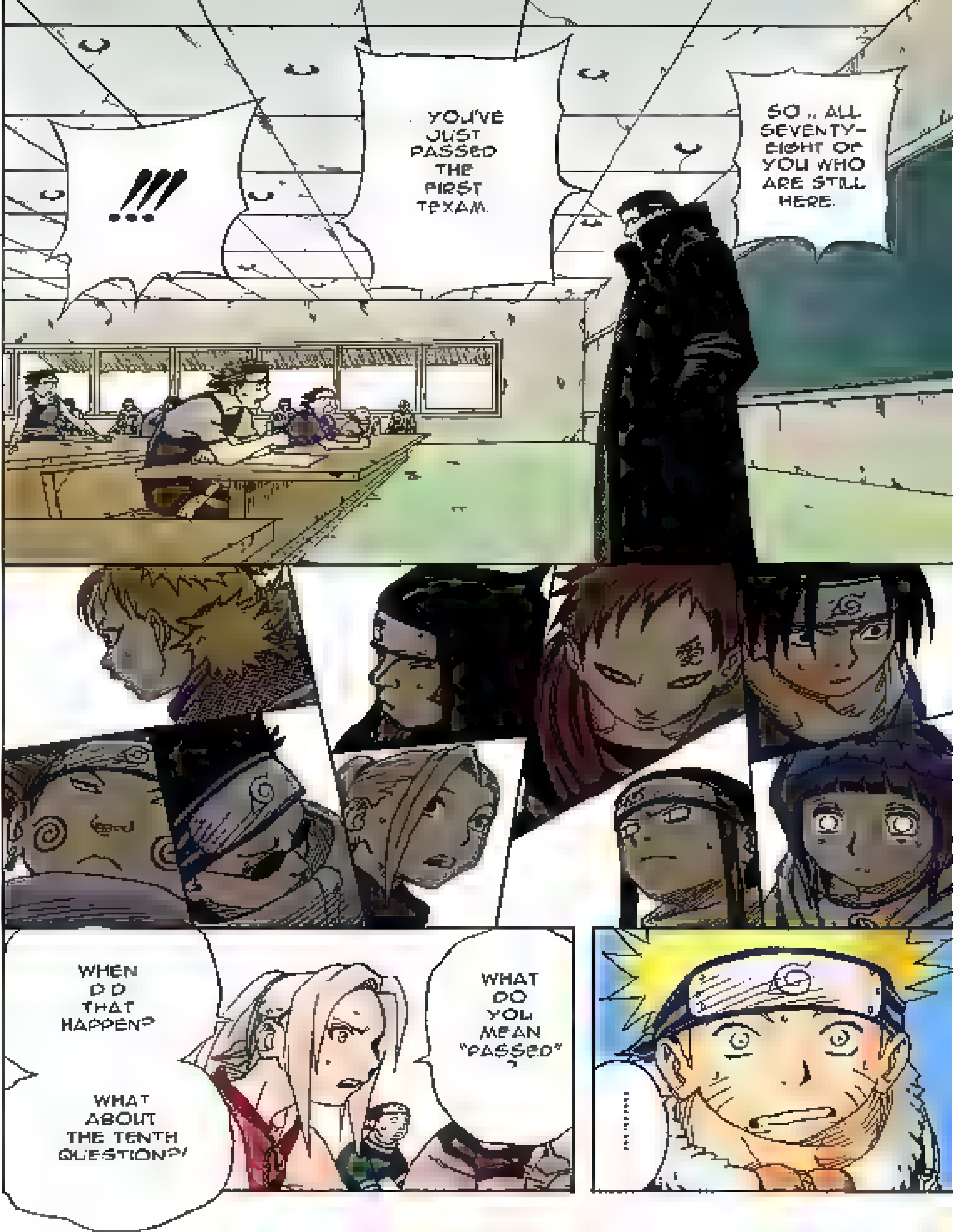



.. THERE'S NO PO NT IN DRAGGING IT OUT THANKS TO HIM
.. NO ONE ELSE WILL QUIT


GOOD CALL.
SO, EVERYONE WHO IS STILL HERE.

..YOU'VE JUST PASSED THE FIRST EXAM!!!

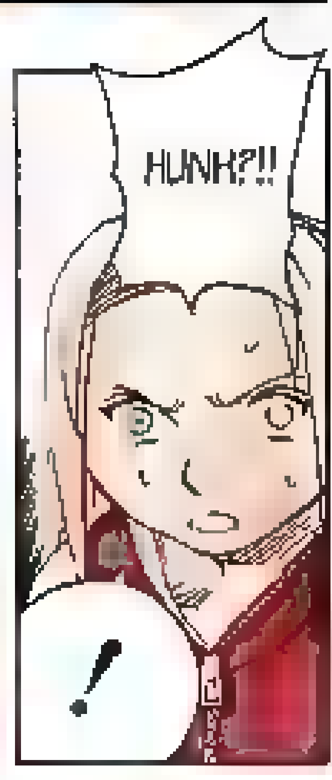
!!
HUNH?!!

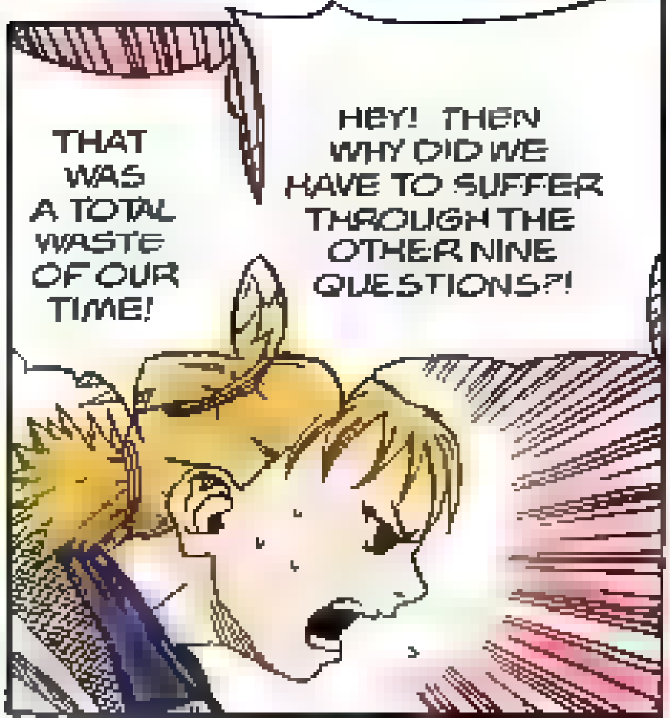


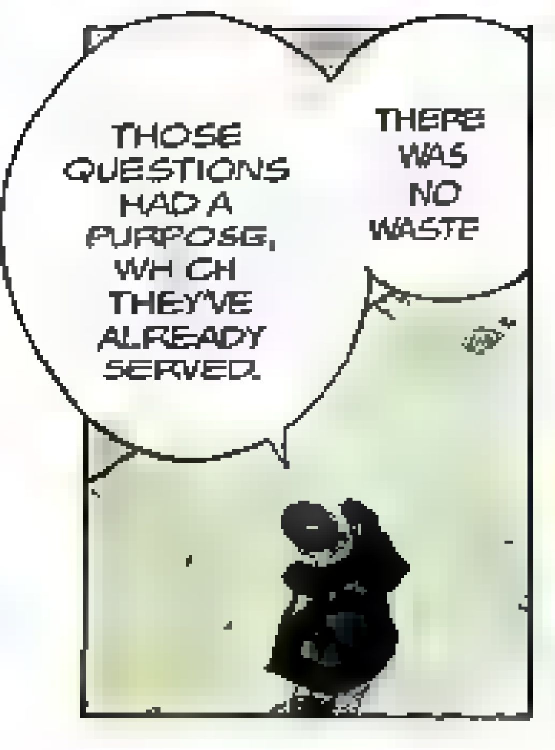
THE TALENTS WE TEST FOR


SO .. ALL SEVENTY-EIGHT OF YOU WHO ARE STILL HERE.
YOU'VE JUST PASSED THE FIRST TEXAM.
...!!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "PASSED"?
WHEN DID THAT HAPPEN?
WHAT ABOUT THE TENTH QUESTION?!

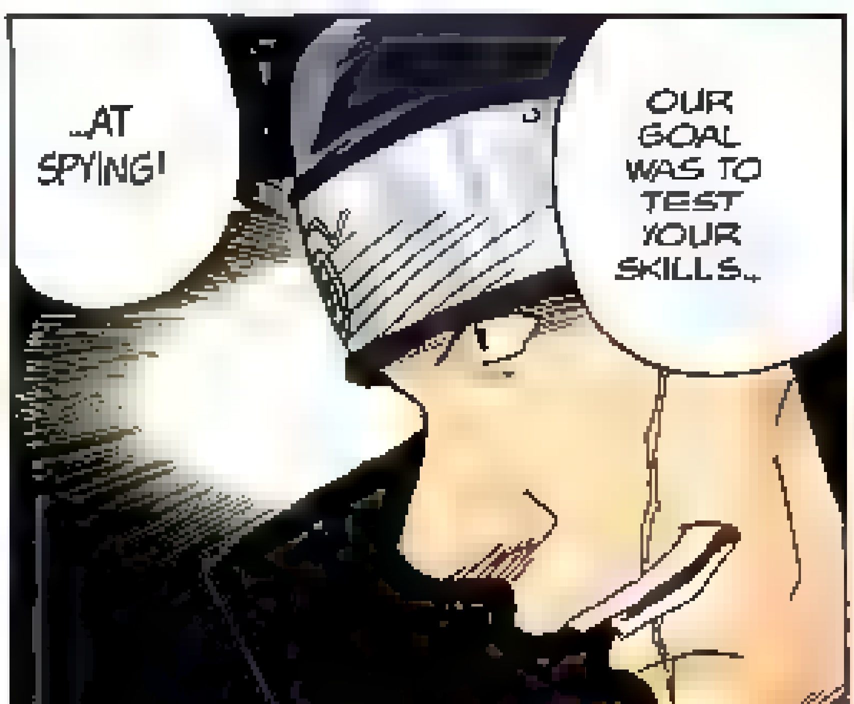

THERE IS NO TENTH QUESTION...
...BEYOND THE WHOLE "ACCEPT OR REJECT" THING.

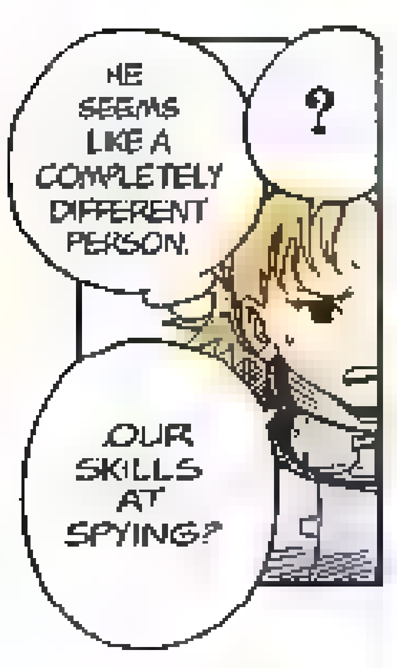

HUNH?!!
!


HEY! THEN WHY DID WE HAVE TO SUFFER THROUGH THE OTHER NINE QUESTIONS?!
THAT WAS A TOTAL WASTE OF OUR TIME!

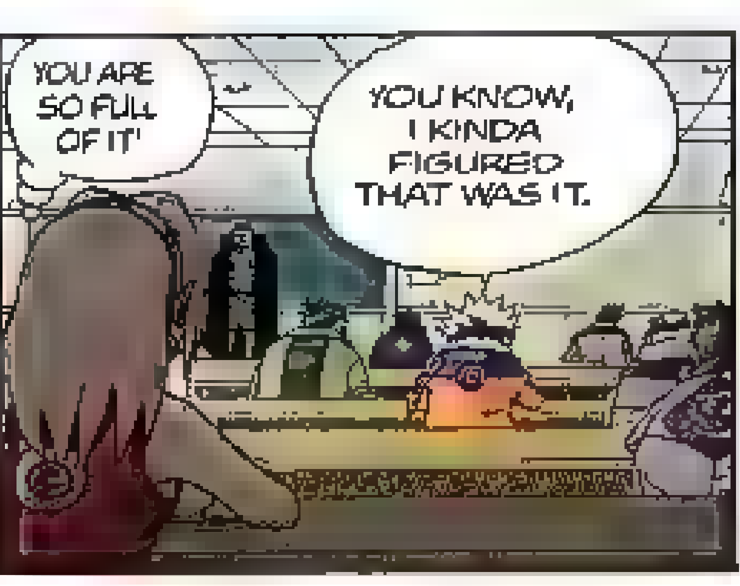

THERE WAS NO WASTE
THOSE QUESTIONS HAD A PURPOSE, WHICH THEY'VE ALREADY SERVED.


!
SUCH AS?


OUR GOAL WAS TO TEST YOUR SKILLS...
...AT SPYING!

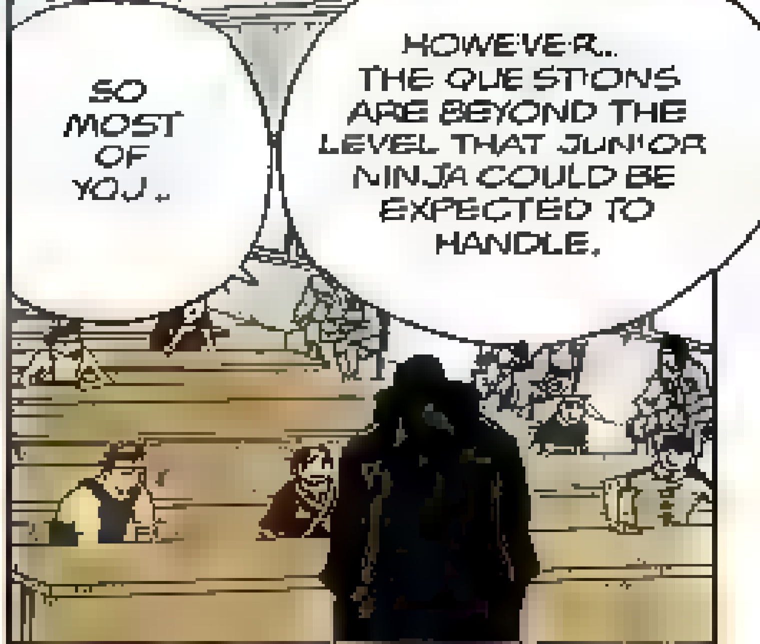

?
HE SEEMS LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON.
OUR SKILLS AT SPYING?

REMEMBER THE RULES AT THE BEGINNING?
YOU PASS OR FAIL AS PART OF A THREE-MAN CELL.
WITH THAT RULE, PRESSURED YOU WITH THE FEAR THAT ANYTHING YOU DID WRONG...
WOULD BRING YOUR TEAMMATES DOWN WITH YOU.
OH, I GET IT!

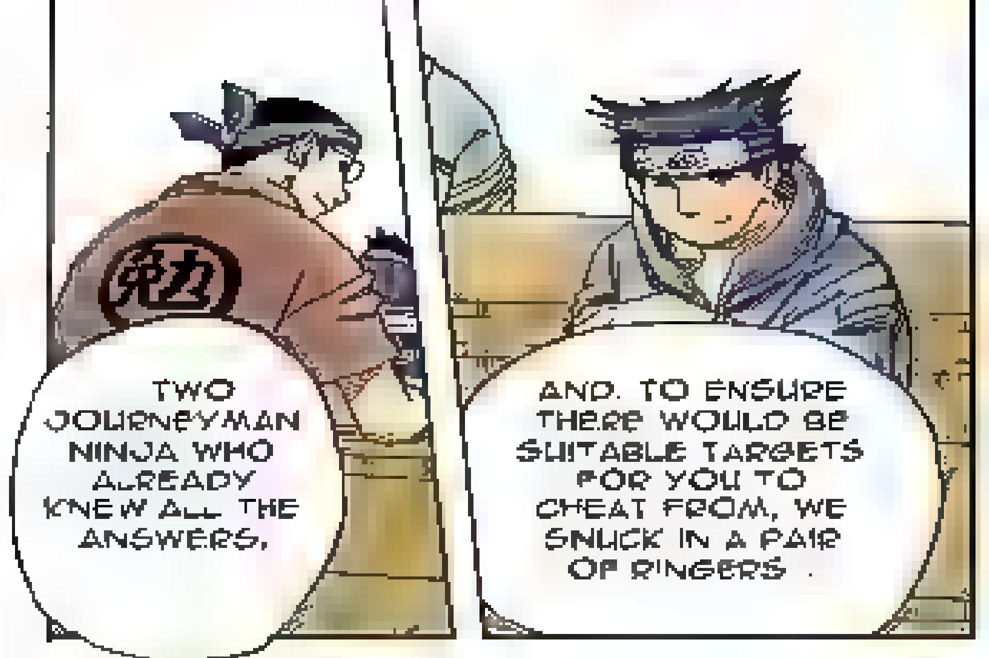


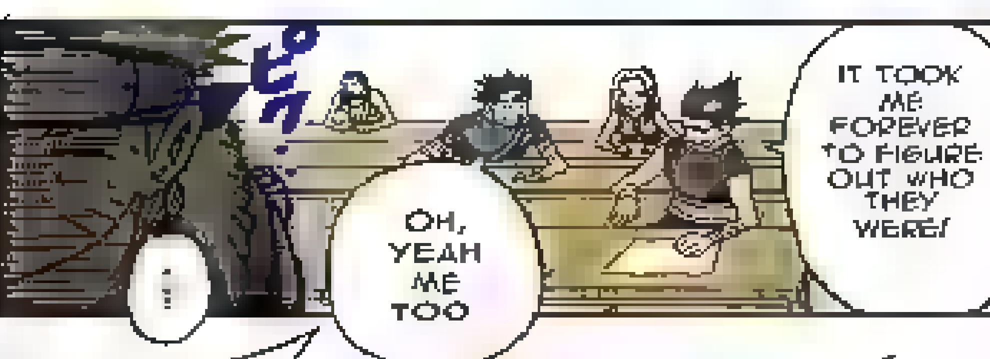
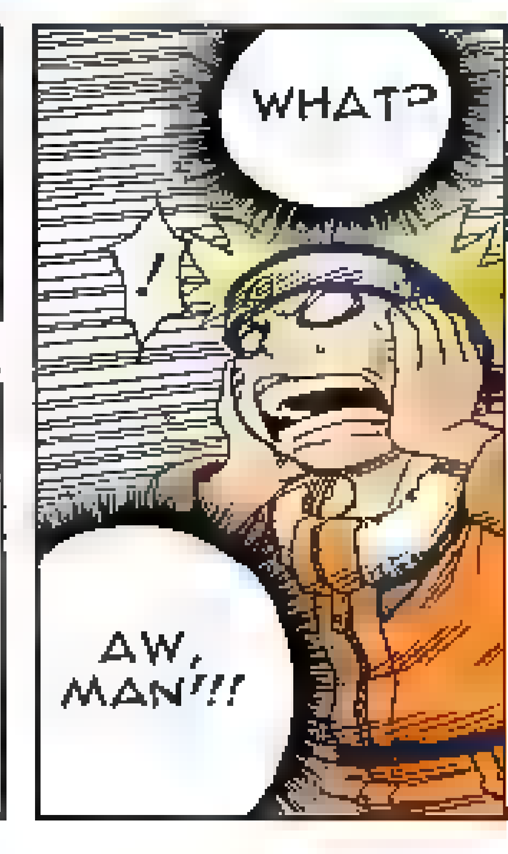






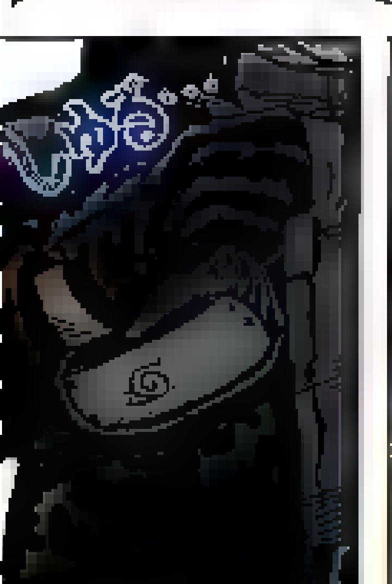



TWO JOURNEYMAN NINJA WHO ALREADY KNEW ALL THE ANSWERS.
AND, TO ENSURE THERE WOULD BE SUITABLE TARGETS FOR YOU TO CHEAT FROM, WE SNUCK IN A PAIR OF RINGERS.

IN OTHER WORDS, WE SET UP THE ASSUMPTION YOU'D CHEAT.
HMP.

IT TOOK ME FOREVER TO FIGURE OUT WHO THEY WERE!
OH, YEAH ME TOO
...

WHAT?
!
AW, MAN!!!

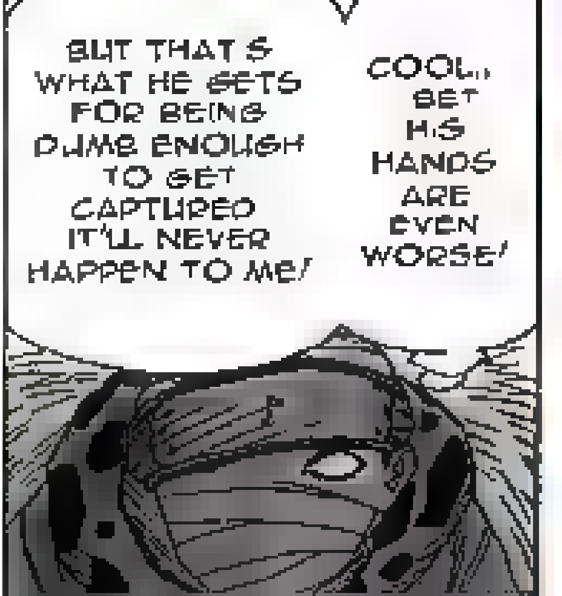
HA HA HA! YEAH! IT WAS OBVIOUS!!!
ANY IDIOT COULD TELL!

THAT FOOL HE HAD NO IDEA
RIGHT, HUHAHA?
I-RIGHT.

OF COURSE ANYONE WHO CHEAT ED IN A CLUMSY OR OBVIOUS WAY
FAILED
!


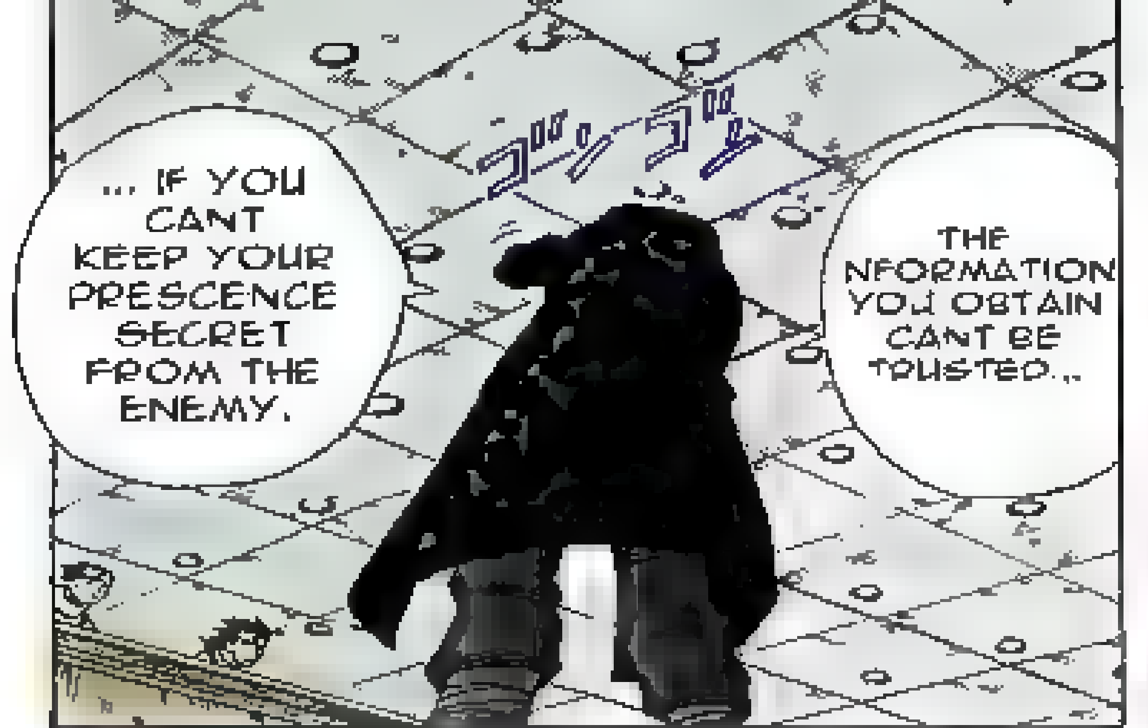
BECAUSE THERE MAY BE CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE BEING CAUGHT IN AN ACT OF ESPIONAGE CAN COST YOU MORE THAN JUST YOUR LIFE

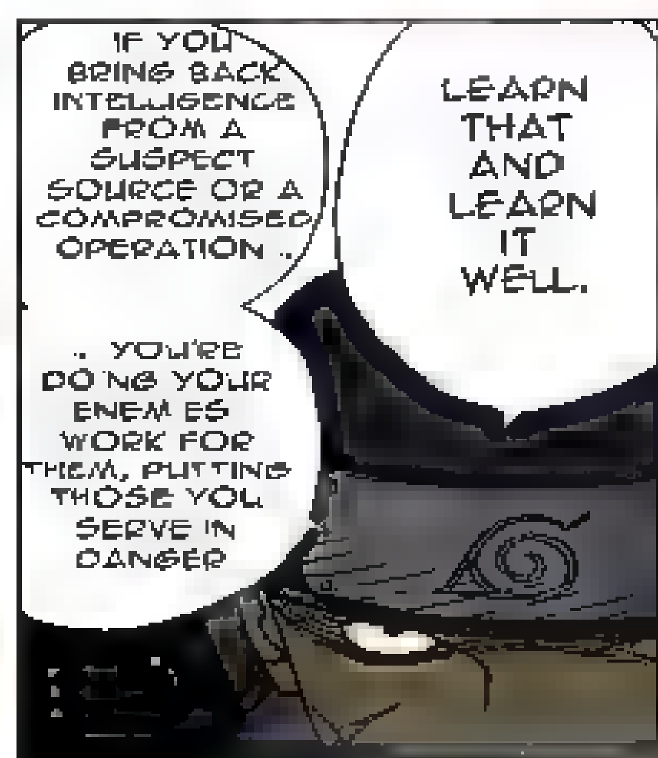
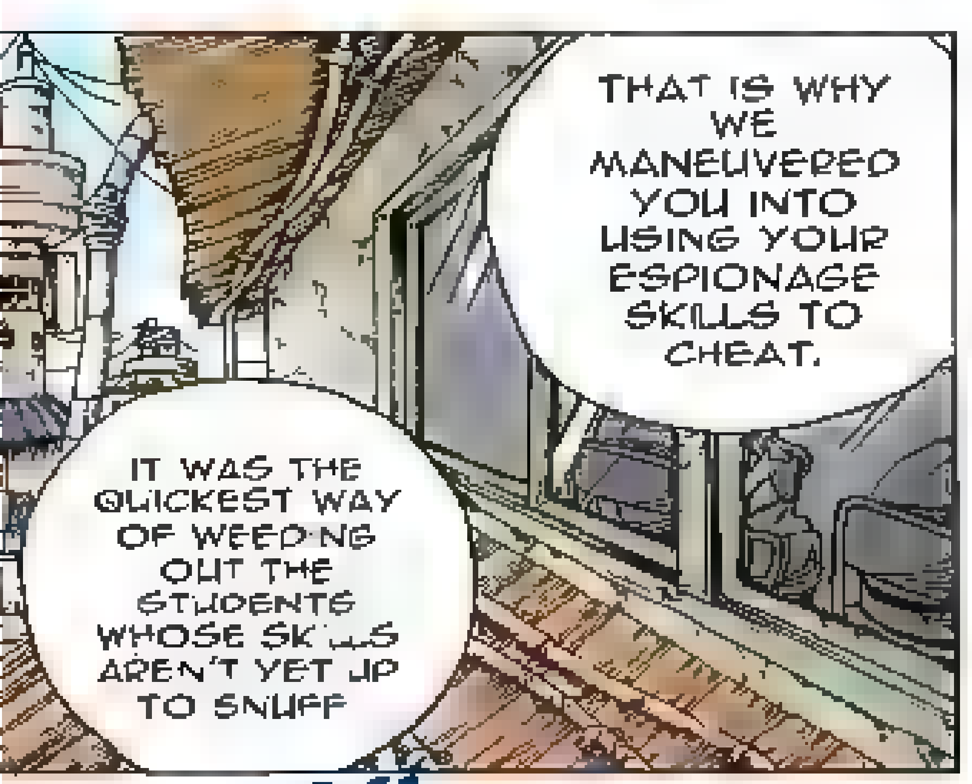
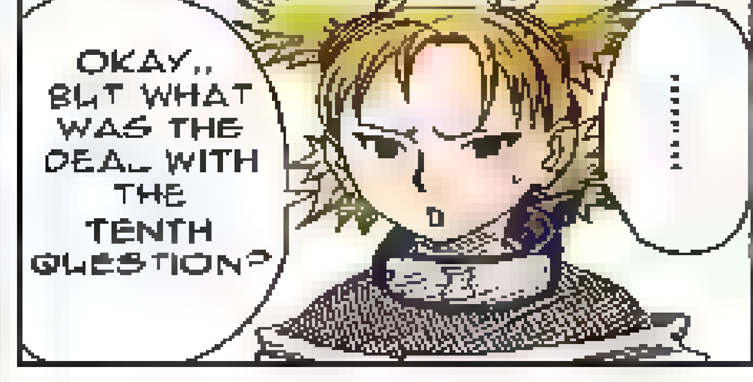
YOU PAY IN WAYS THAT CAN BE TAKEN FROM YOU LITTLE BY LITTLE, TIME AND TIME AGAIN, WHEN MANY LIVES HANG IN THE BALANCE.





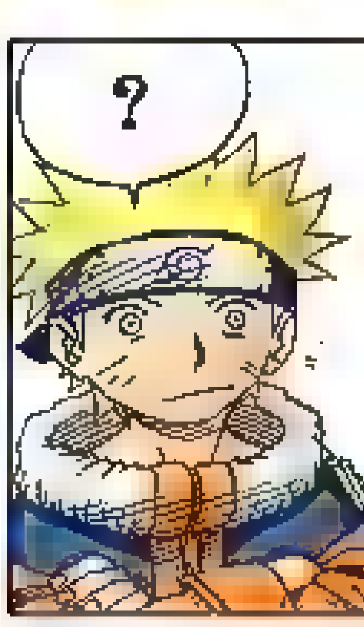


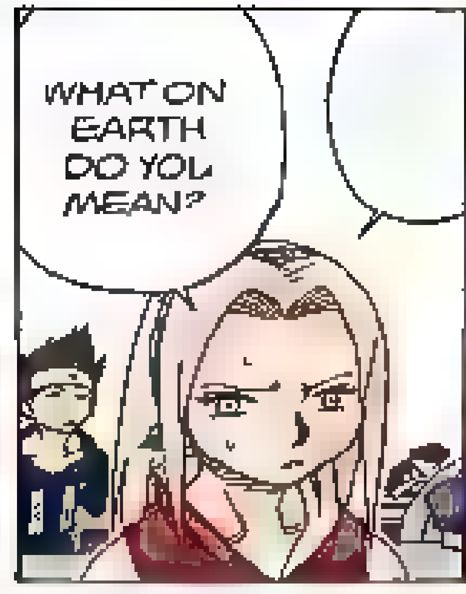

THE INFORMATION YOU OBTAIN CAN'T BE TRUSTED...
... IF YOU CAN'T KEEP YOUR PRESENCE SECRET FROM THE ENEMY.

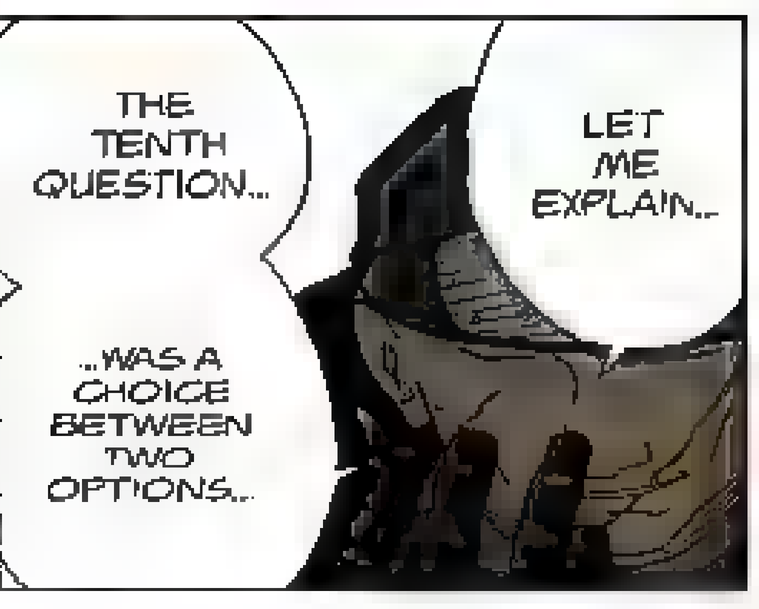
....

LEARN THAT AND LEARN IT WELL.
IF YOU BRING BACK INTELLIGENCE FROM A SUSPECT SOURCE OR A COMPROMISED OPERATION...
.. YOU'RE DOING YOUR ENEMIES WORK FOR THEM, PUTTING THOSE YOU SERVE IN DANGER

THAT IS WHY WE MANEUVERED YOU INTO USING YOUR ESPIONAGE SKILLS TO CHEAT.
IT WAS THE QUICKEST WAY OF WEEDING OUT THE STUDENTS WHOSE SKILLS AREN'T YET UP TO SNUFF

....
OKAY.. BUT WHAT WAS THE DEAL WITH THE TENTH QUESTION?

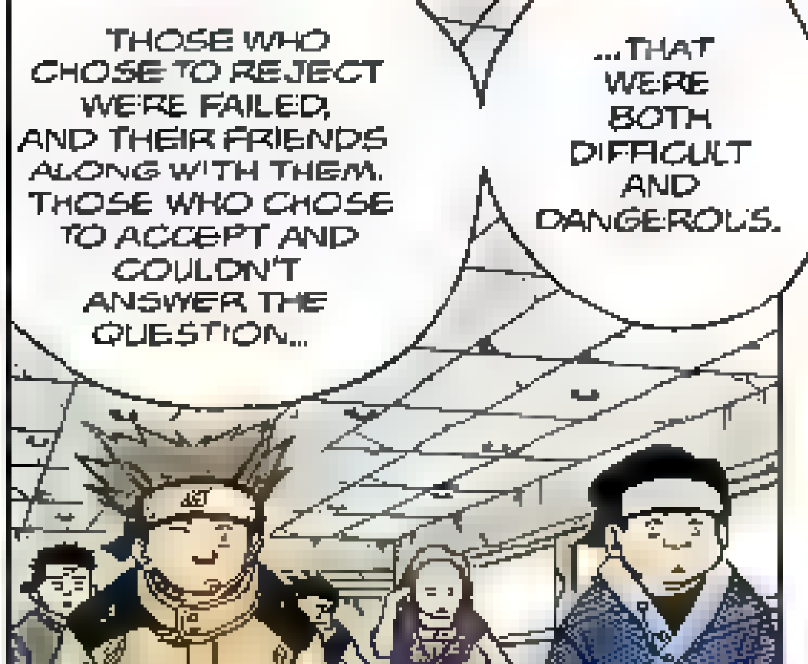

AH! THE TENTH QUESTION...

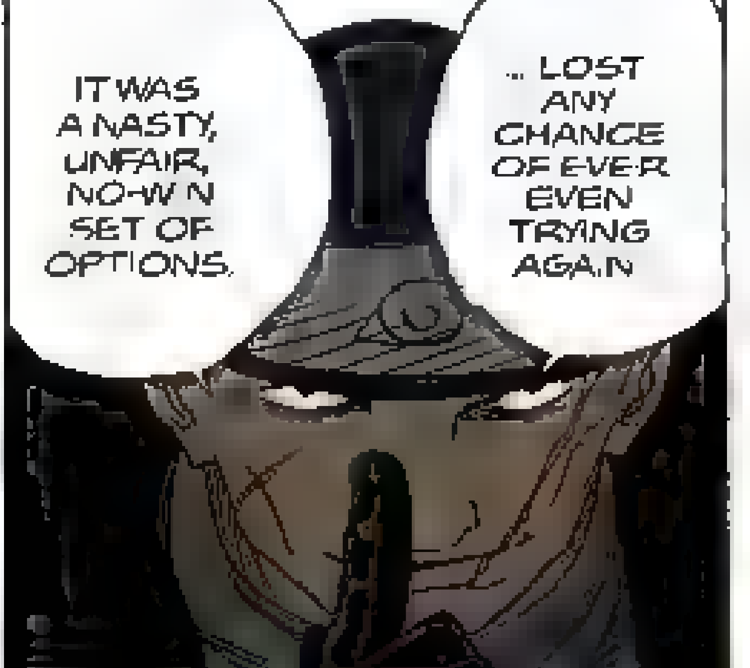
...WAS THE FIRST REAL TEST ON THE EXAM.



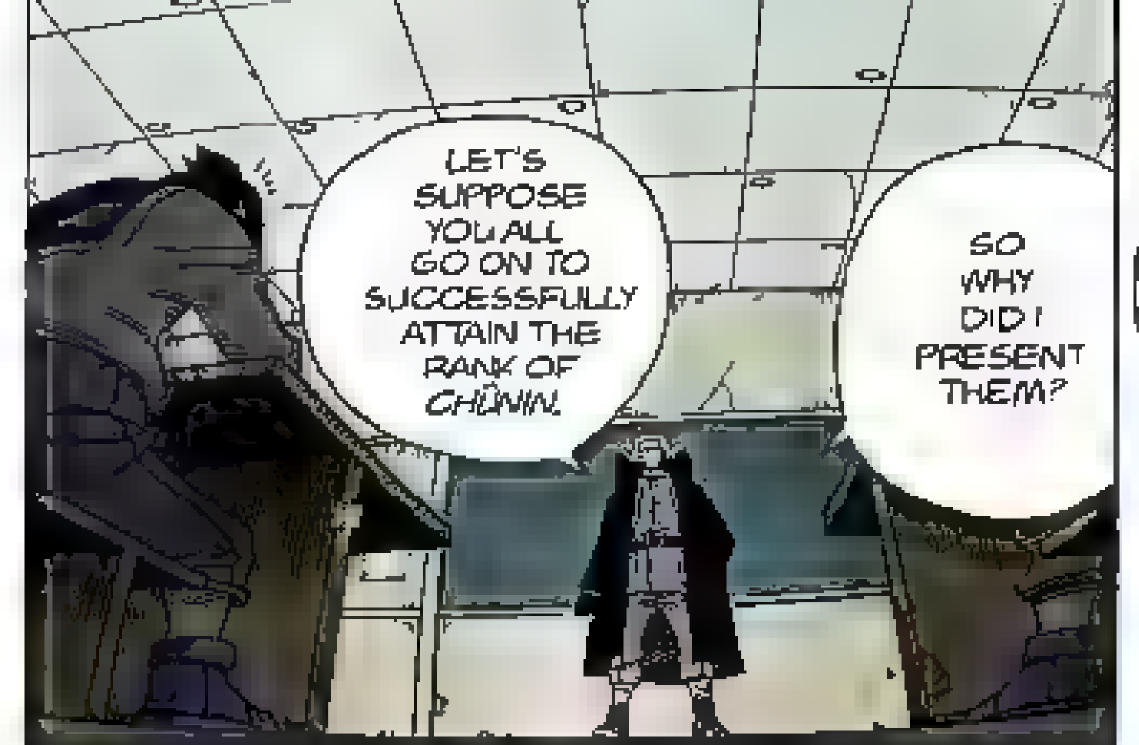


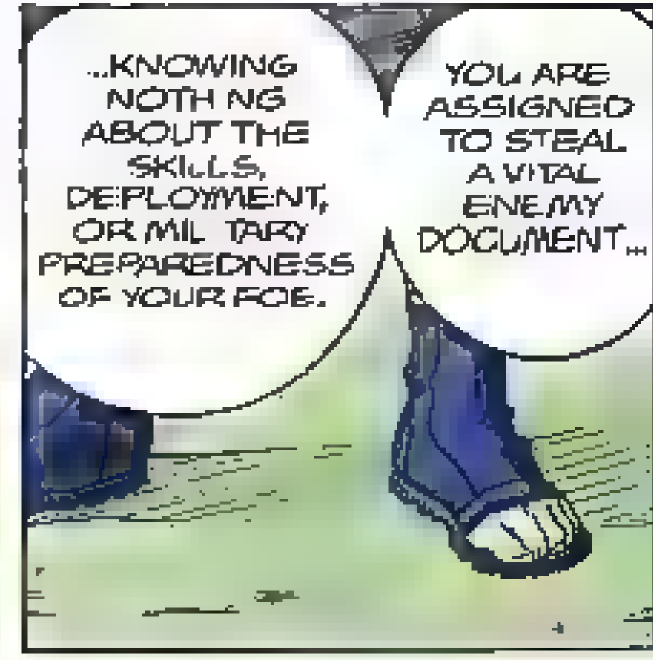


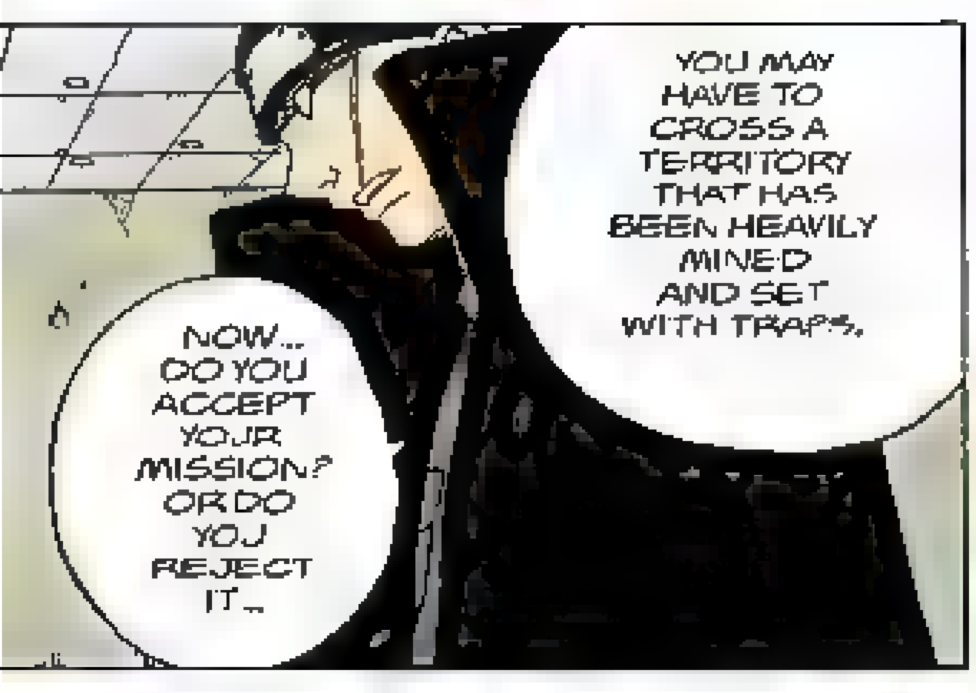


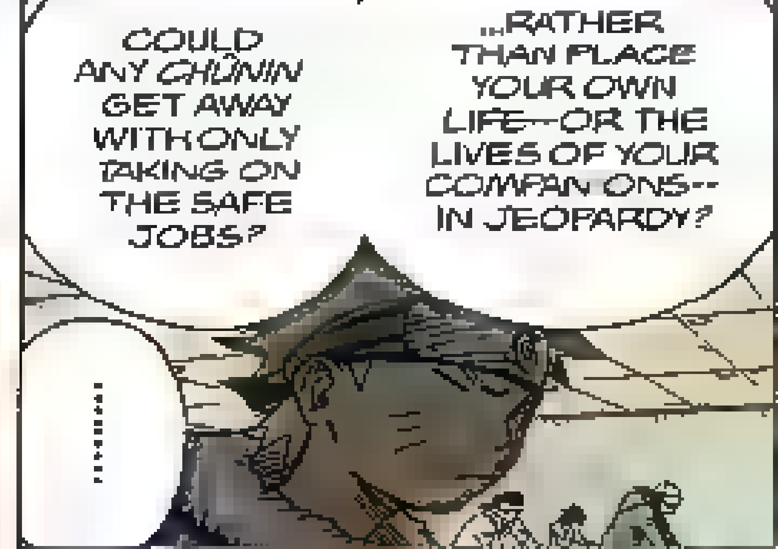



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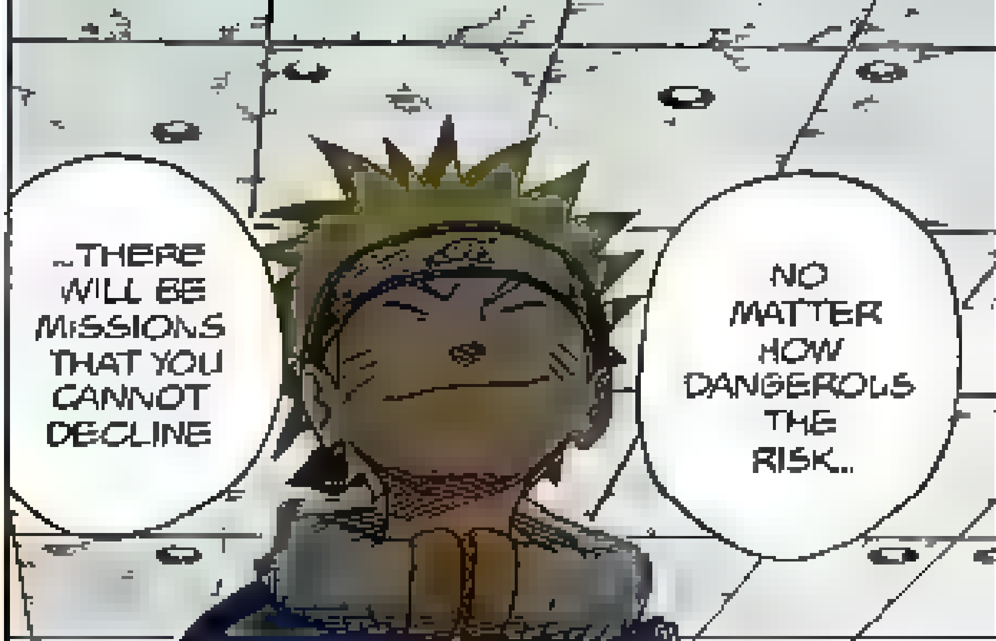

SO WHY DID I PRESENT THEM?
LET'S SUPPOSE YOU ALL GO ON TO SUCCESSFULLY ATTAIN THE RANK OF *CHŪNIN*.

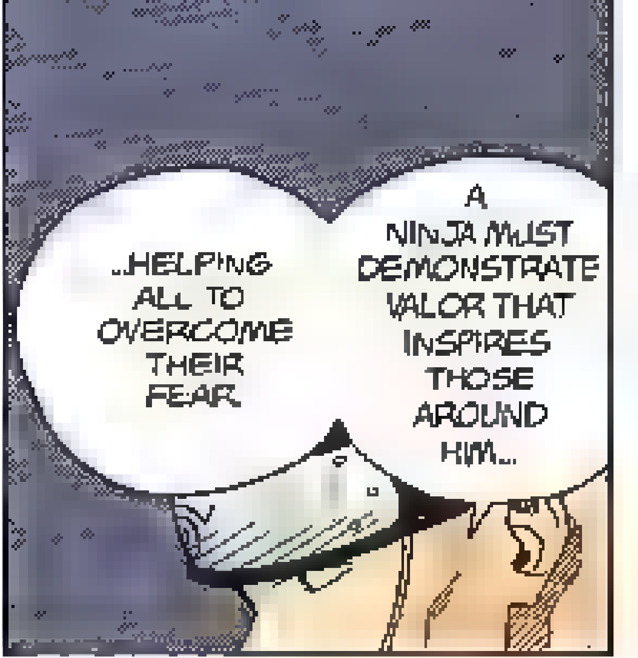

YOU ARE ASSIGNED TO STEAL A VITAL ENEMY DOCUMENT...
...KNOWING NOTH NG ABOUT THE SKILLS, DEPLOYMENT, OR MIL TARY PREPAREDNESS OF YOUR FOE.

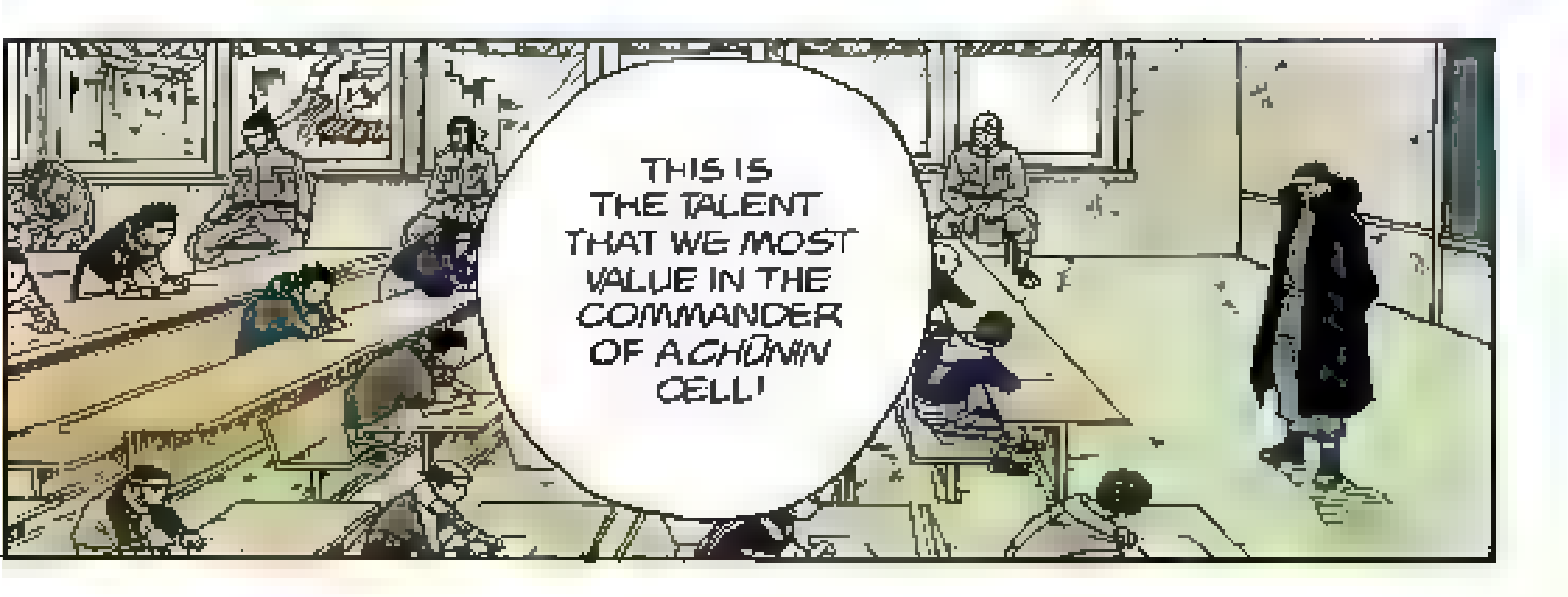

YOU MAY HAVE TO CROSS A TERRITORY THAT HAS BEEN HEAVILY MINED AND SET WITH TRAPS.
NOW... DO YOU ACCEPT YOUR MISSION? OR DO YOJ REJECT IT...

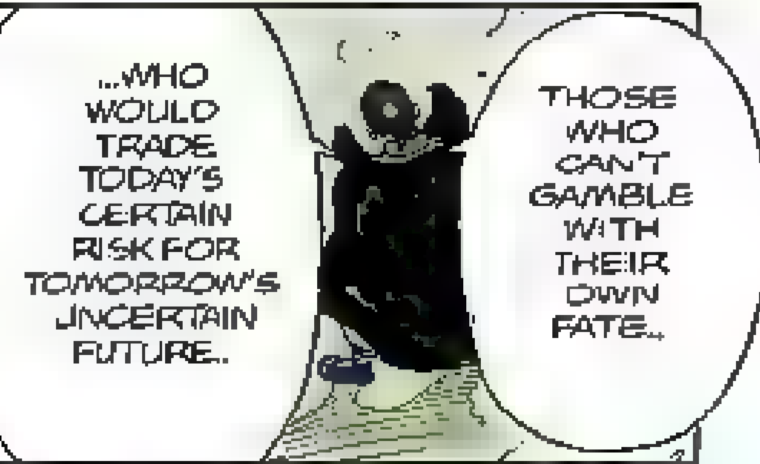

COULD ANY *CHŪNIN* GET AWAY WITH ONLY TAKING ON THE SAFE JOBS?
...RATHER THAN PLACE YOUR OWN LIFE--OR THE LIVES OF YOUR COMPAN ONS--IN JEOPARDY?
....


OF COURSE NOT!

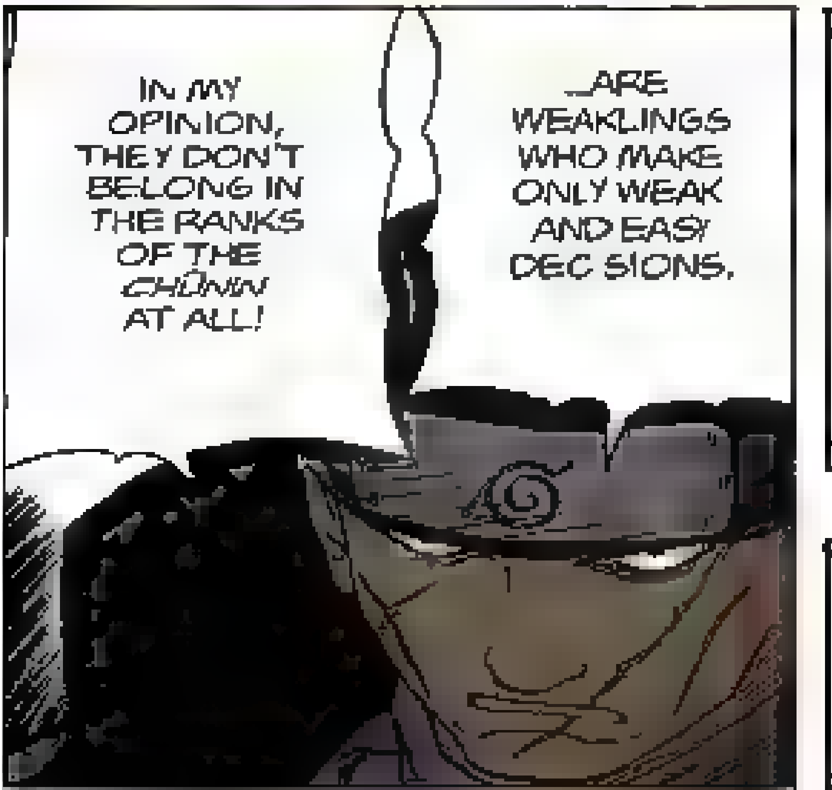

NO MATTER HOW DANGEROUS THE RISK..
..THERE WILL BE MISSIONS THAT YOU CANNOT DECLINE


A NINJA MUST DEMONSTRATE VALOR THAT INSPIRES THOSE AROUND HIM..
..HELPING ALL TO OVERCOME THEIR FEAR


THIS IS THE TALENT THAT WE MOST VALUE IN THE COMMANDER OF A CHŪNIN CELL!


THOSE WHO CAN'T GAMBLE WITH THEIR OWN FATE..
...WHO WOULD TRADE TODAY'S CERTAIN RISK FOR TOMORROW'S UNCERTAIN FUTURE..


.. NEVER TAKING THE CHANCE THAT LIES BEFORE THEM..


..ARE WEAKLINGS WHO MAKE ONLY WEAK AND EASY DECISIONS.
IN MY OPINION, THEY DON'T BELONG IN THE RANKS OF THE CHŪNIN AT ALL!

UNDERESTIMATE ME!!

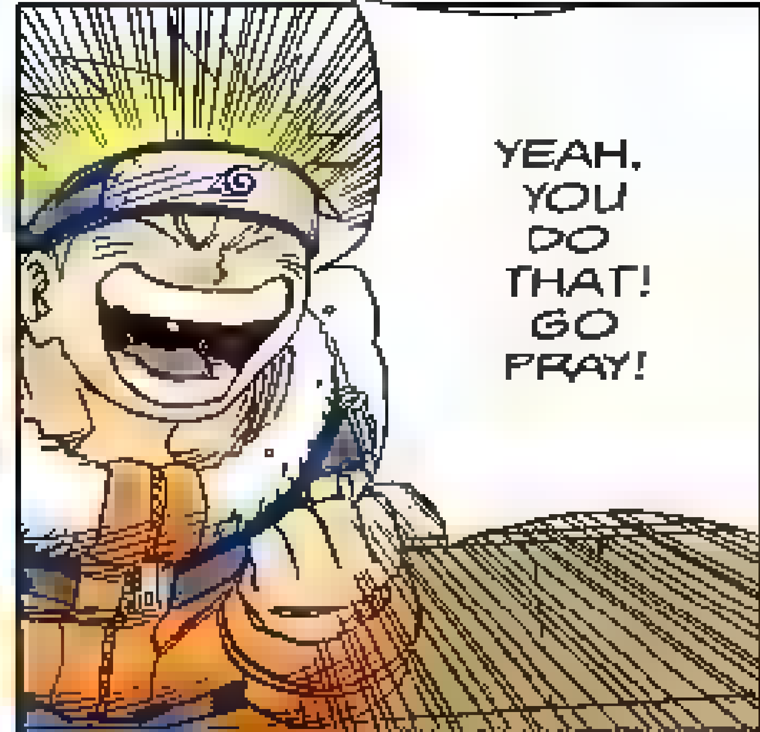
BY CHOOSING TO ACCEPT...

...YOU ANSWERED THE ALMOST-INSOLUBLE TENTH QUESTION CORRECTLY.

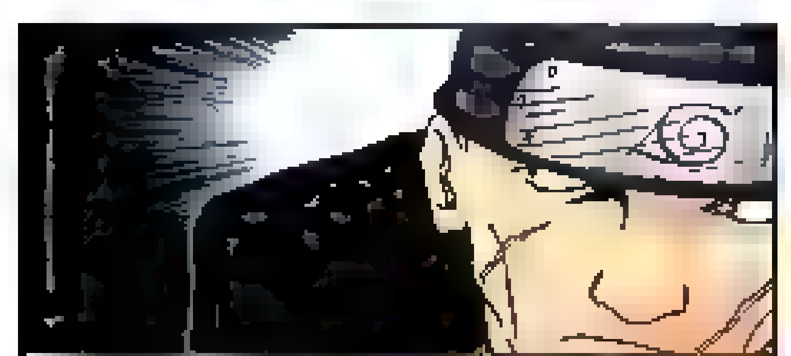
IF YOU KEEP THAT SPIRIT, YOU CAN PROBABLY CONQUER ALL OF THE MANY DOUBTS AND DIFFICULTIES YOU'LL FACE.

YOU'VE PASSED THE FIRST HURDLE. PART ONE OF THE *CHŪNIN* SELECTION EXAM IS NOW CONCLUDED.

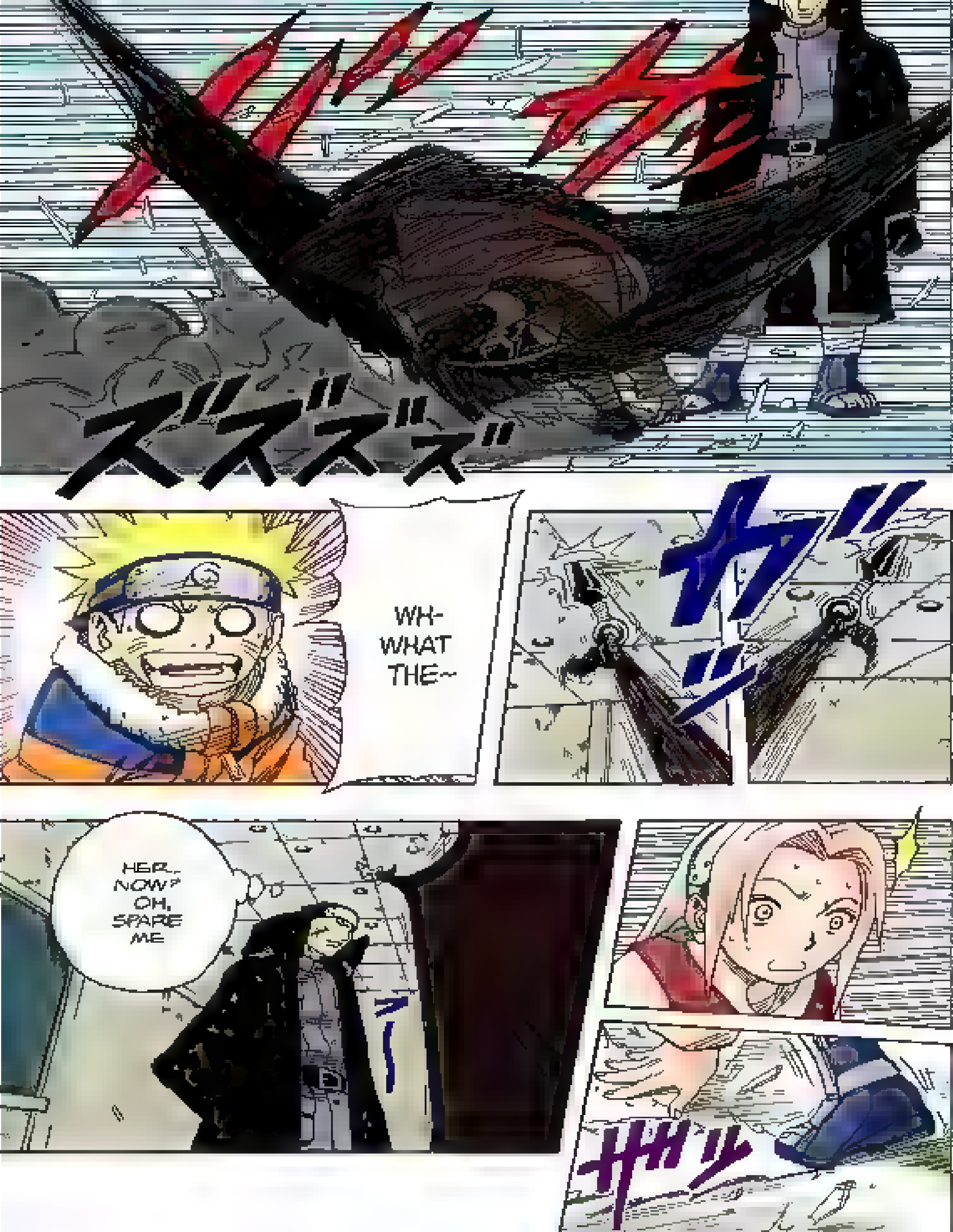
I'LL PRAY YOU FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT!








!!
!!
WHA-?!!


ズズズズ
ガッ
WH- WHAT THE~
ザッ
HER... NOW? OH, SPARE ME

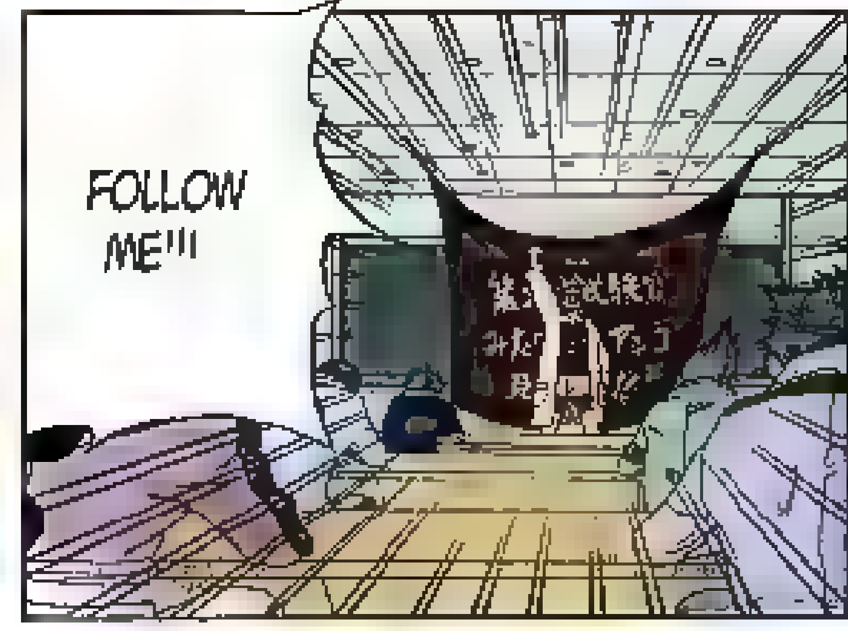
NEWLY ARRIVED SECOND CHIEF COMMAND OFFICER

NONE OF YOU ARE IN ANY POSITION TO CELEBRATE.

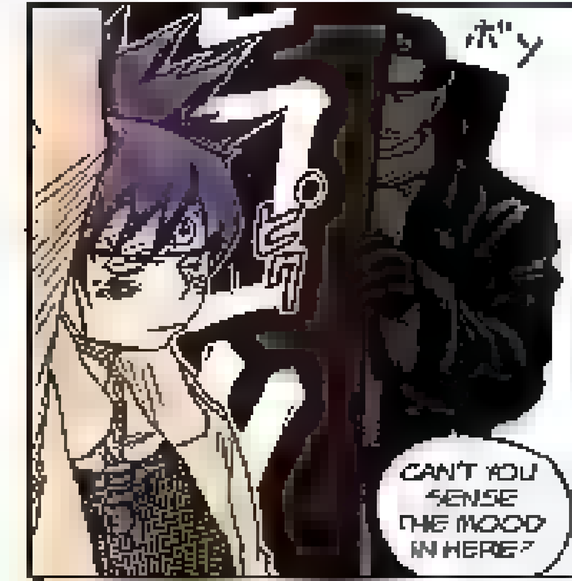
I AM THE SECOND CHIEF EXAMINATION OFFICER...

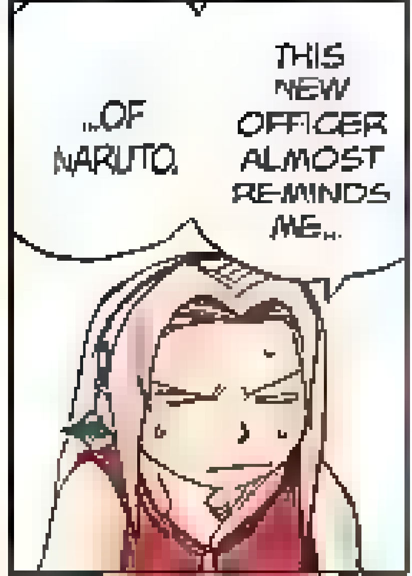
...MITARASHI ANKO!!

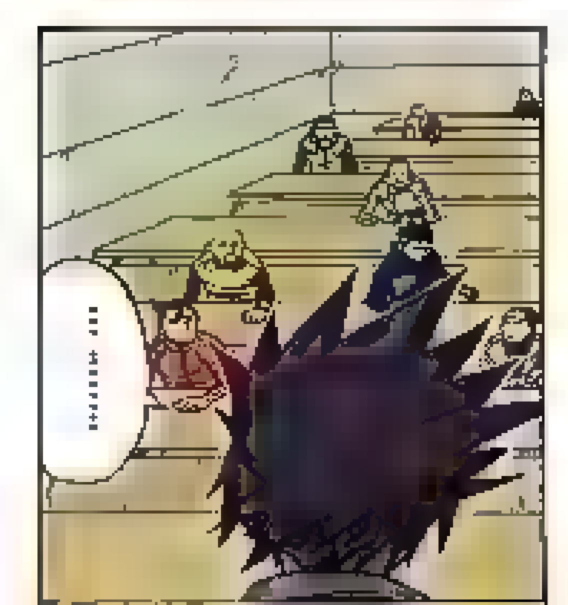
TIME'S A-WASTIN', PEOPLE. LET'S GO!





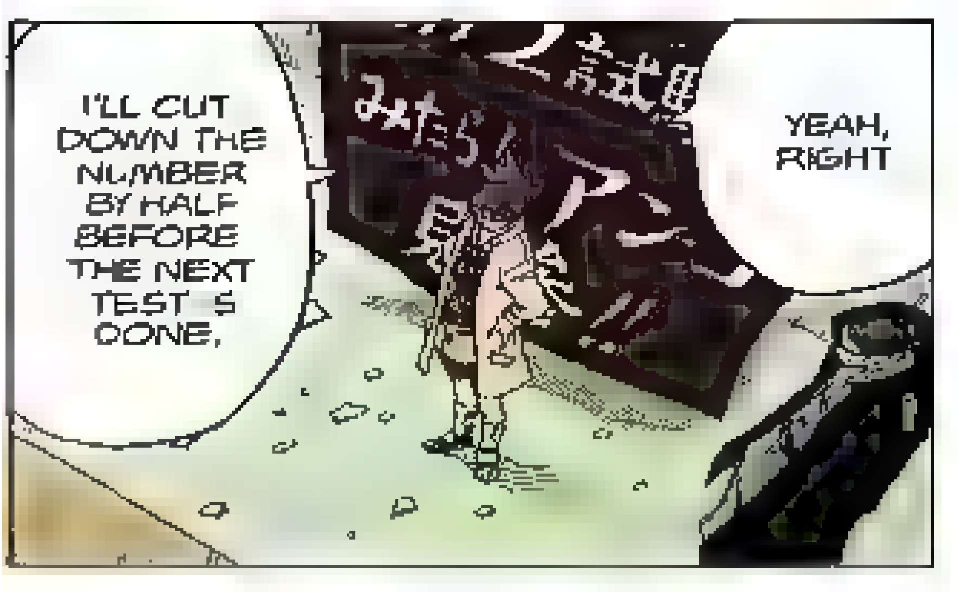


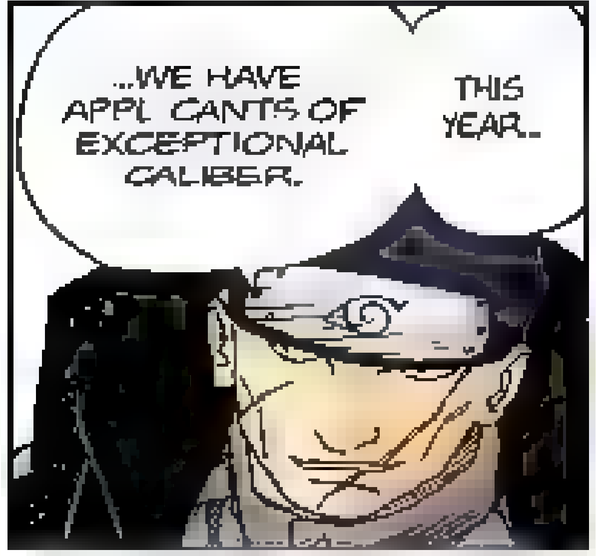


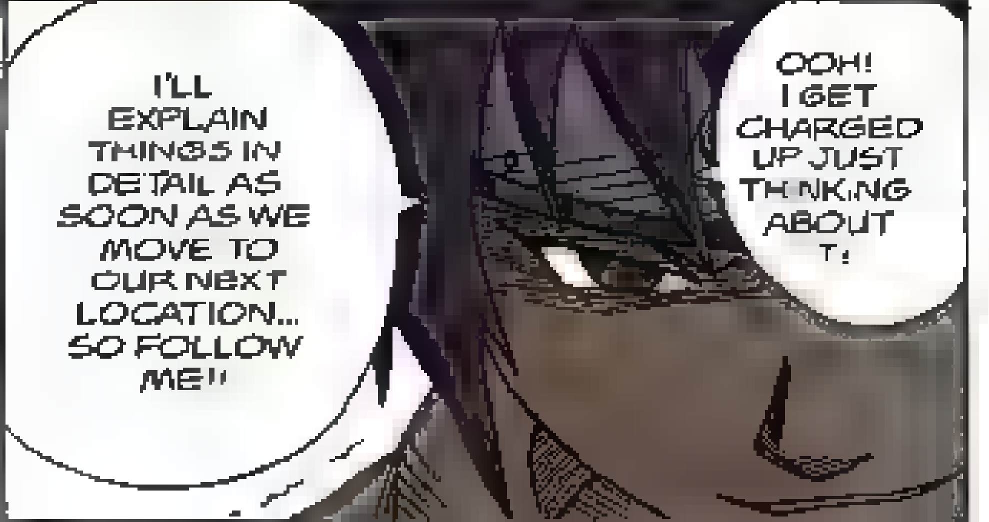


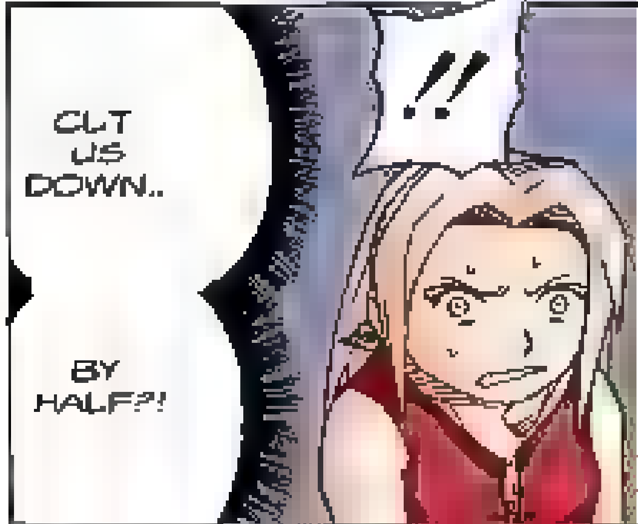

OBVIOUSLY YOU WENT WAY TOO EASY ON THEM.

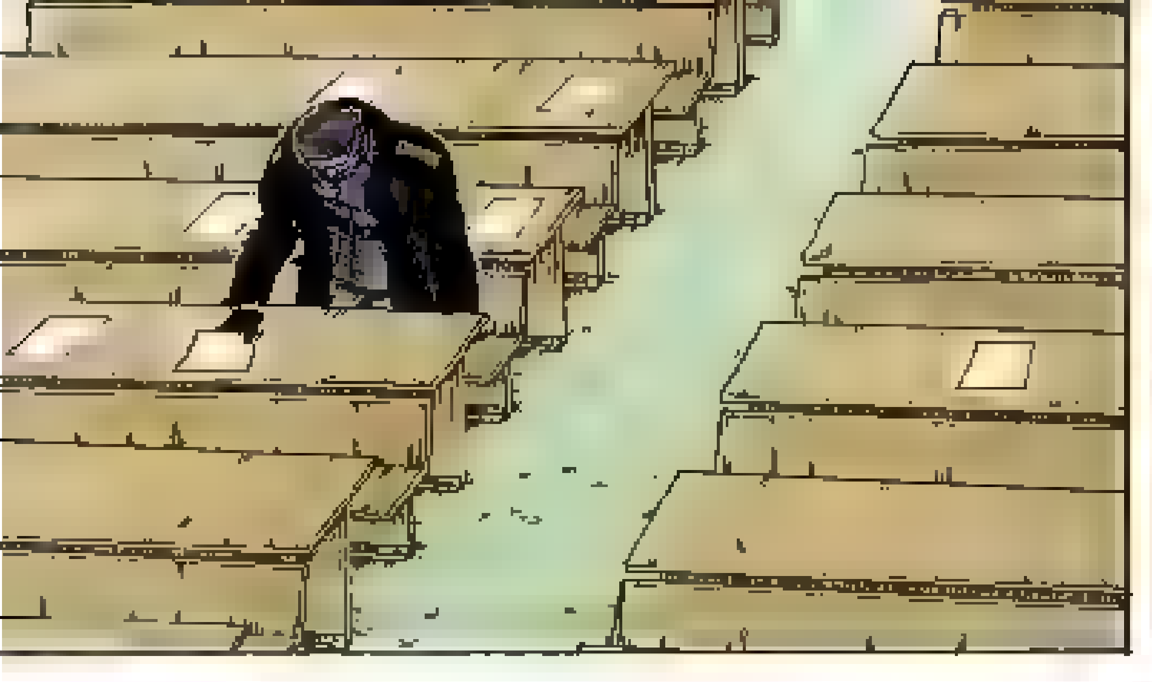

SEVENTY-EIGHT OF YOU ARE STILL HERE?!
IBIKI! YOU PASSED TWENTY-SIX TEAMS?!

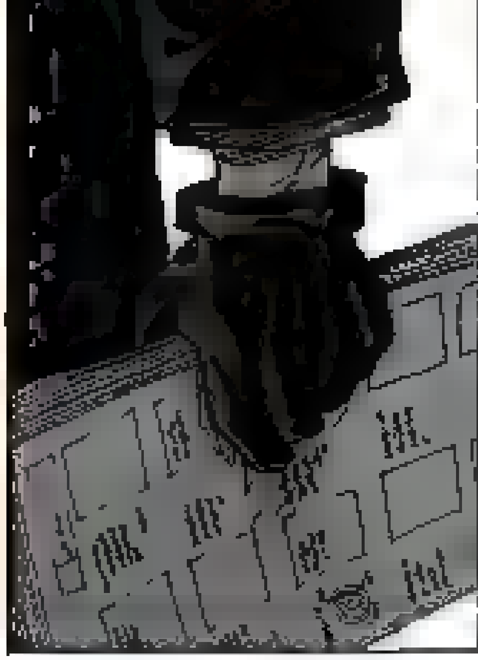

YEAH, RIGHT
I'LL CUT DOWN THE NUMBER BY HALF BEFORE THE NEXT TEST IS DONE.

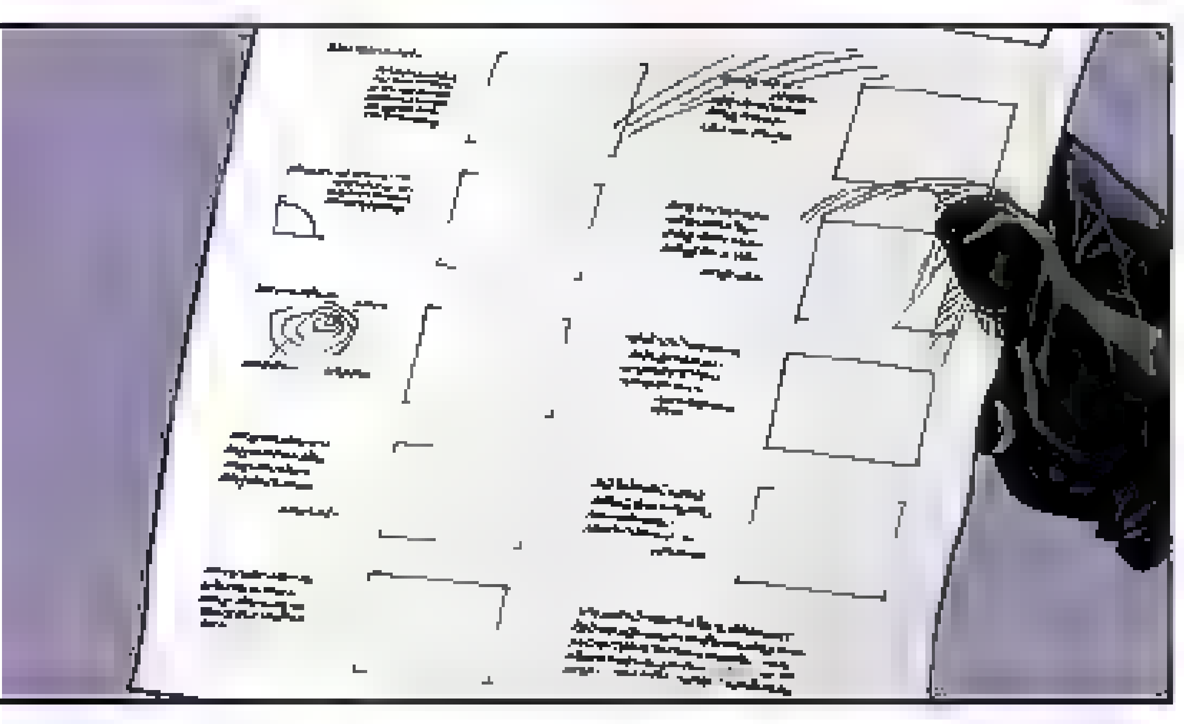

THIS YEAR..
...WE HAVE APPLICANTS OF EXCEPTIONAL CALIBER.

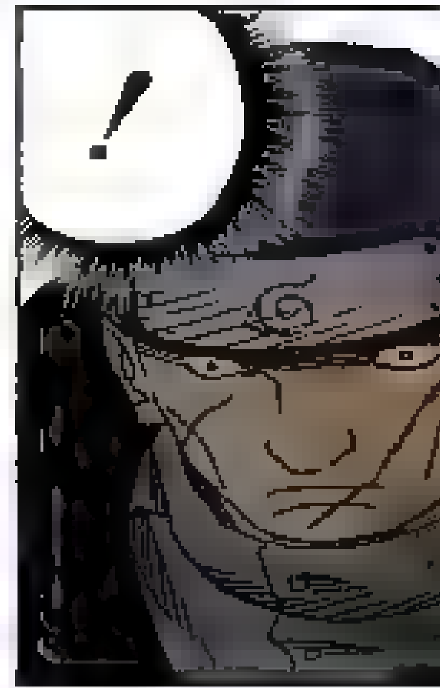

OOH! I GET CHARGED UP JUST THINKING ABOUT IT!
I'LL EXPLAIN THINGS IN DETAIL AS SOON AS WE MOVE TO OUR NEXT LOCATION... SO FOLLOW ME!!


!!
CUT US DOWN..
BY HALF?!









!





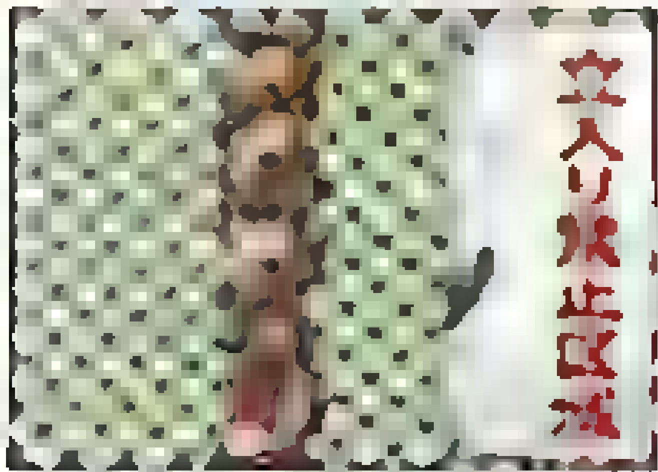
UZUMAKI NARUTO... IS A VERY INTRUIGING YOUNG MAN
HE'S THE KIND OF PERSON WHO THINKS HE CAN PASS THE EXAM W TH A COMPLETELY BLANK ANSWER SHEET



HUH.


FOREST OF DEATH!!

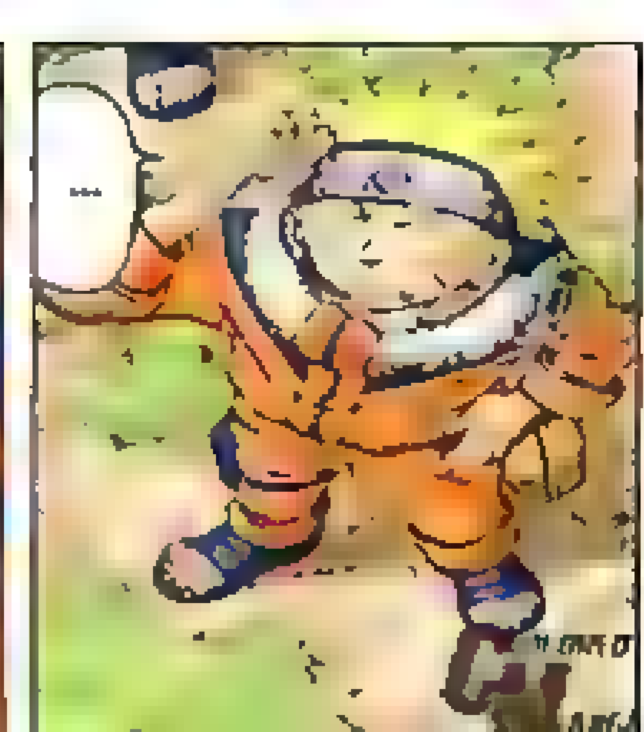

ゴク…

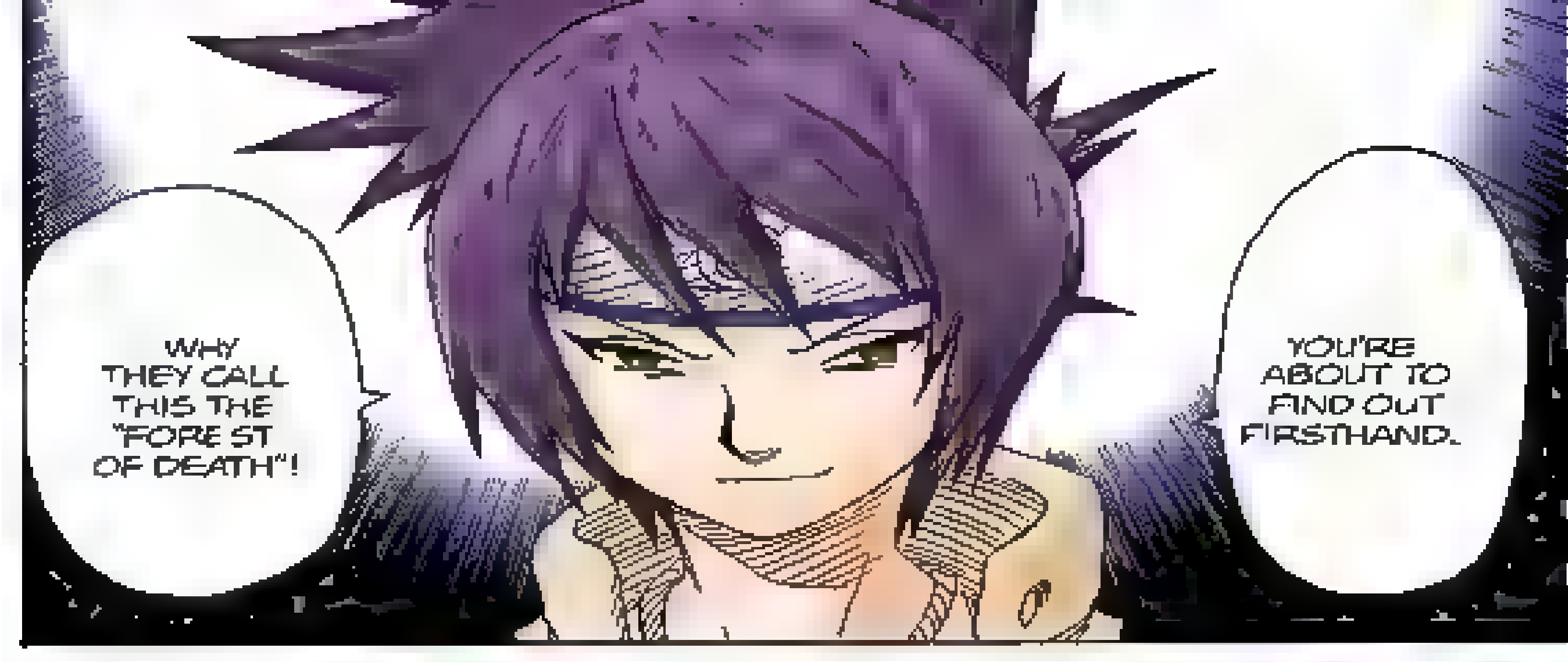

立入り禁止区域

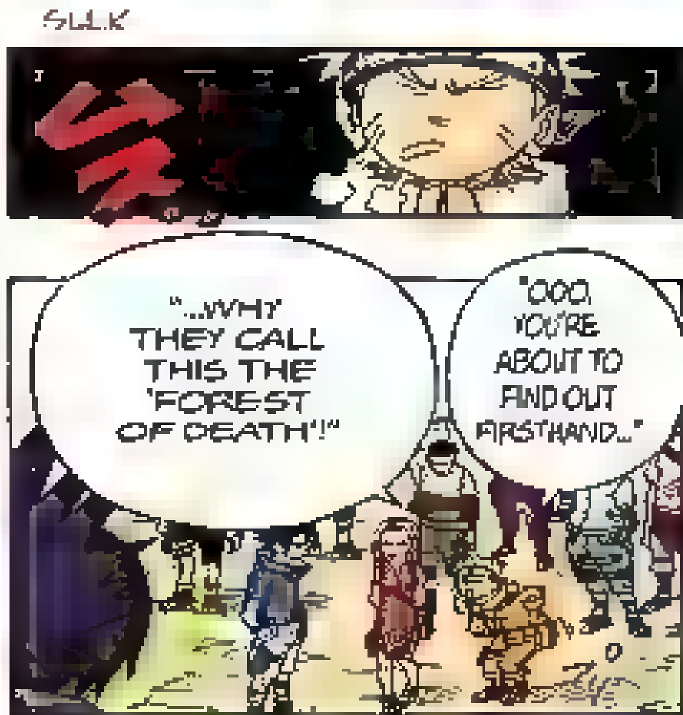
45：第二の試験!!

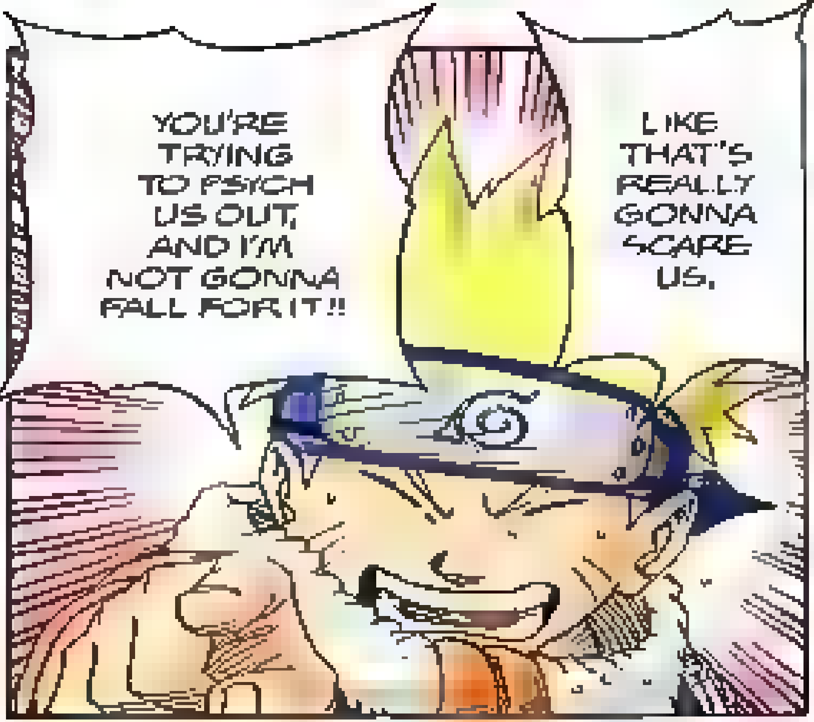
THE SECOND EXAM!!






YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT FIRSTHAND.
WHY THEY CALL THIS THE "FOREST OF DEATH"!

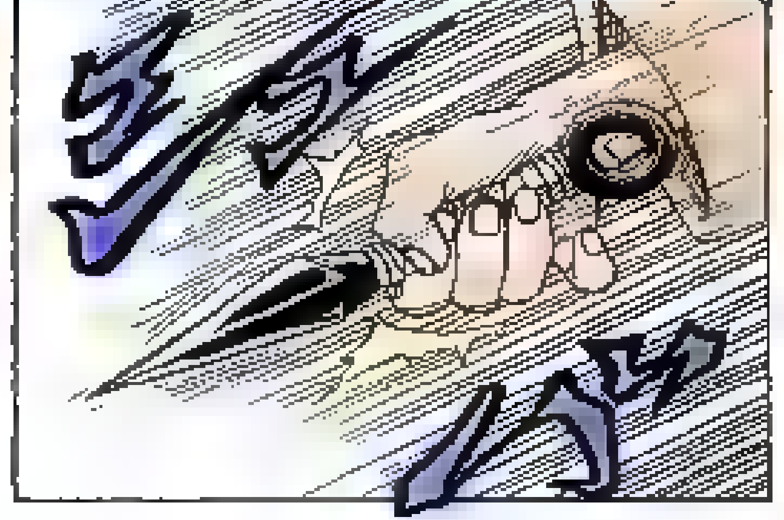

SULK
"OOO, YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT FIRSTHAND..."
"...WHY THEY CALL THIS THE 'FOREST OF DEATH'!"


LIKE THAT'S REALLY GONNA SCARE US.
YOU'RE TRYING TO PSYCH US OUT, AND I'M NOT GONNA FALL FOR IT!!


VA-VOOM
SHING

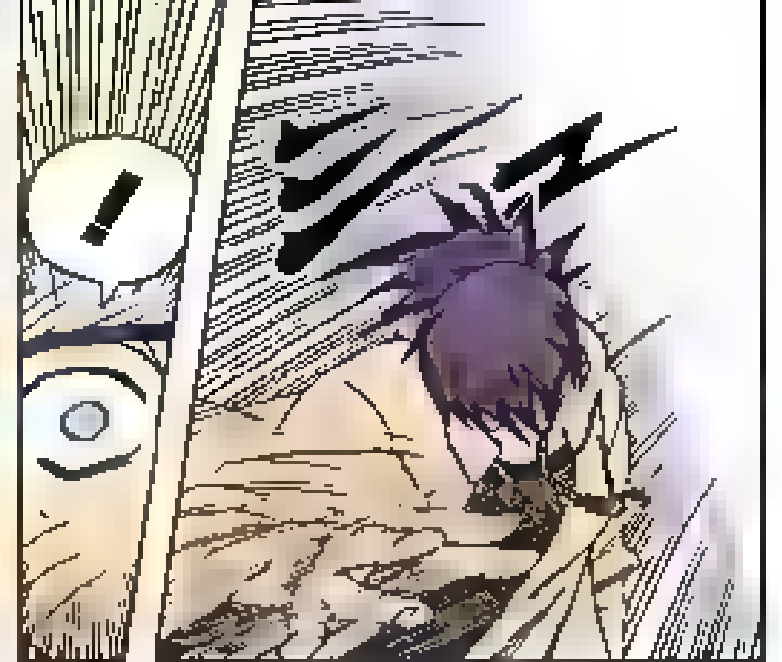

OH, REALLY?
YOU'RE PRETTY COCKY, HUH?



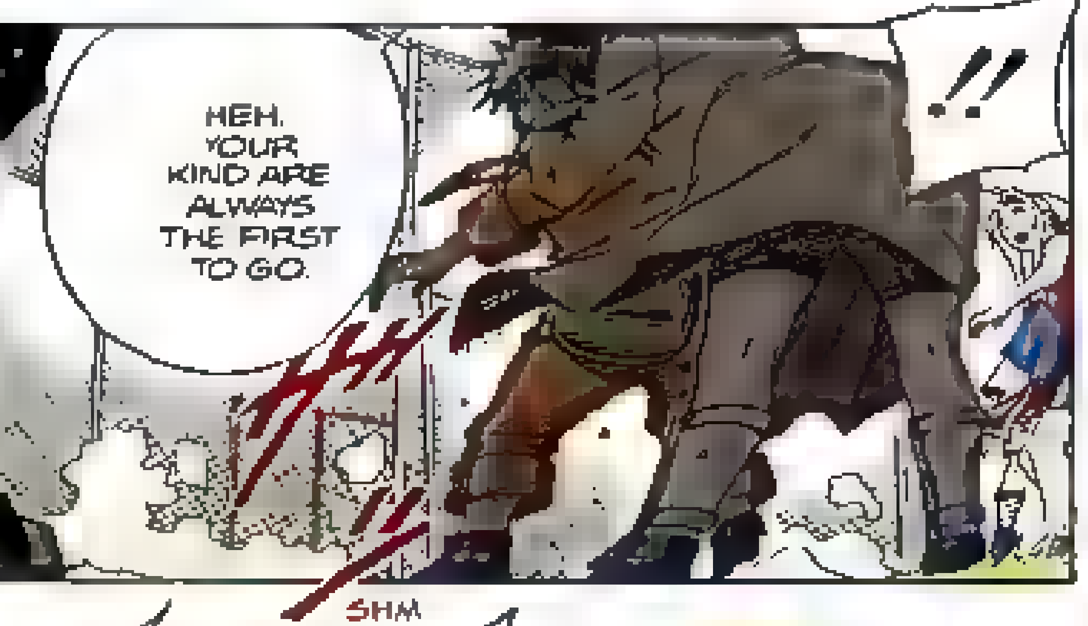

FWAP


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TAK


!


SHF

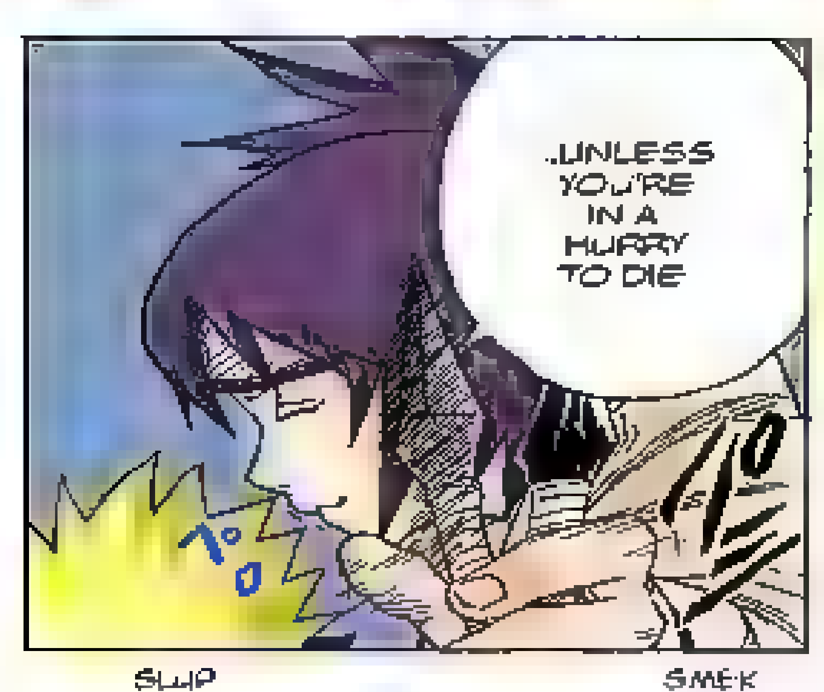
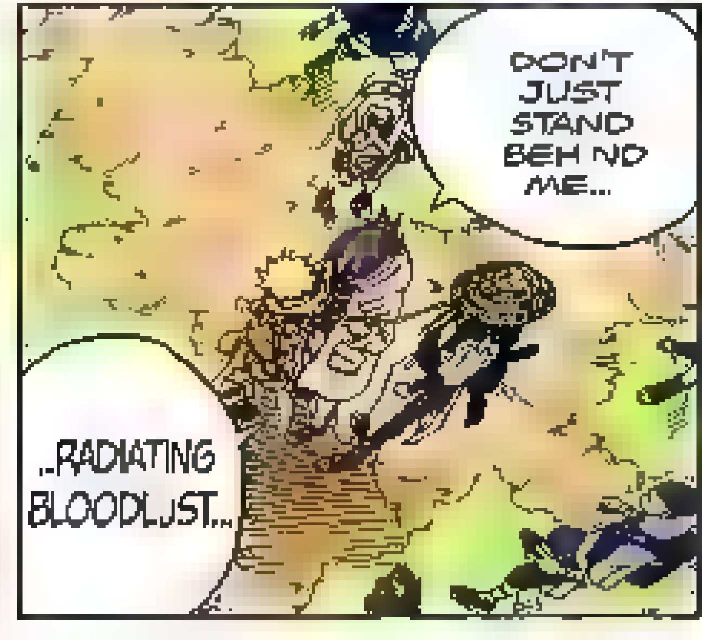

HEH. YOUR KIND ARE ALWAYS THE FIRST TO GO.
!!
SHM

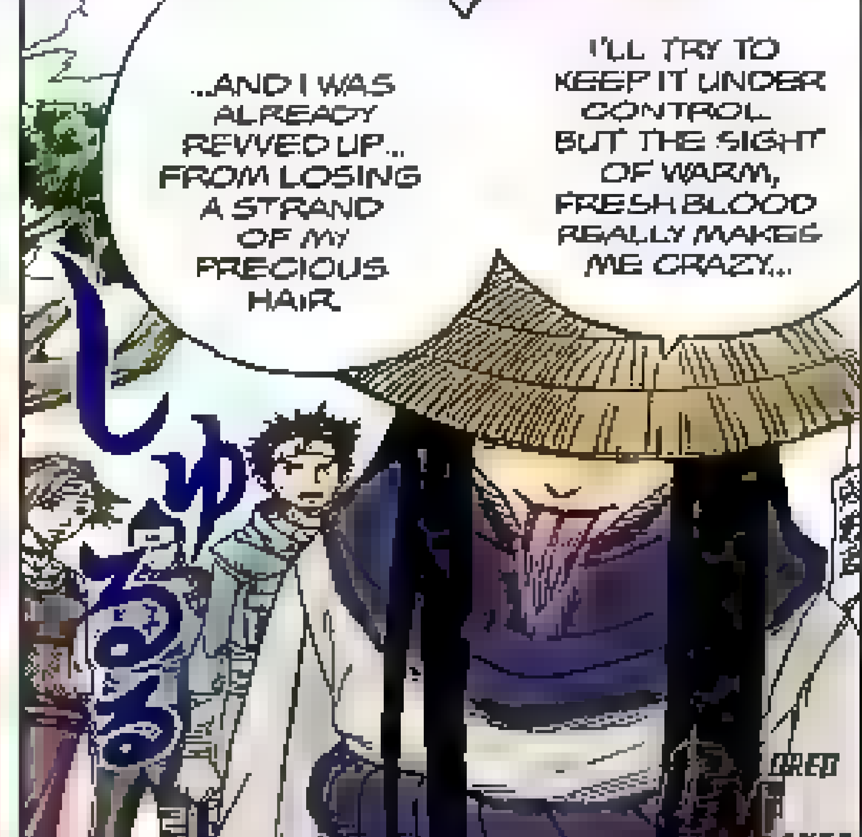
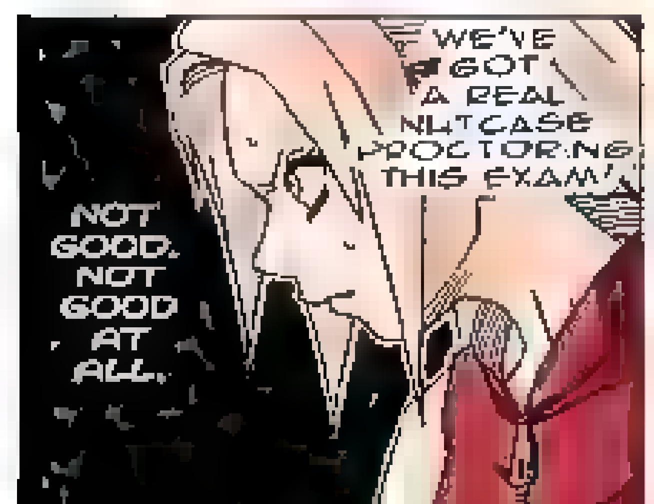



!!


SPILL NG ALL THAT RICH, RED, LOVELY, LUSCIOUS BLOOD...
PLIT
LAP


YOUR KUNAI KNIFE...
I BELIEVE YOU DROPPED IT.
SHLUGK
GEE... THANKS.


GRRRR
SLUP

..UNLESS YOU'RE IN A HURRY TO DIE
SLUP
SMEK

DON'T JUST STAND BEHIND ME...
..RADIATING BLOODLUST...

...
N-NARUTO..
SHLUGK

I'LL TRY TO KEEP IT UNDER CONTROL BUT THE SIGHT OF WARM, FRESH BLOOD REALLY MAKES ME CRAZY...
..AND I WAS ALREADY REVVED UP... FROM LOSING A STRAND OF MY PRECIOUS HAIR.
しゅるる

WE'VE GOT A REAL NUTCASE PROCTORING THIS EXAM!
NOT GOOD. NOT GOOD AT ALL.

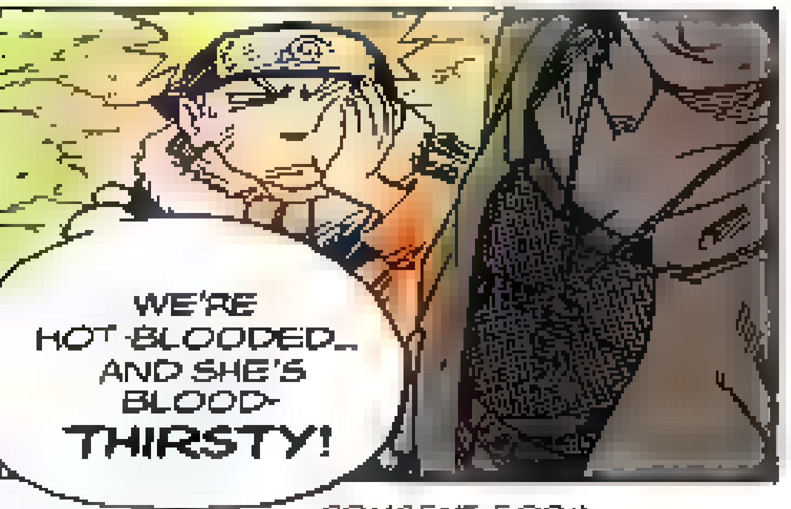
SORRY ABOUT THAT.

AND THIS OTHER GUY...

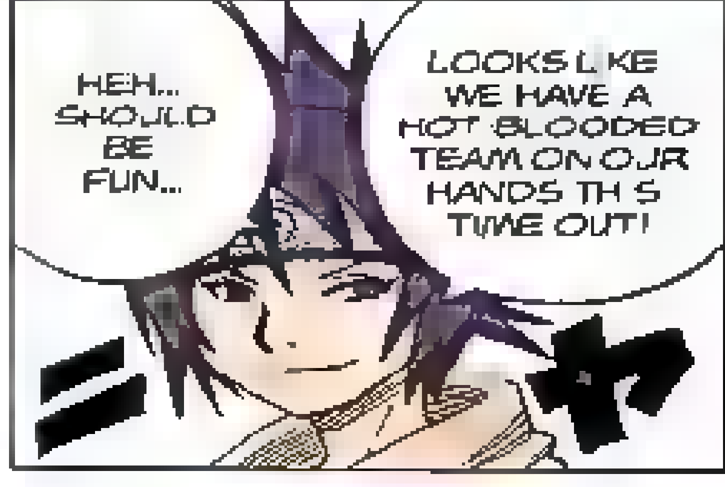
WHAT'S UP WITH THE BIG, FREAKISH TONGUE?

SHHF

* THE CHARACTER ON THE LOINCLOTH READS "CRIME"



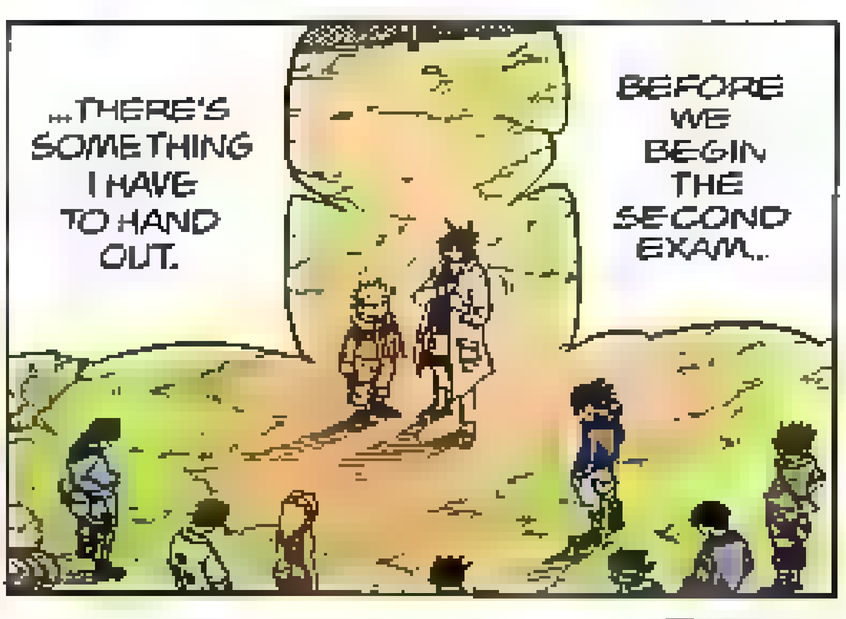
CONSENT FORM



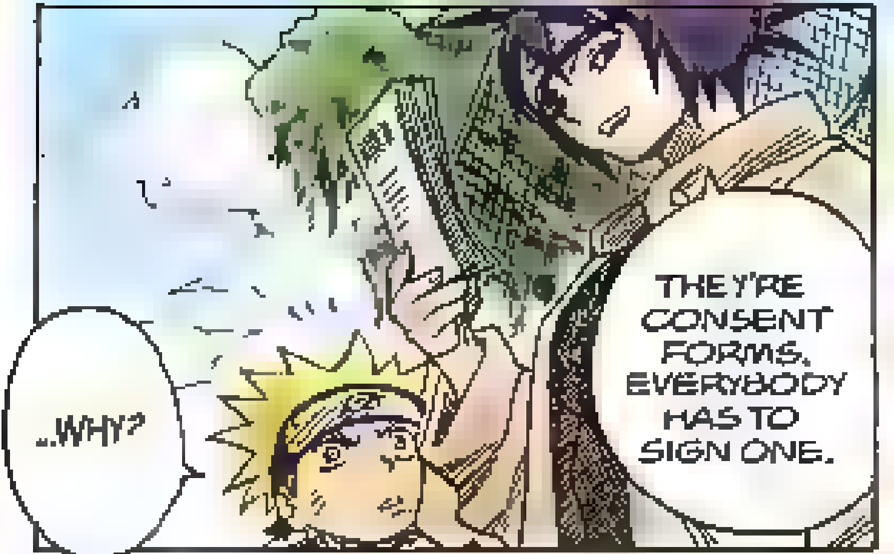


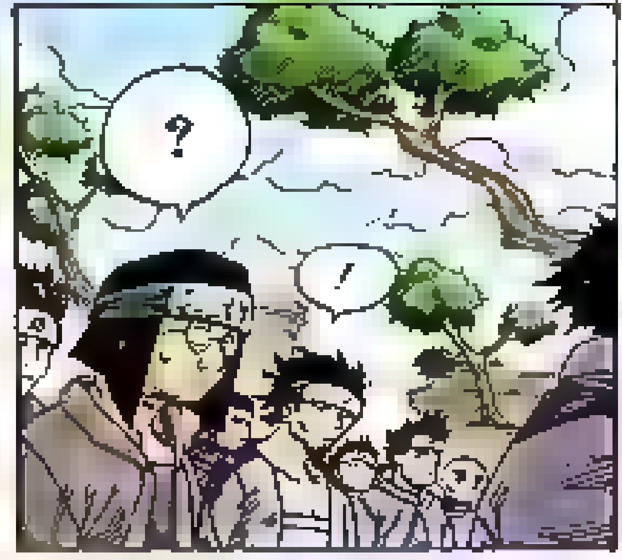


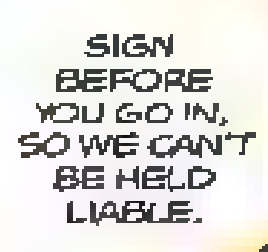
FLAP







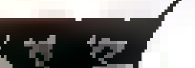




SIGN BEFORE YOU GO IN, SO WE CAN'T BE HELD LIABLE.

YOU WOULDN'T WANT ME TO GET IN TROUBLE, WOULD YOU?♡

WE WANT ALL THE DETAILS COVERED BEFORE THE FIRST DEATHS OCCUR.



HA

FIRST, I'LL EXPLAIN WHAT THE SECOND EXAM ENTAILS.

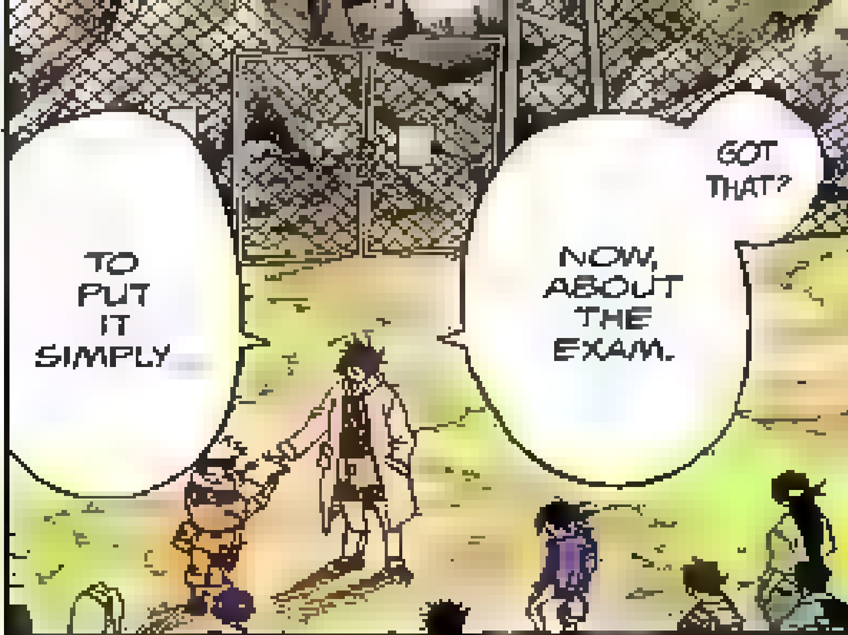
THEN YOU CAN SIGN THE FORMS.

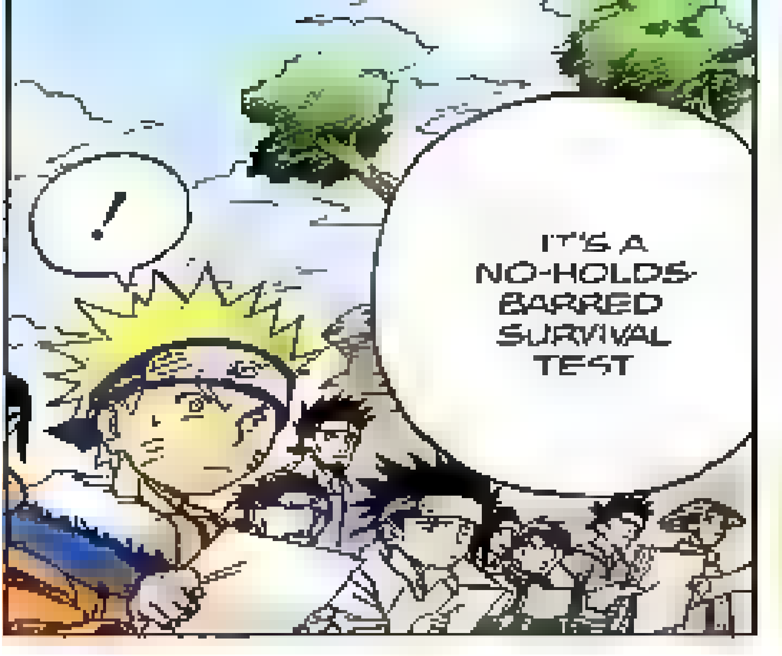
WITH THE OTHER TWO MEMBERS OF YOUR CELL, BRING THE FORMS TO THE HUT BEHIND YOU AND SUBMIT THEM.

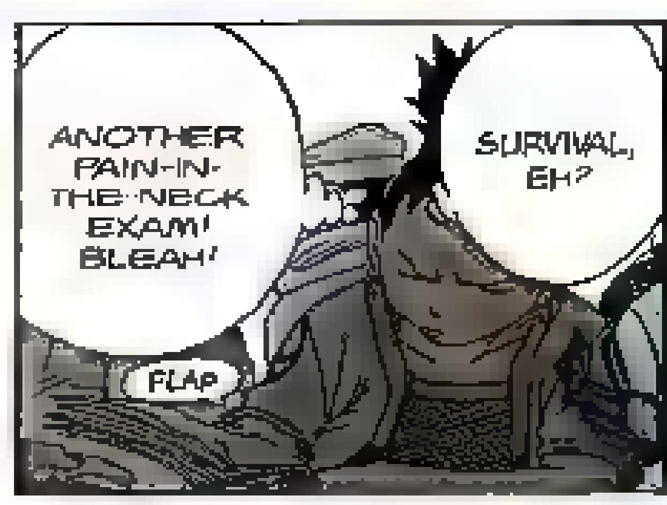


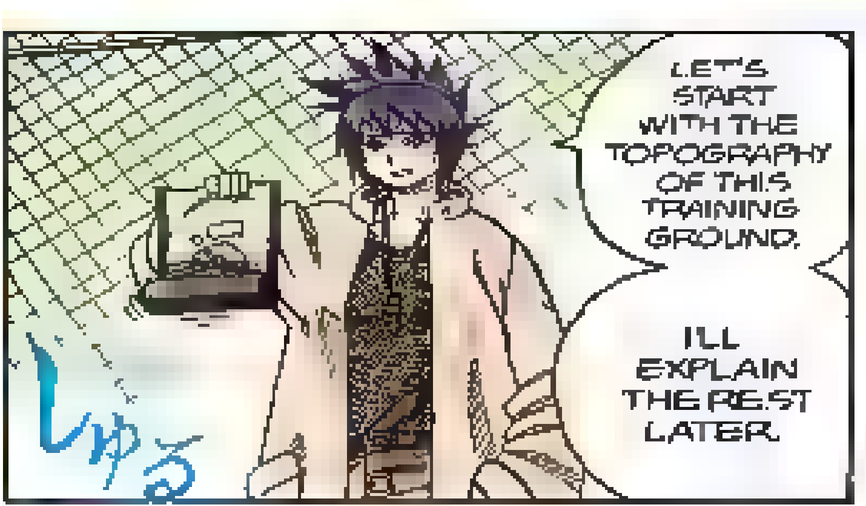





GOT THAT?
NOW, ABOUT THE EXAM.
TO PUT IT SIMPLY...

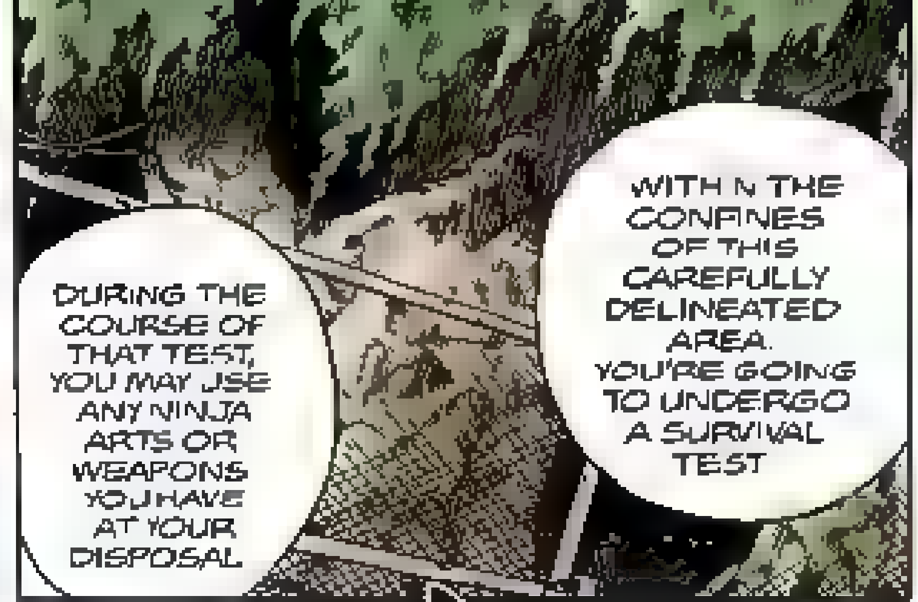

IT'S A NO-HOLDS-BARRED SURVIVAL TEST
!

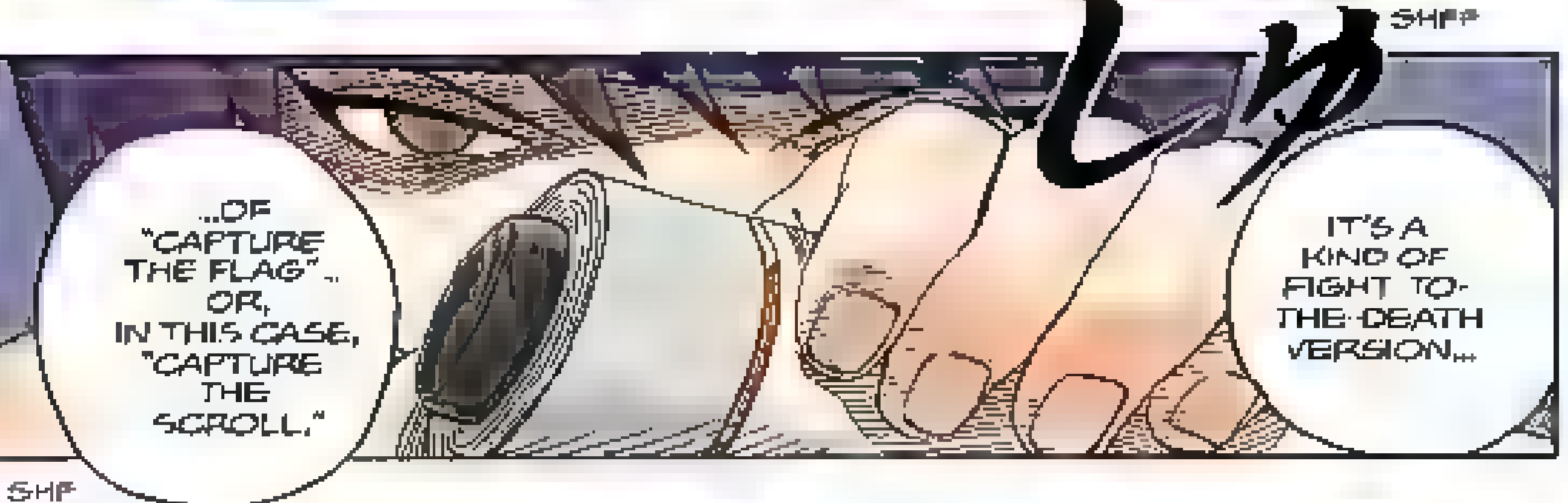

SURVIVAL, EH?
ANOTHER PAIN-IN-THE-NECK EXAM! BLEAH!
FLAP

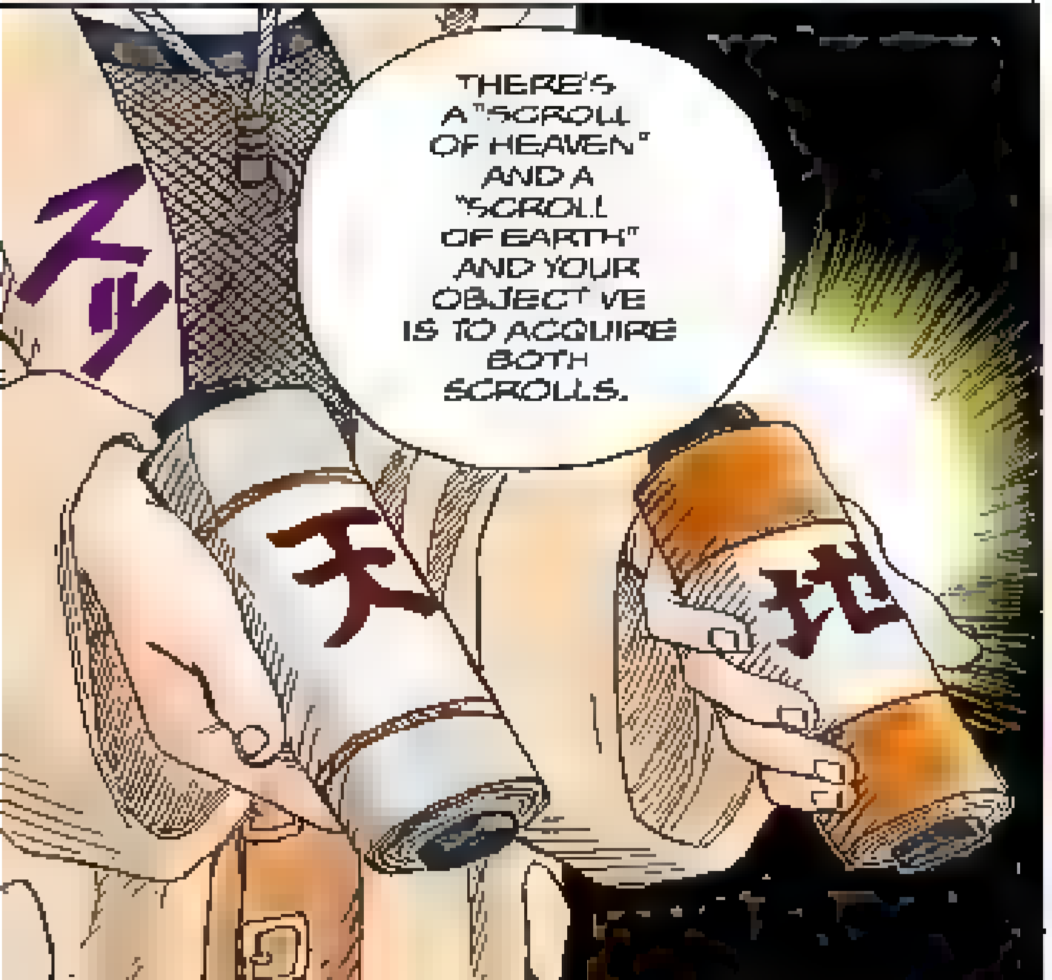

LET'S START WITH THE TOPOGRAPHY OF THIS TRAINING GROUND.
I'LL EXPLAIN THE REST LATER.

FWUP
TRAINING GROUND #44...
...IS BORDERED BY A CIRCULAR PERIMETER, INTERRUPTED AT REGULAR NTERVALS BY FORTY-FOUR LOCKED GATES.
THERE ARE FORESTS AND A RIVER... AND IN THE CENTER IS A TOWER...
ABOUT TEN KILOMETERS FROM THOSE GATES.
44 LOCKED ENTRANCES
RIVER
TOWER
TRAINING GROUND #44
4



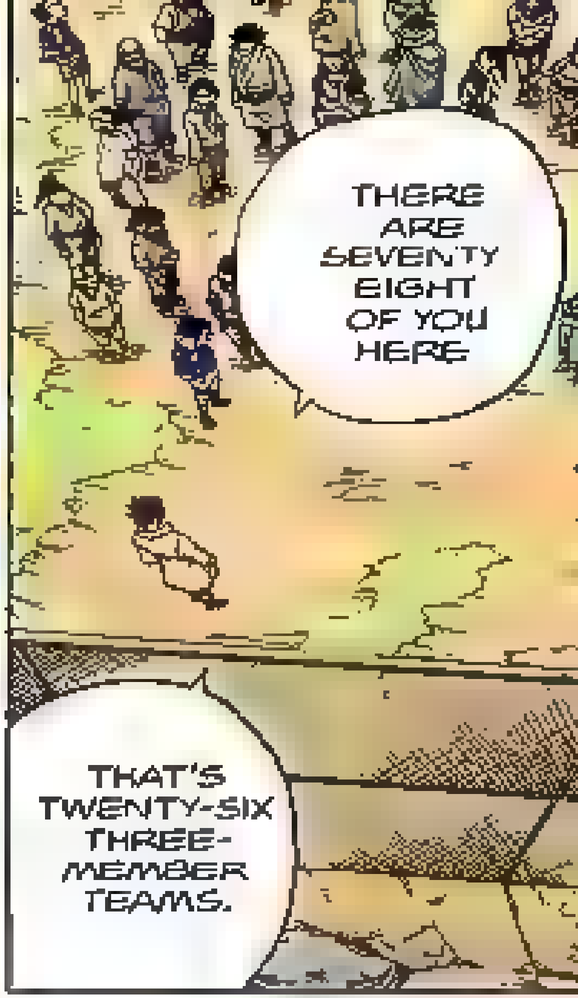

WITH N THE CONFINES OF THIS CAREFULLY DELINEATED AREA. YOU'RE GOING TO UNDERGO A SURVIVAL TEST
DURING THE COURSE OF THAT TEST, YOU MAY JSE ANY NINJA ARTS OR WEAPONS YOU HAVE AT YOUR DISPOSAL

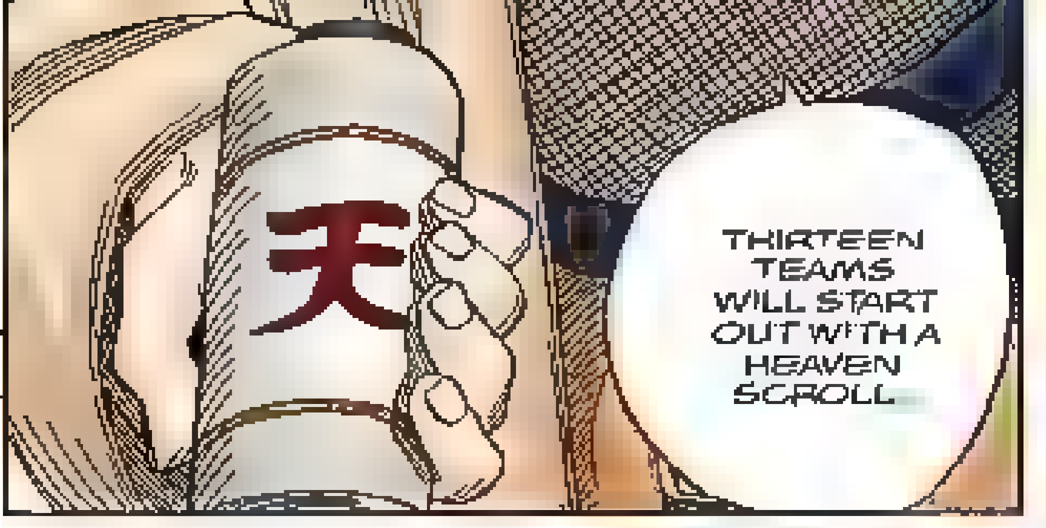

SHFF
しゅ
IT'S A KIND OF FIGHT-TO-THE-DEATH VERSION...
...OF "CAPTURE THE FLAG"... OR, IN THIS CASE, "CAPTURE THE SCROLL."
SHF


スッ
THERE'S A "SCROLL OF HEAVEN" AND A "SCROLL OF EARTH" AND YOUR OBJECT VE IS TO ACQUIRE BOTH SCROLLS.
天
地


SCROLL?
EXACTLY!


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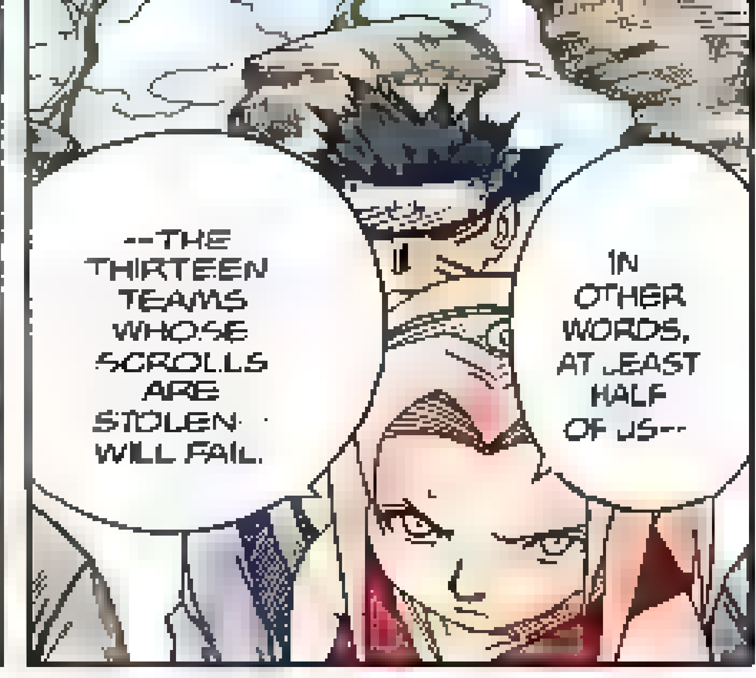
* THIS SCROLL READS *TEN*, MEANING "HEAVEN."



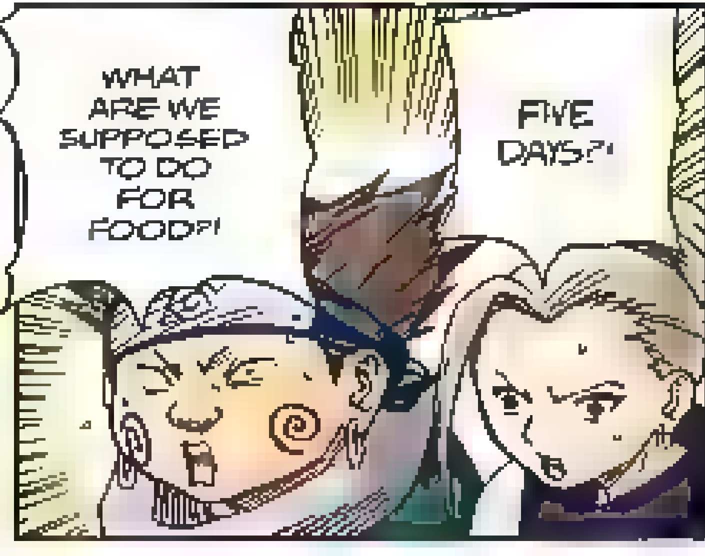
* THIS SCROLL READS *CHI*, MEANING "EARTH."

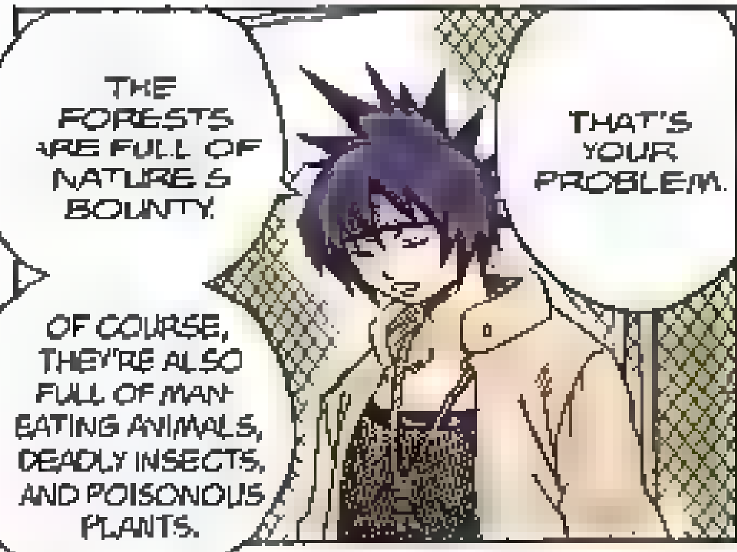





IN OTHER WORDS, AT LEAST HALF OF US--
--THE THIRTEEN TEAMS WHOSE SCROLLS ARE STOLEN WILL FAIL.


YOU BET! AND THERE'S A TIME LIMIT!
YOU HAVE 120 HOURS IN WHICH TO COMPLETE THIS EXAM--
EXACTLY FIVE DAYS!

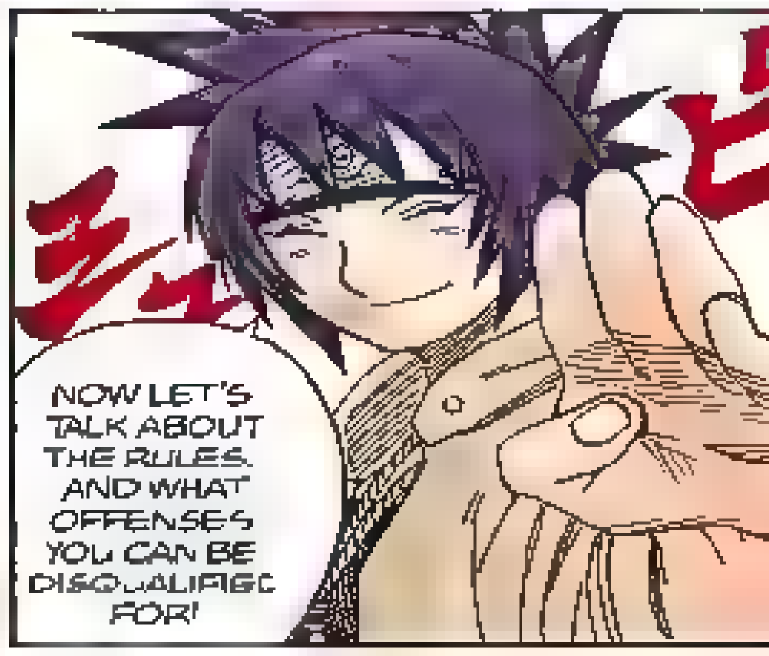

FIVE DAYS?!
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO FOR FOOD?!

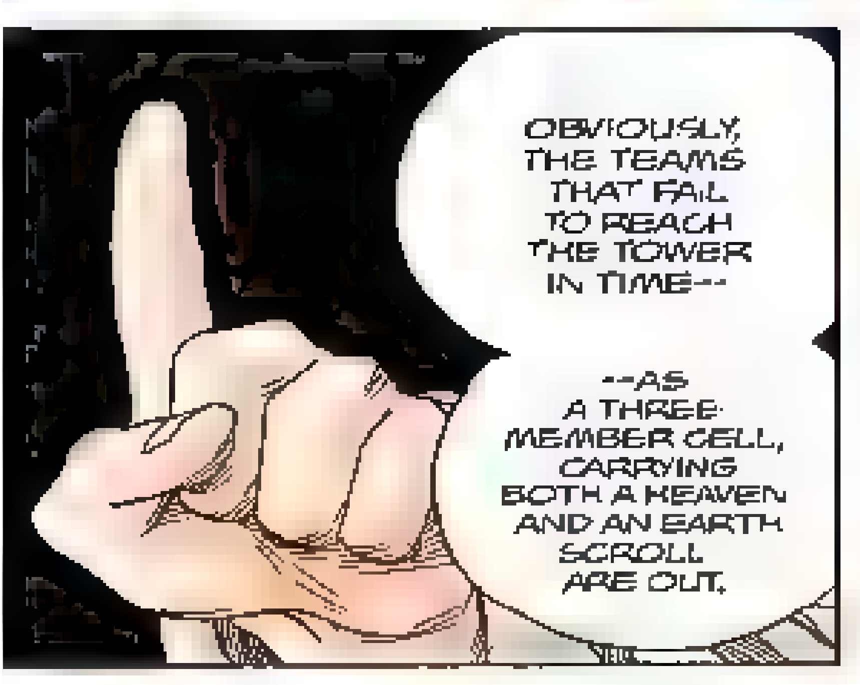

THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM.
THE FORESTS ARE FULL OF NATURE'S BOUNTY.
OF COURSE, THEY'RE ALSO FULL OF MAN-EATING ANIMALS, DEADLY INSECTS, AND POISONOUS PLANTS.

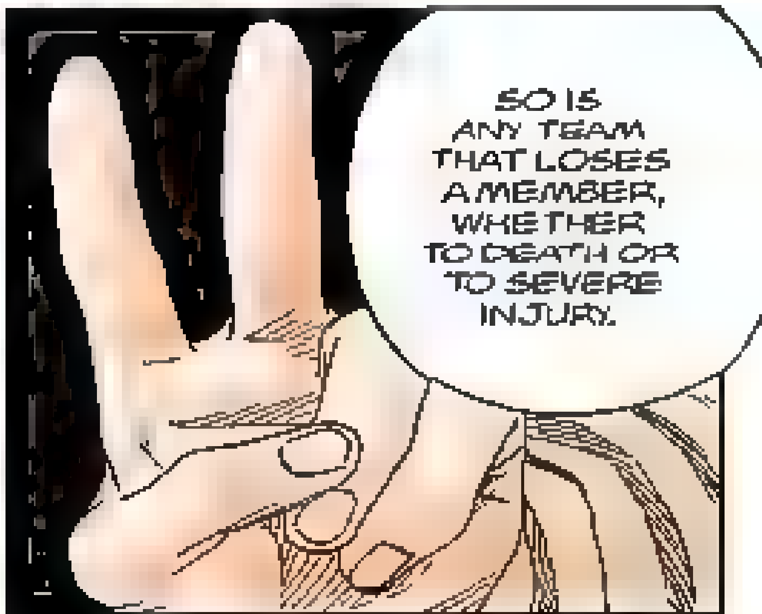
THERE'S NO WAY AS MANY AS THIRTEEN TEAMS WILL PASS THIS.
SIGH
AS THE TIME SHORTENS, THE TRIALS WILL COME HARDER AND FASTER...
...WITH LESS RECOVERY TIME FOR ANY MISTAKES, ACCIDENTS, OR INJURIES.
YOU'LL BE SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES AT ALL TIMES, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO SLEEP WITH ONE EYE OPEN

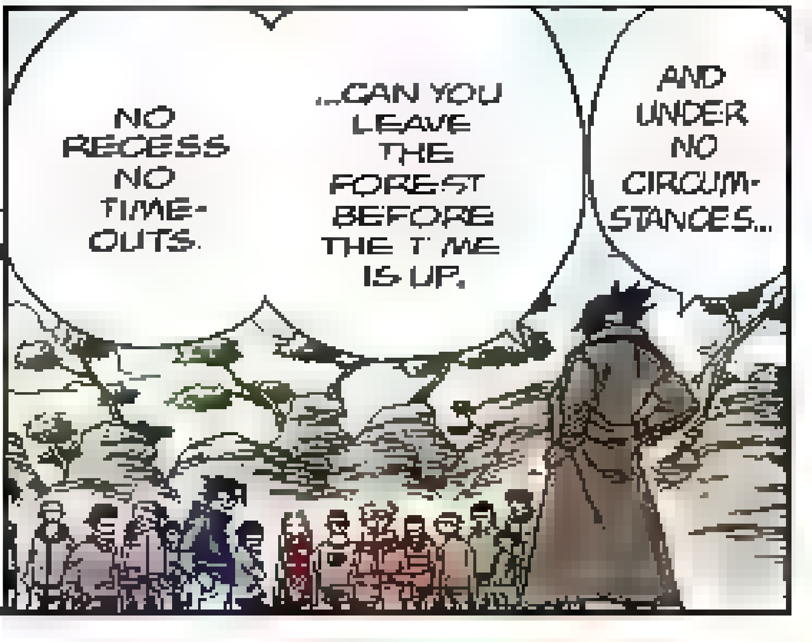

SO, IN ADDITION TO THOSE WHO DIE IN ATTEMPTS TO DEFEND OR CAPTURE A SCROLL...
...SOME OF YOU ARE BOUND TO SUCCUMB TO EXHAUSTION, EXPOSURE, STARVATION, AND DEHYDRATION.

WAVE

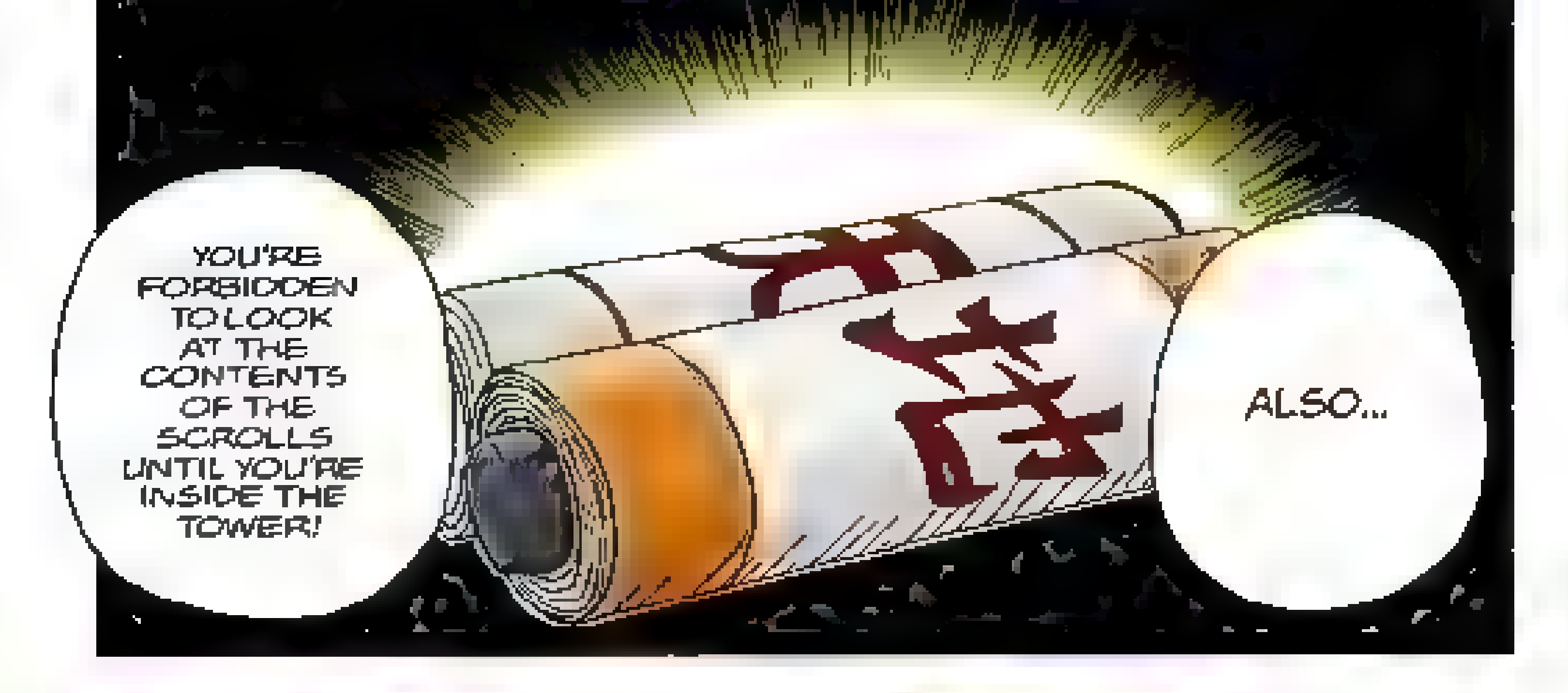

NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT THE RULES. AND WHAT OFFENSES YOU CAN BE DISQUALIFIED FOR!


OBVIOUSLY, THE TEAMS THAT FAIL TO REACH THE TOWER IN TIME--
--AS A THREE-MEMBER CELL, CARRYING BOTH A HEAVEN AND AN EARTH SCROLL ARE OUT.


SO IS ANY TEAM THAT LOSES A MEMBER, WHETHER TO DEATH OR TO SEVERE INJURY.

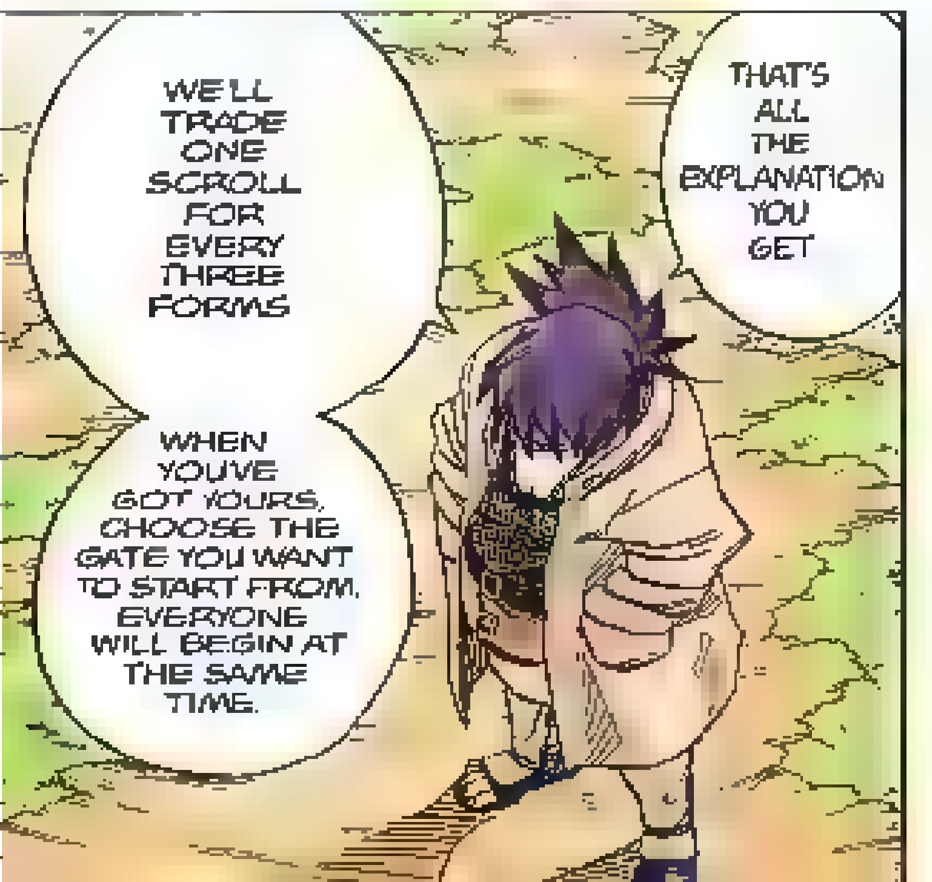

AND UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES...
...CAN YOU LEAVE THE FOREST BEFORE THE TIME IS UP.
NO RECESS NO TIME-OUTS.

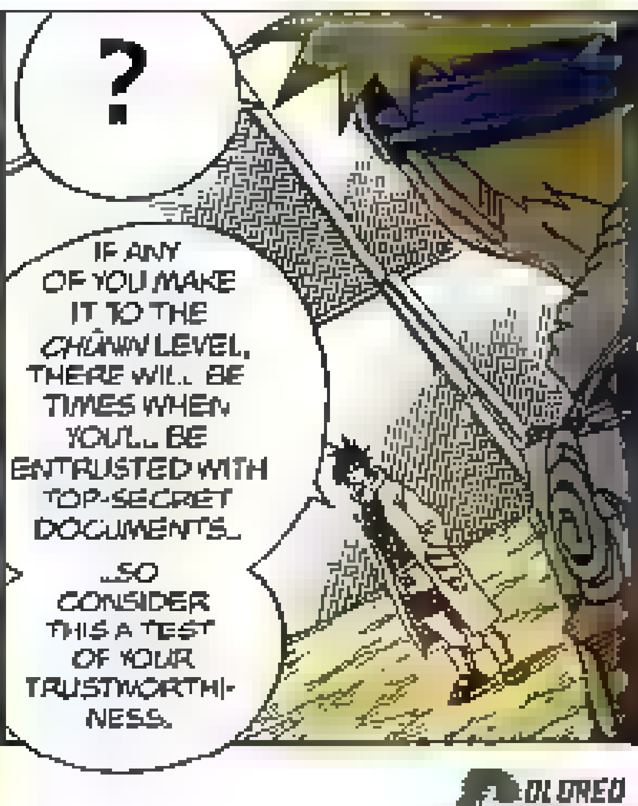

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YOU'RE FORBIDDEN TO LOOK AT THE CONTENTS OF THE SCROLLS UNTIL YOU'RE INSIDE THE TOWER!
ALSO...

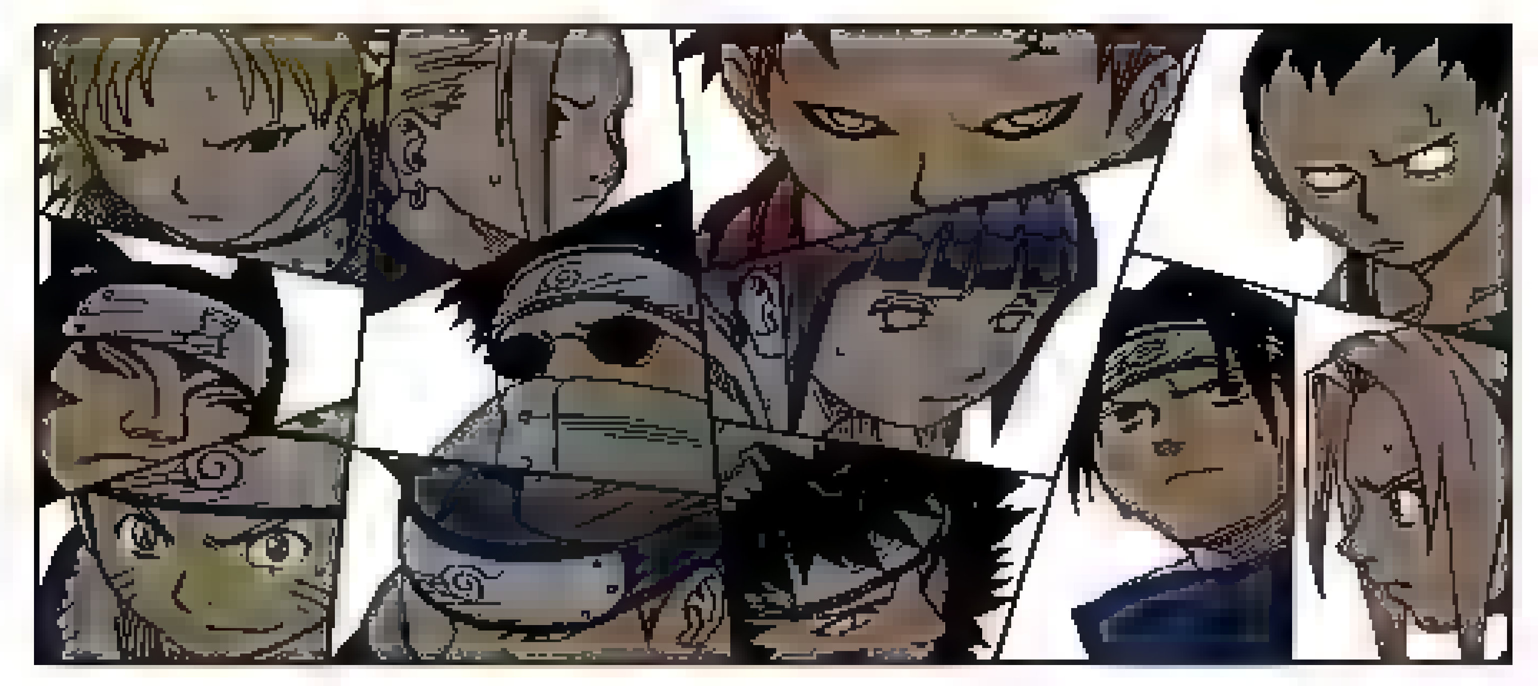

THAT'S FOR THOSE WHO LOOK TO KNOW! ♡

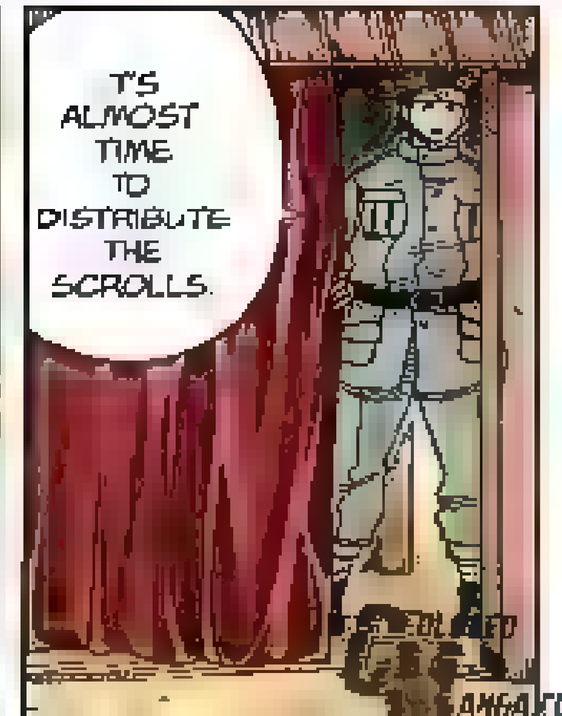

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE SNEAK A PEEK?

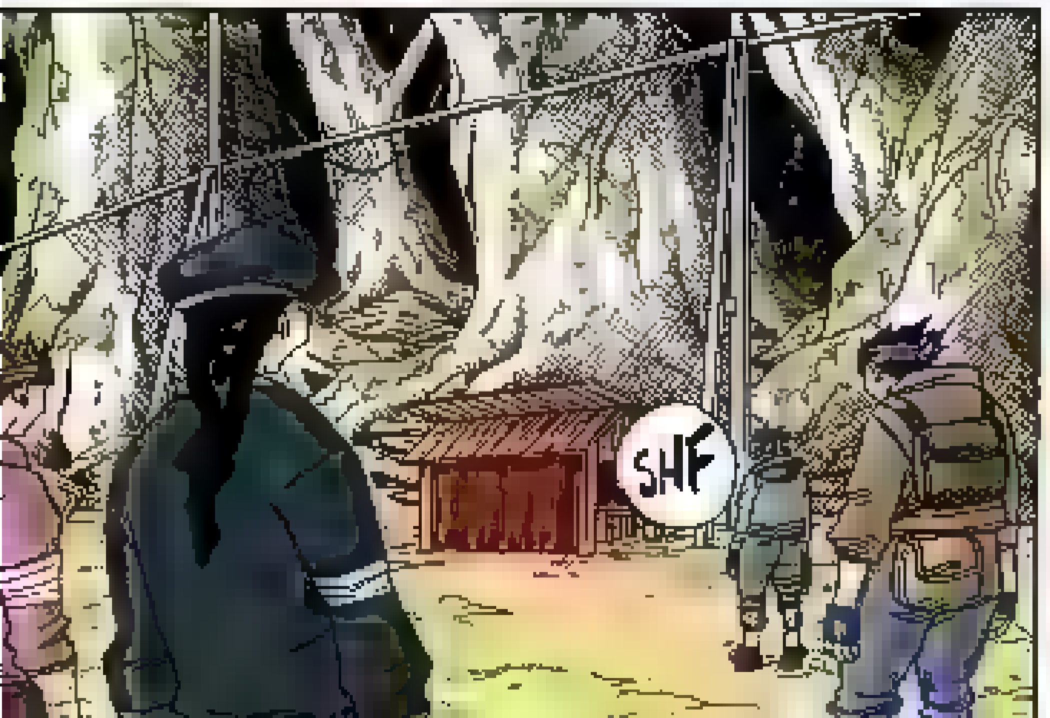

WE'LL TRADE ONE SCROLL FOR EVERY THREE FORMS
WHEN YOU'VE GOT YOURS, CHOOSE THE GATE YOU WANT TO START FROM. EVERYONE WILL BEGIN AT THE SAME TIME.
THAT'S ALL THE EXPLANATION YOU GET

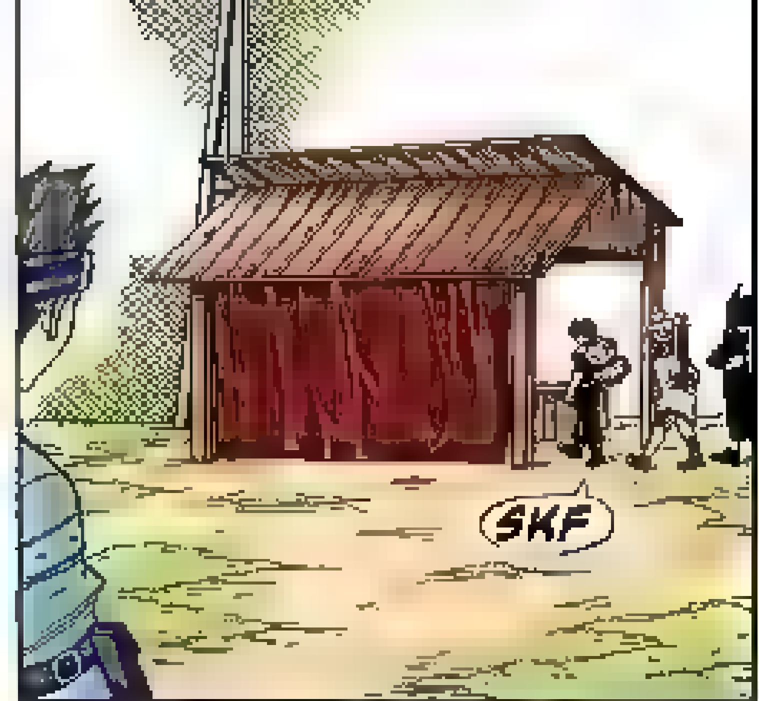
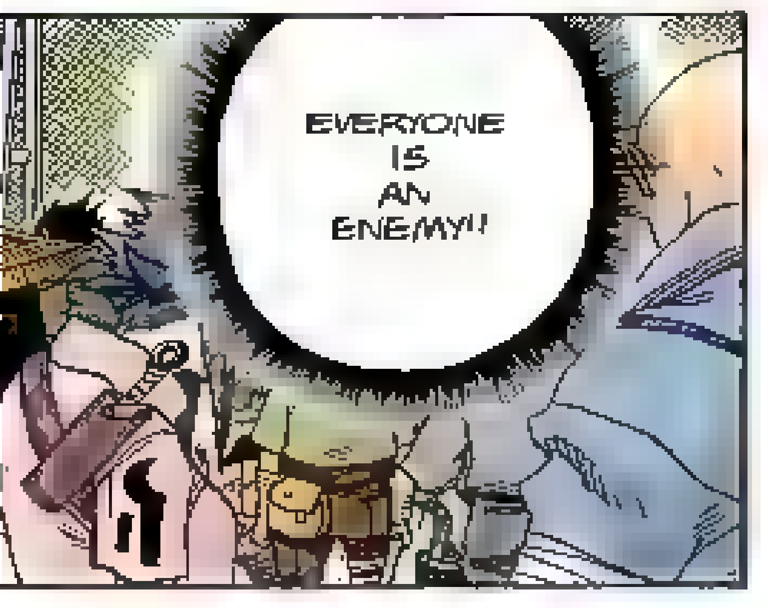
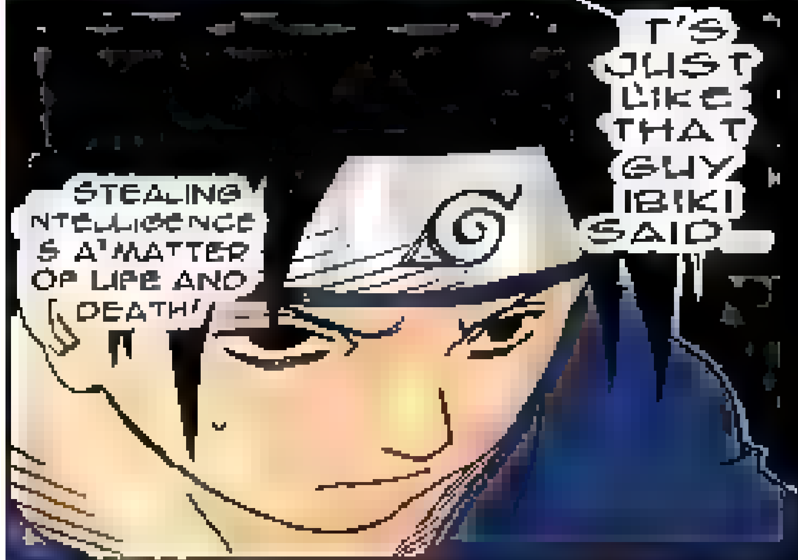
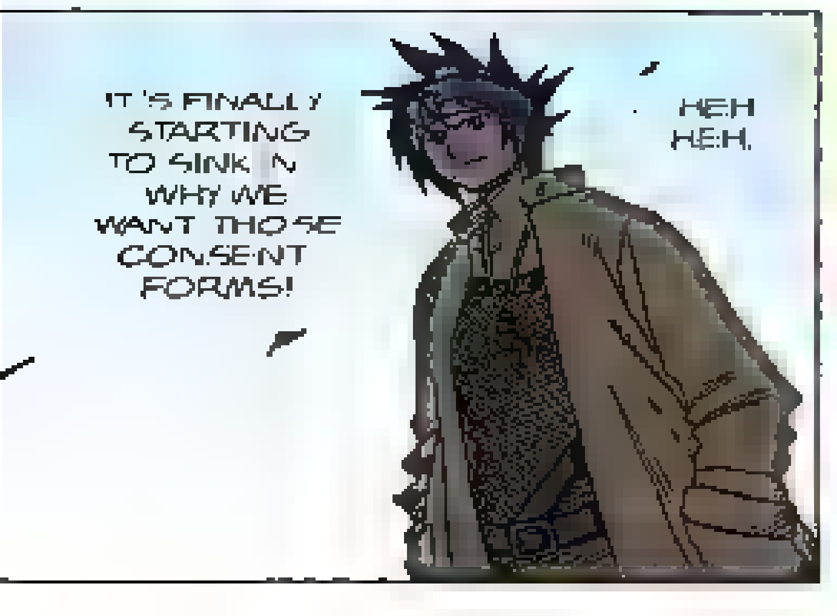
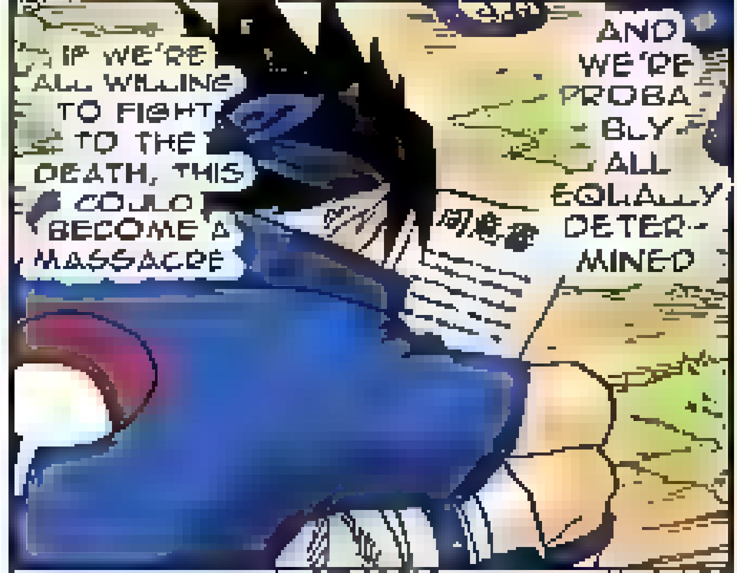

?
IF ANY OF YOU MAKE IT TO THE *CHŪNIN* LEVEL, THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN YOU'LL BE ENTRUSTED WITH TOP-SECRET DOCUMENTS...
...SO CONSIDER THIS A TEST OF YOUR TRUSTWORTHI-NESS.

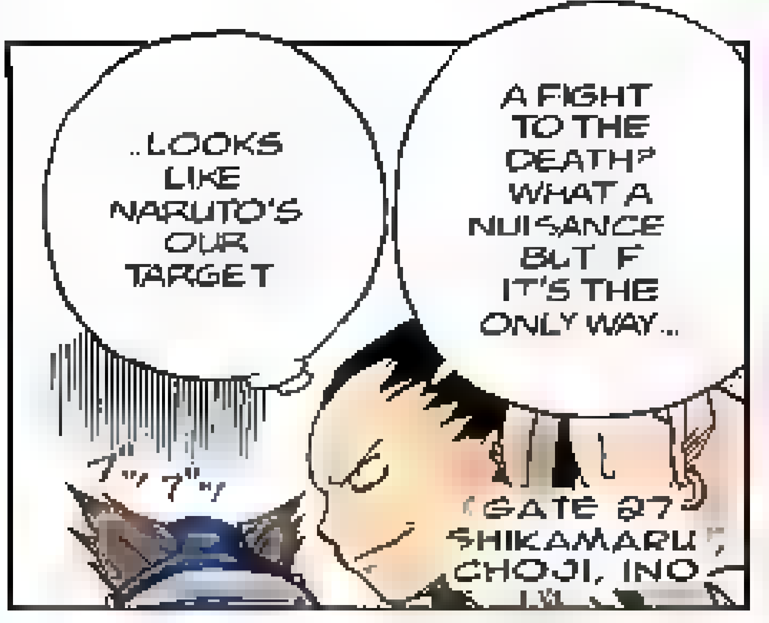

ONE FINAL PIECE OF ADVICE
STAY ALIVE!

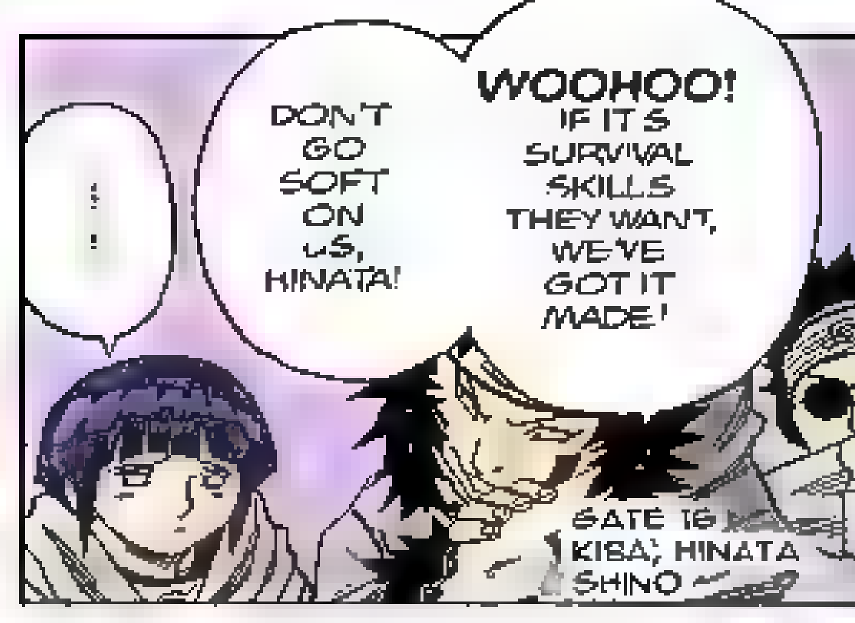


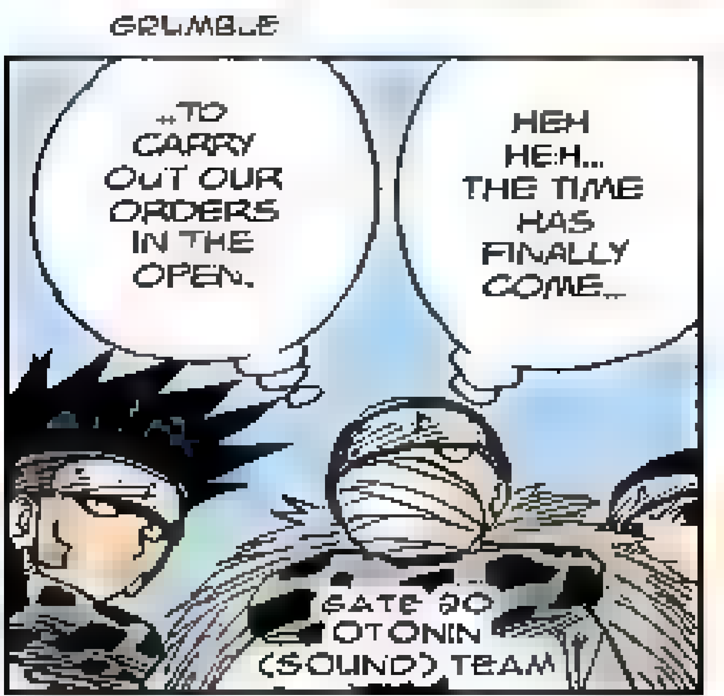

T'S ALMOST TIME TO DISTRIBUTE THE SCROLLS.

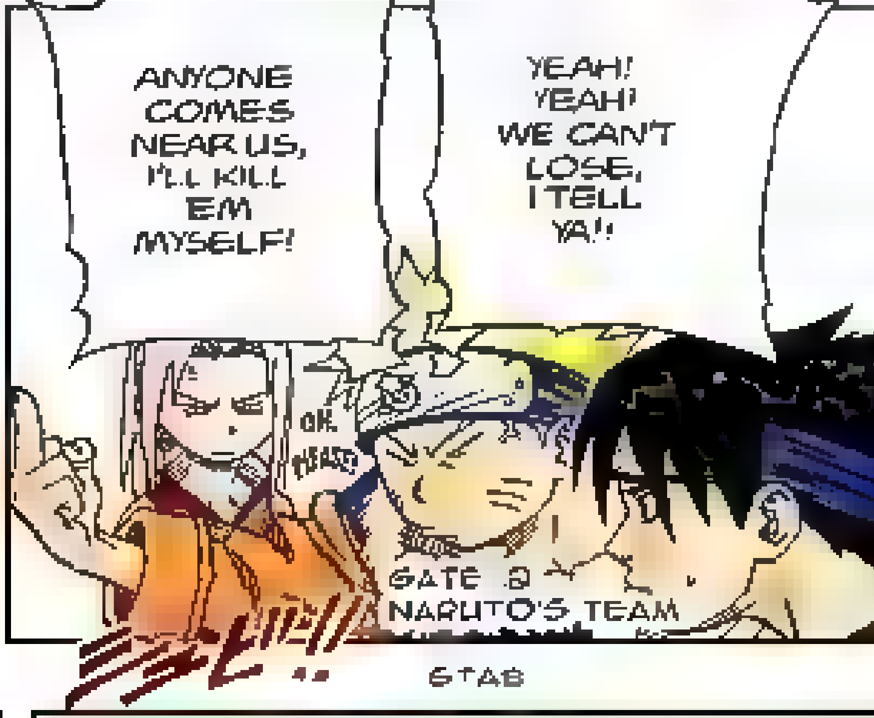

SHF

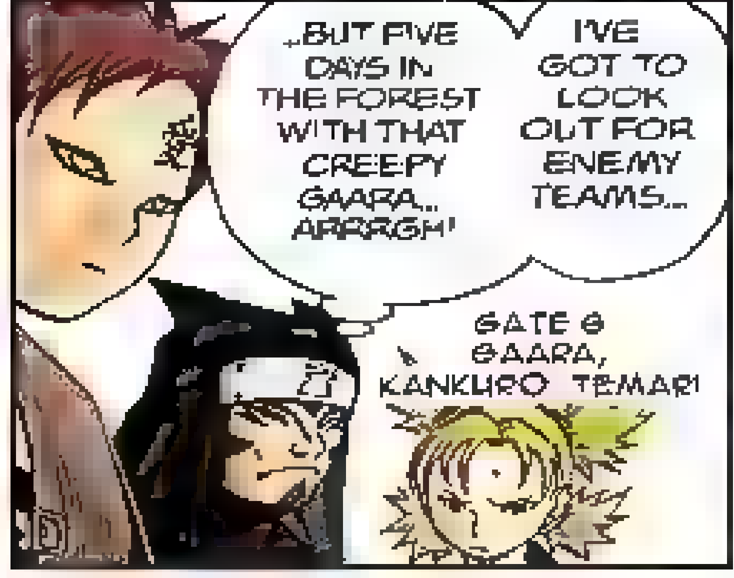

THEY'RE CONCEALING WHICH TYPE OF SCROLL EACH TEAM GETS AND WHICH MEMBER IS CARRYING IT!
SMART! TO KEEP US IN THE DARK.

SKF

EVERYONE IS AN ENEMY!!

IT'S JUST LIKE THAT GUY IBIKI SAID
STEALING INTELLIGENCE IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!

IT'S FINALLY STARTING TO SINK IN WHY WE WANT THOSE CONSENT FORMS!
HEH HEH.

AND WE'RE PROBABLY ALL EQUALLY DETERMINED
IF WE'RE ALL WILLING TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH, THIS COULD BECOME A MASSACRE



..LOOKS LIKE NARUTO'S OUR TARGET
A FIGHT TO THE DEATH? WHAT A NUISANCE BUT IF IT'S THE ONLY WAY...
GATE 27 SHIKAMARU, CHOJI, INO
GRUMBLE


WOOHOO! IF IT'S SURVIVAL SKILLS THEY WANT, WE'VE GOT IT MADE!
DON'T GO SOFT ON US, HINATA!
...!
GATE 16 KIBA, HINATA SHINO


HEH HEH... THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME...
..TO CARRY OUT OUR ORDERS IN THE OPEN.
GATE 20 OTONIN (SOUND) TEAM


YEAH! YEAH! WE CAN'T LOSE, I TELL YA!!
ANYONE COMES NEAR US, I'LL KILL 'EM MYSELF!
GATE 8 NARUTO'S TEAM
STAB


I'VE GOT TO LOOK OUT FOR ENEMY TEAMS...
..BUT FIVE DAYS IN THE FOREST WITH THAT CREEPY GAARA... ARRRGH!
GATE 6 GAARA, KANKURO TEMARI


GATE 38 KABUTO'S TEAM



TARGET THE ROOKIES FIRST.

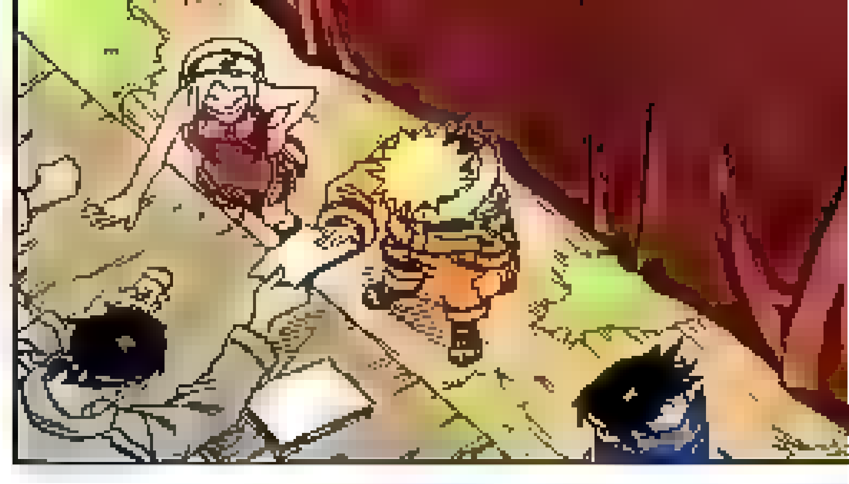
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT CARTE BLANCHE TO PICK THEM OFF FROM HERE ON IN

...WHICH SHOULD MAKE OUR JOB A LOT EASIER.

GATE IS THE MYSTERIOUS KUSANIN GRASS NINJA TRIO

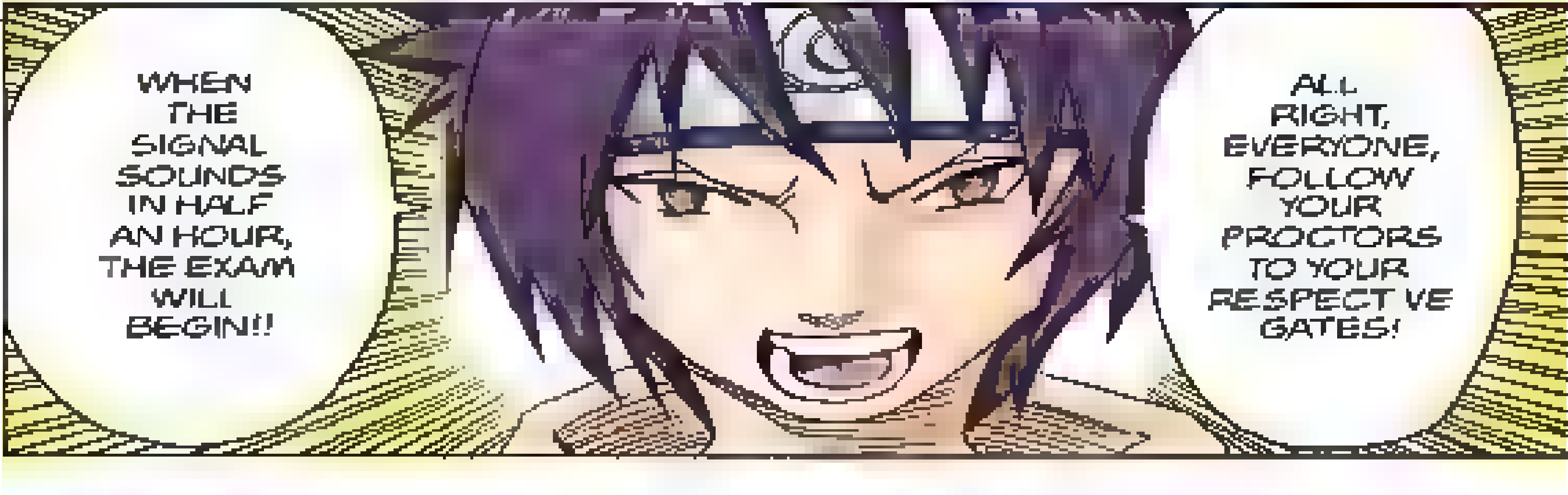
*THE TAGS ON THE HATS READ (RIGHT TO LEFT) "CRIME," "EVIL," AND "PUNISHMENT."

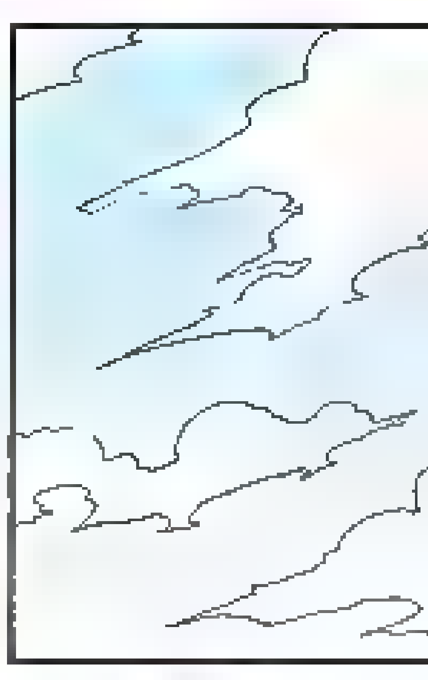




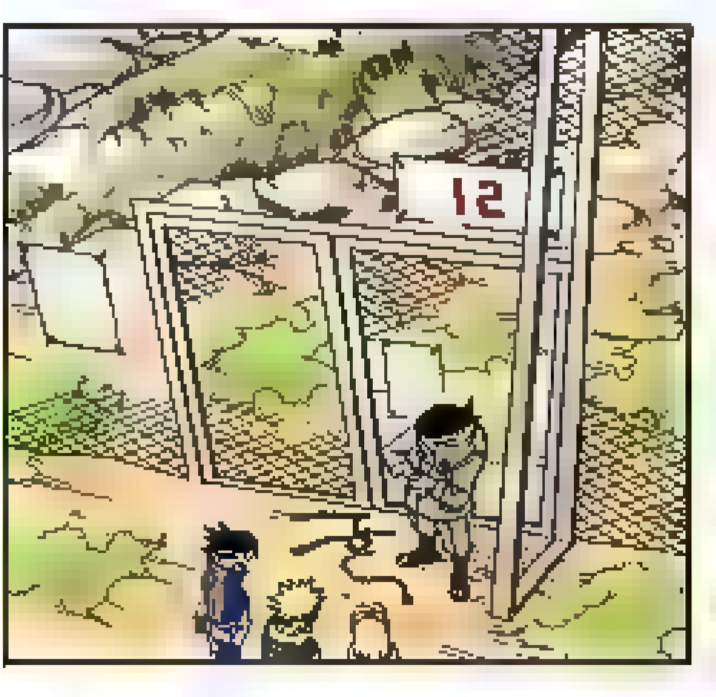

GATE 41 NEJI LEE, TENTEN
MASTER GUY, I WILL DO MY BEST!


SLAP

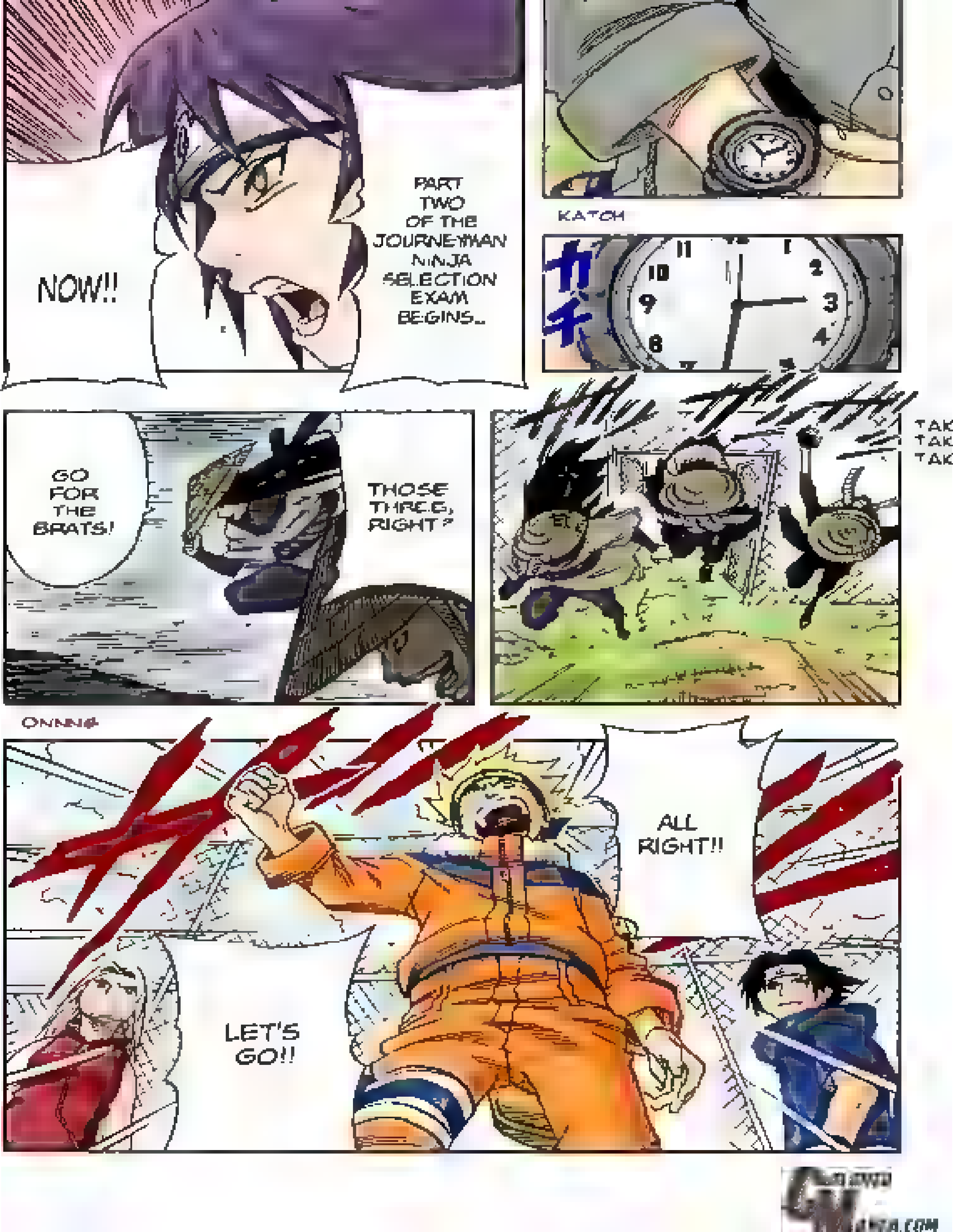

ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE, FOLLOW YOUR PROCTORS TO YOUR RESPECTIVE GATES!
WHEN THE SIGNAL SOUNDS IN HALF AN HOUR, THE EXAM WILL BEGIN!!



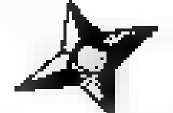

CLICK

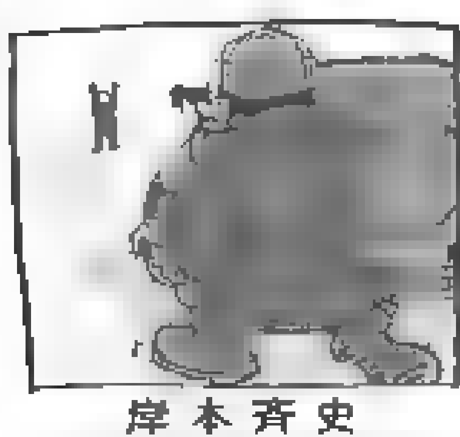

12




KATCH
カチ
PART TWO OF THE JOURNEYMAN NINJA SELECTION EXAM BEGINS...
NOW!!
TAK TAK TAK
THOSE THREE, RIGHT?
GO FOR THE BRATS!
ONNNG
ALL RIGHT!!
LET'S GO!!


JUMP COMICS
巻ノ六
サクラの決意!!
NARUTO
-ナルト-
岸本斉史




岸本斉史

Lately, all over the world, there has been an upswing in terrorist acts—attacks by armed groups and the taking of hostages—by the worst kind of criminals. In an effort to resolve these situations with as little bloodshed and fanfare as possible, nations all over the globe are increasingly turning toward special operations forces, armed with the latest technologies and finely honed skills, giving them superlative intelligence-gathering capabilities. Such operatives are truly the modern analog to the type of warriors who, in the past, were known as ninja!

Masashi Kishimoto, 2000

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** ("Mechanism"). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.



JUMP COMICS

NARUTO

-ナルト-

巻ノ六

サクラの決意!!

岸本斉史



主な登場人物
うちはサスケ
うずまきナルト
ガイ
日向ネジ
春野サクラ
ロック・リー
テンテン
カブト
奈良シカマル
犬塚キバ&赤丸
日向ヒナタ
山中いの
油女シノ
秋道チョウジ

















THE STORY SO FAR

Twelve years ago, a destructive nine-tailed fox spirit attacked the ninja village of Konohagakure. The Hokage, or village champion, defeated the fox by sealing its soul into the body of a baby boy. Now that boy, Uzumaki Naruto, has grown up to become a ninja-in-training, learning the art of ninjutsu with his classmates Sakura and Sasuke. Astonishingly, Naruto and his team passed the written section of the Chûnin (Journeyman Ninja) Selection Exam, but they face new dangers in the exam's second portion, which is conducted in the Forest of Death! The object of the exercise is to reach the tower in the center of the forest with two scrolls in hand, and all three team members alive, before five days elapse. Each of the 26 teams is given only one scroll, and must steal the second scroll from another team using any means necessary!

前巻までのあらすじ





もくじ

CONTENTS



46 : THE PASSWORD IS...

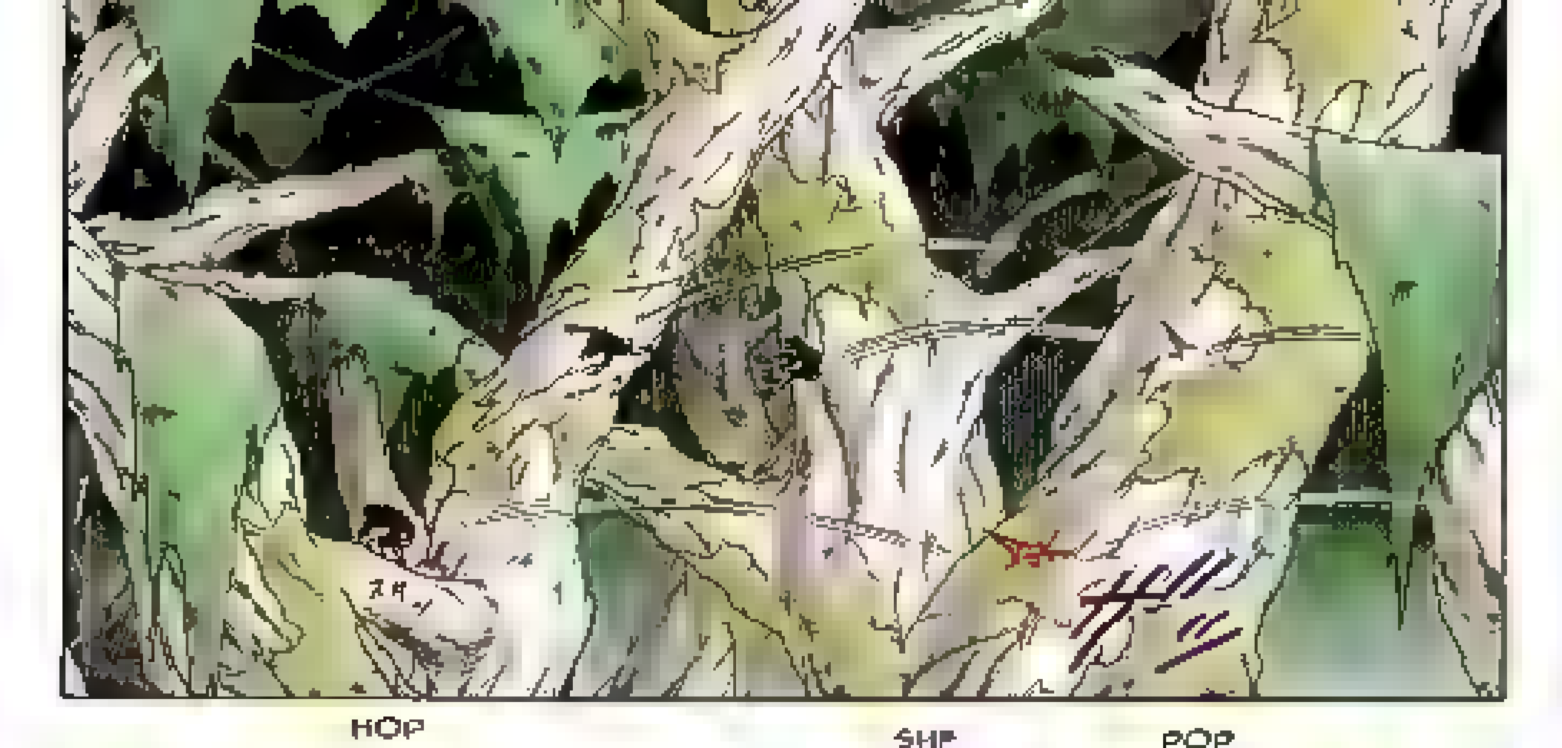








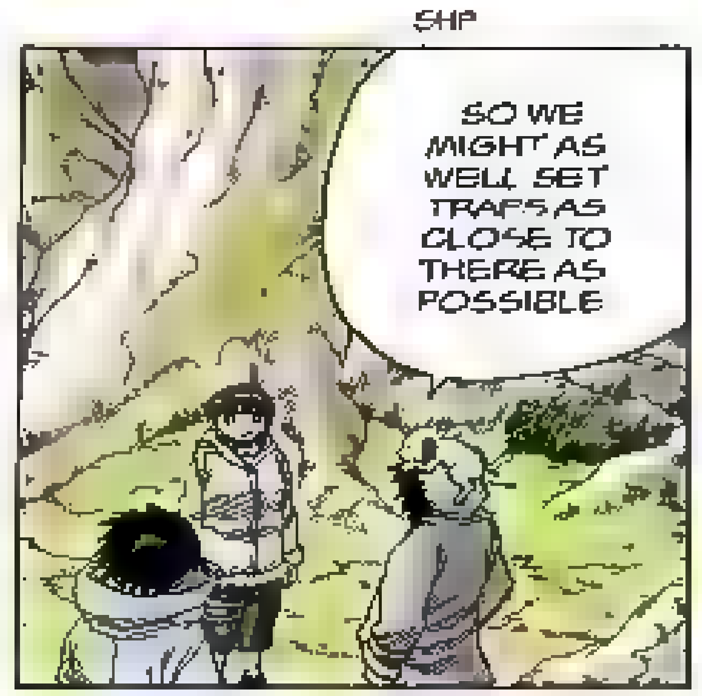





HOP
THE TOWER'S WHERE EVERYONE IS ULTIMATELY GOING


SHP


POP
TAK


SHP
SO WE MIGHT AS WELL SET TRAPS AS CLOSE TO THERE AS POSSIBLE


SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
!!


FOUND THEM ALREADY, HUH?
WHERE ARE THEY?


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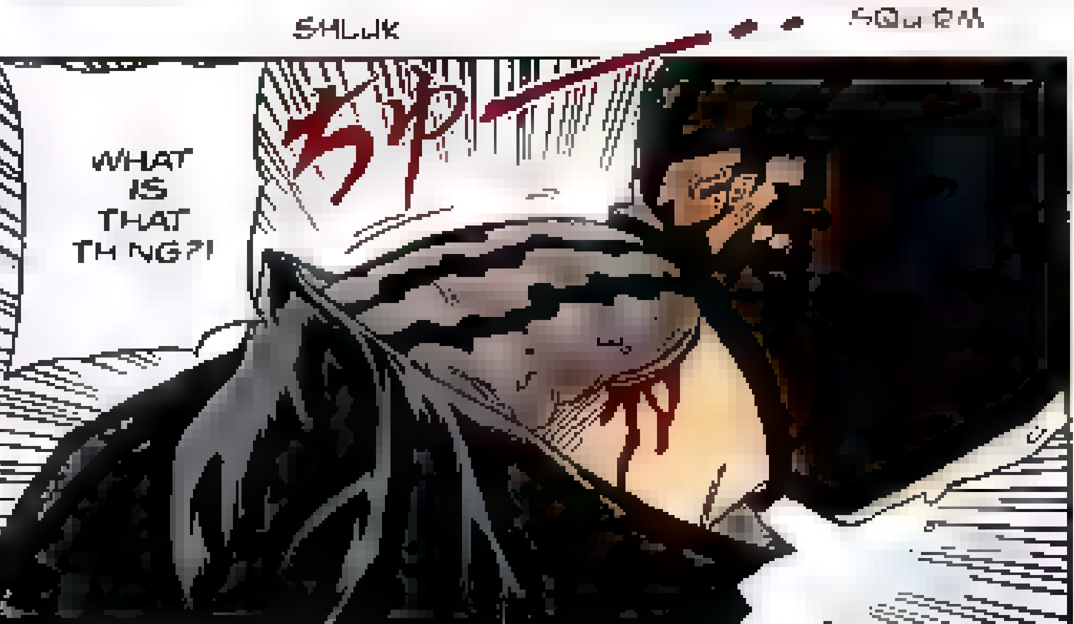




SQUIRM

SHLUK





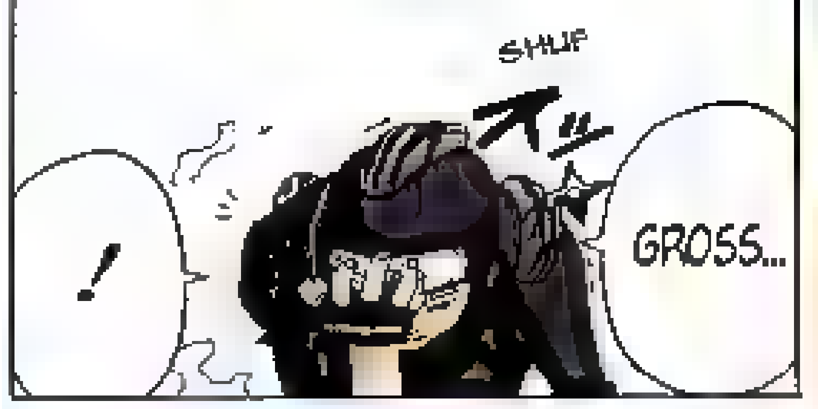




SPLAT SPLAT PLAT

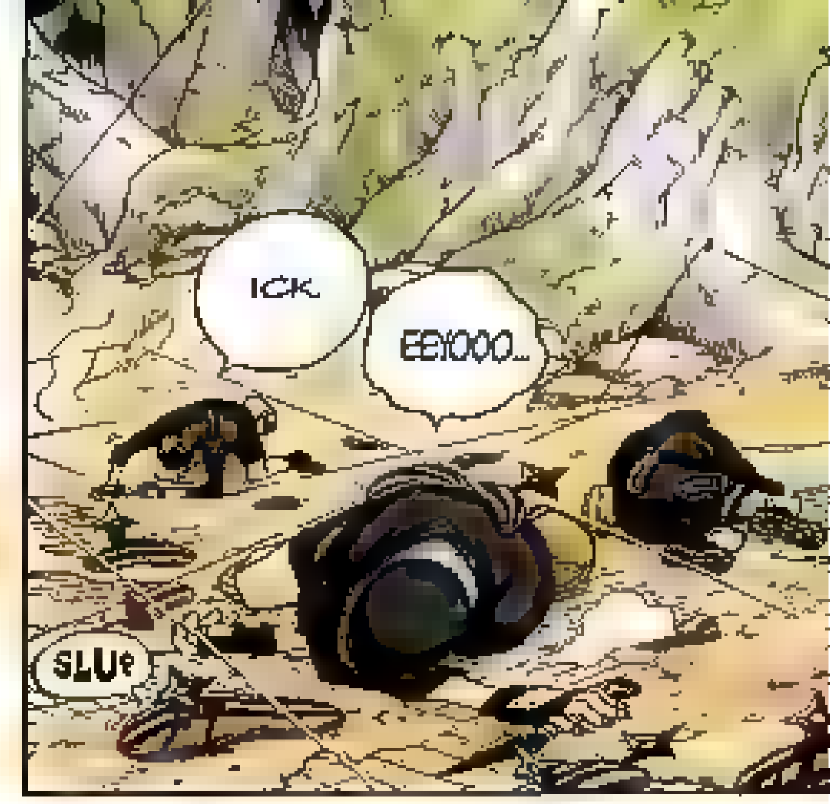






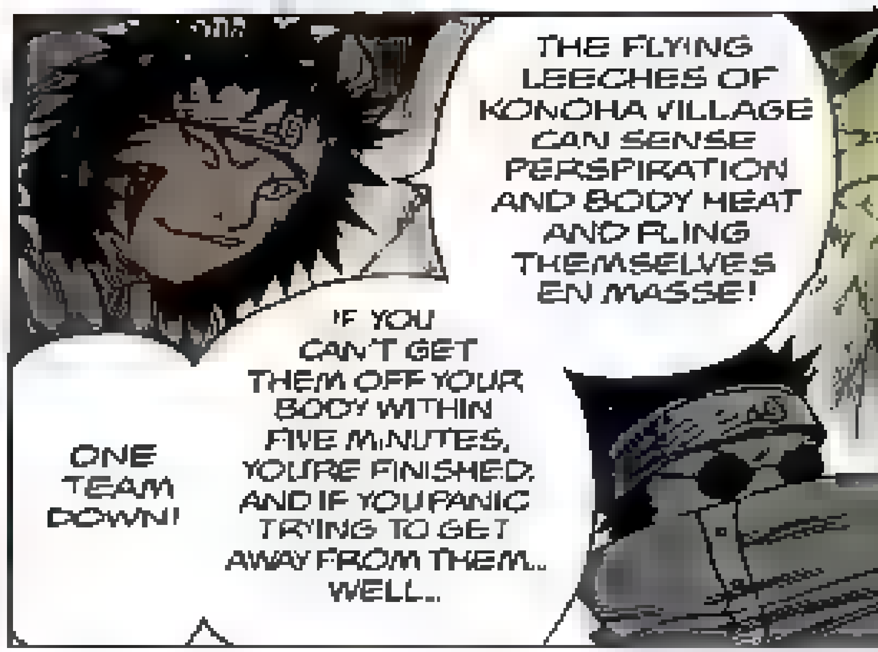
TWANG





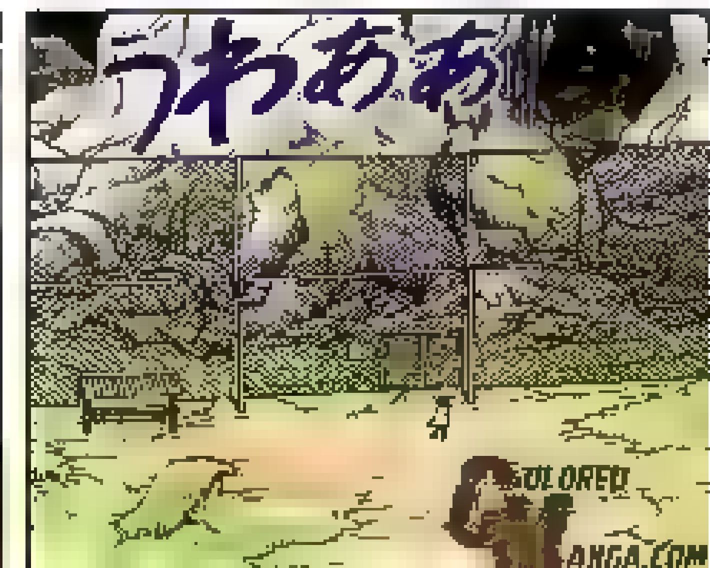
SLUOOP





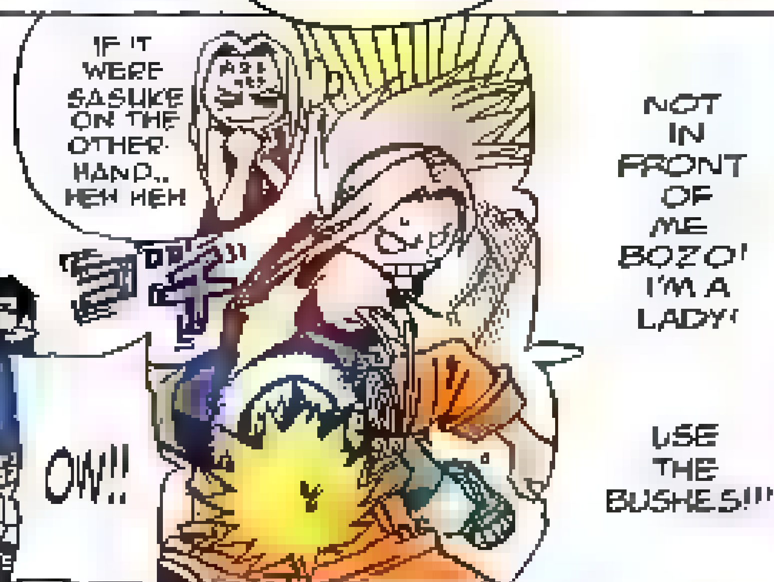
AAAAGH!



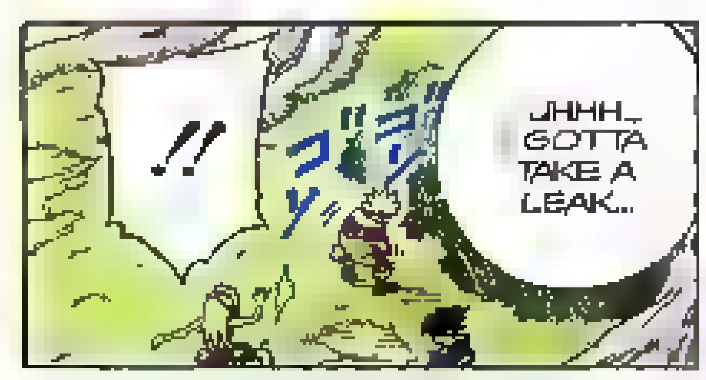



THIS PLACE IS CREEPING ME OUT!
I'M TELLING YOU, SAKURA, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
INNER SAKURA

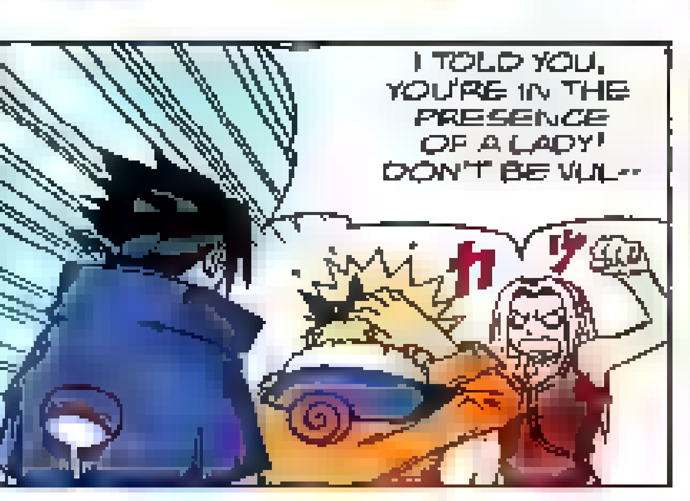

DID YOU GUYS HEAR SOMEONE SCREAM?
.....!!

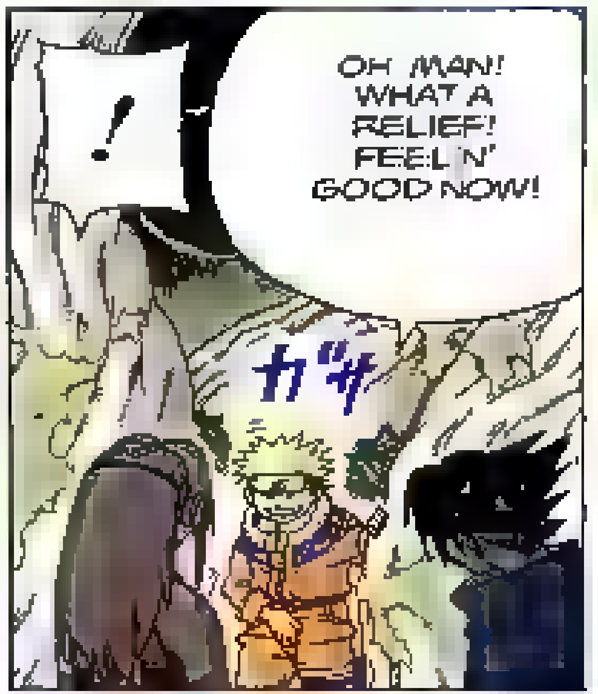

IF IT WERE SASUKE ON THE OTHER HAND.. HEH HEH
NOT IN FRONT OF ME BOZO! I'M A LADY!
USE THE BUSHES!!!
OW!!
WHAP


...


UHHH.. GOTTA TAKE A LEAK..
!!
GRUNT GRUNT



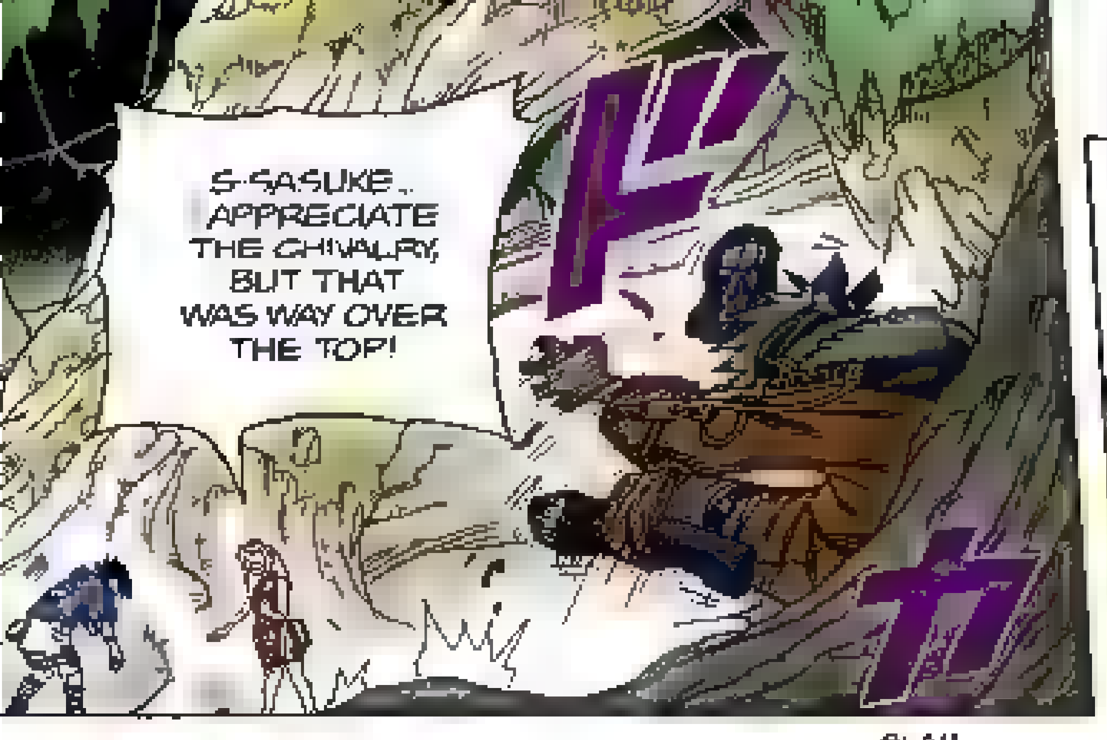

I TOLD YOU, YOU'RE IN THE PRESENCE OF A LADY! DON'T BE VUL--
SIZZLE

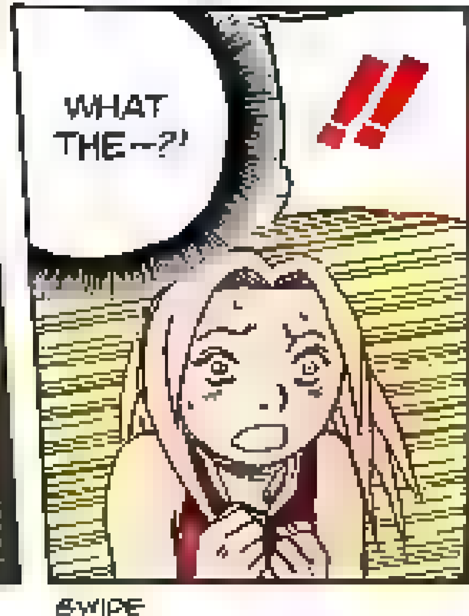

!
OH MAN! WHAT A RELIEF! FEEL'N' GOOD NOW!
YANK

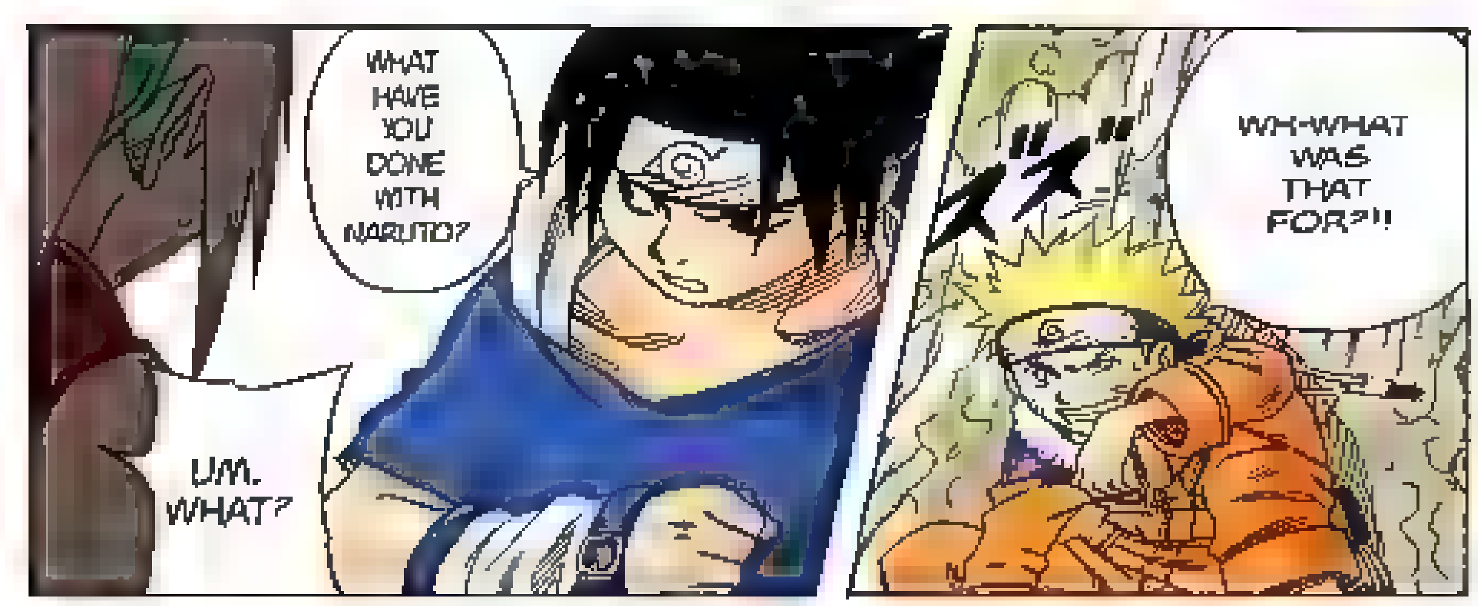


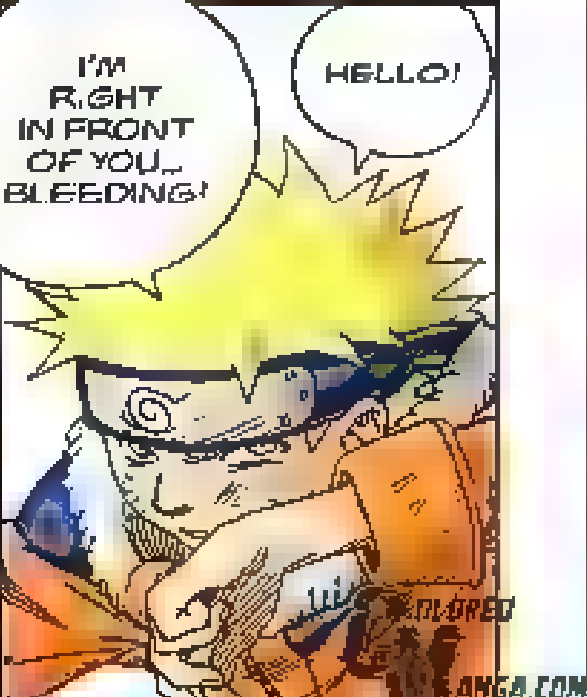

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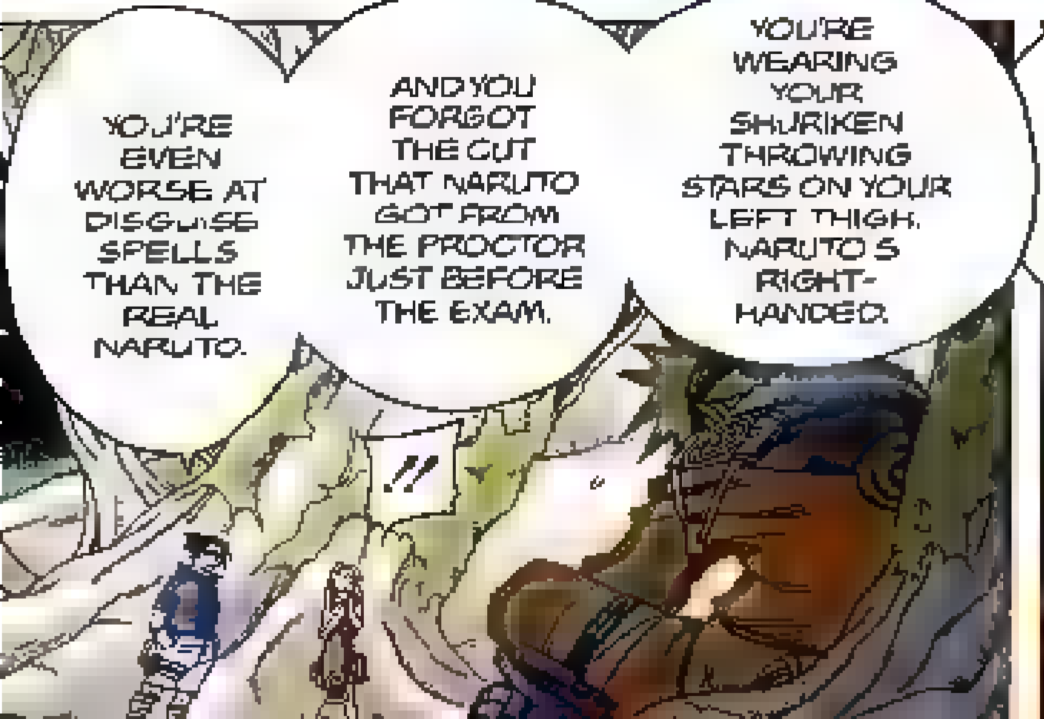



S-SASUKE... APPRECIATE THE CHIVALRY, BUT THAT WAS WAY OVER THE TOP!
SLAM


WHAT THE--?!
!!
SWIPE


WH-WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH NARUTO?
UM. WHAT?


HELLO!
I'M RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU... BLEEDING!


YOU'RE WEARING YOUR SHURIKEN THROWING STARS ON YOUR LEFT THIGH. NARUTO'S RIGHT-HANDED.
AND YOU FORGOT THE CUT THAT NARUTO GOT FROM THE PROCTOR JUST BEFORE THE EXAM.
YOU'RE EVEN WORSE AT DISGUISE SPELLS THAN THE REAL NARUTO.
!!



SINCE YOU'VE FORCED ME TO COME CLEAN, WHY DON'T YOU DO THE SAME?
WHICH ONE OF YOU TWO HAS THE SCROLL?!
TAK TAK
POP
TAK
UNFOR-TUNATELY, YOU'VE FORCED ME TO BE DIRECT!
FWOOSH
VNN
TIGER
FIRE STYLE! ART OF THE PHOENIX FLOWER... THE TOUCH-ME-NOT!


HOP
!

!!

A LETTER BOMB!

SIZZLE

ボカー

BOOOOOOOM

OW!

THUD

BETTER AND BETTER. ONE FALSE MOVE, AND 'LL KILL YOU.

NOW HAND OVER THE SCROLL!

SASUKE!!

...!!


CHAKRA ENERGY
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY THAT EASY
USUAL
NARUTO!

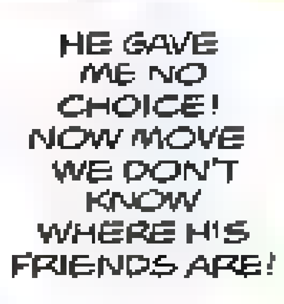


!!
GRAAH!!!
!!

PLIT PLIT



HE GAVE ME NO CHOICE! NOW MOVE WE DON'T KNOW WHERE H'S FRIENDS ARE!

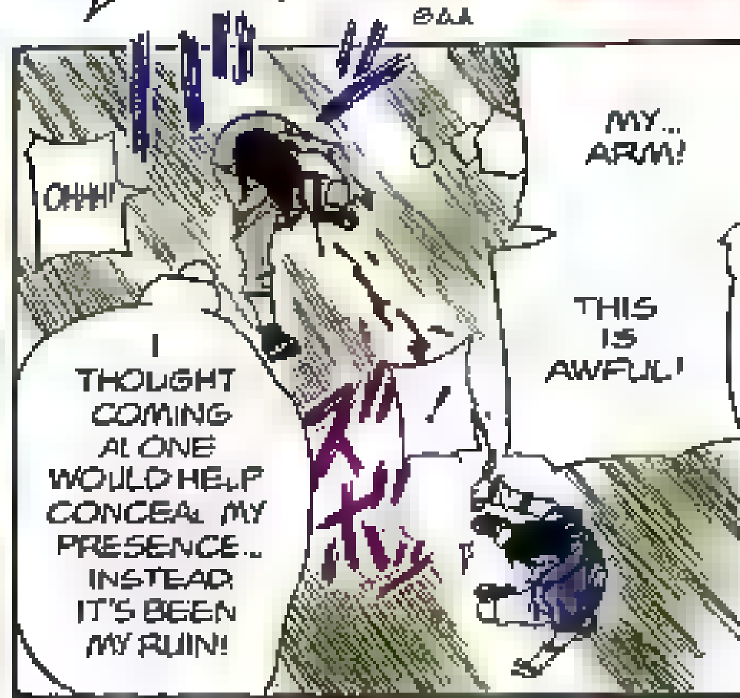


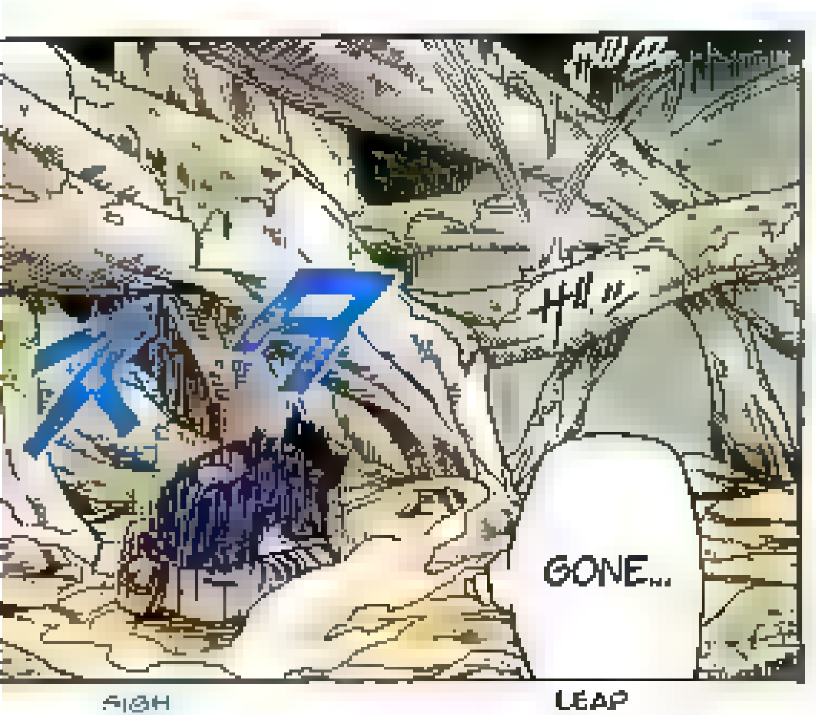
YOU GOT THAT?



KEEP STANDING THERE, AND YOU'LL END UP DEAD!!!

GAA





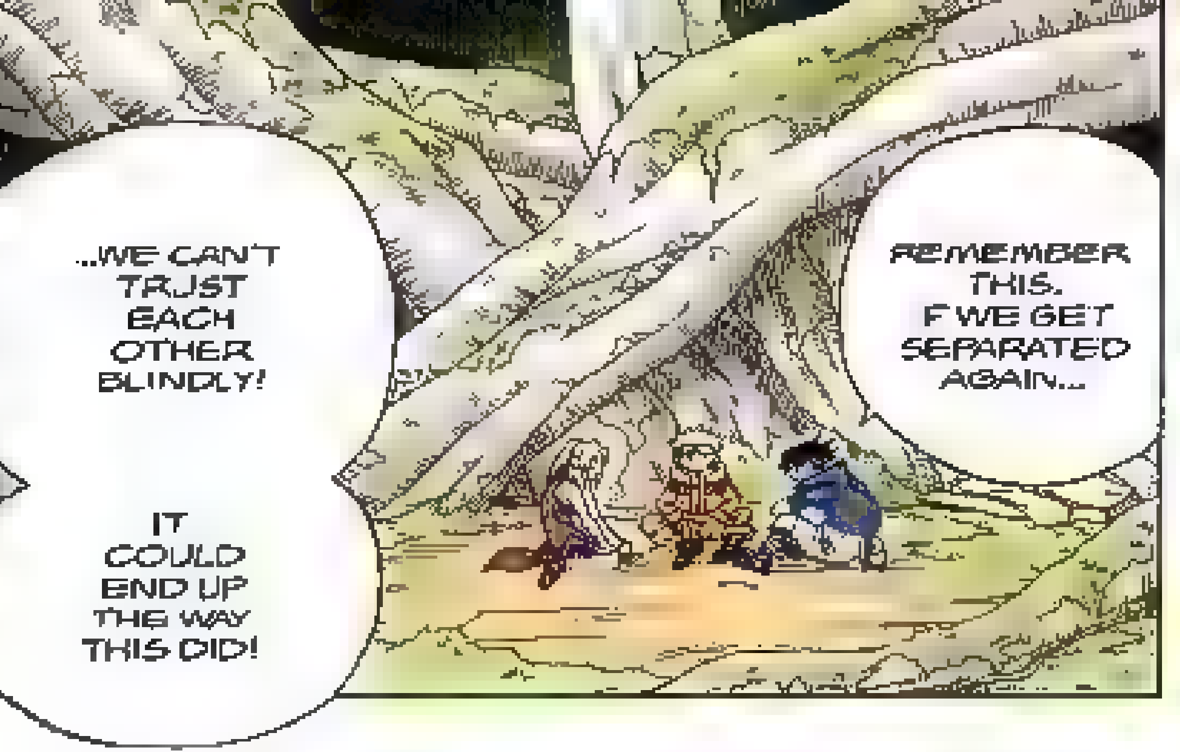
SIGH

LEAP

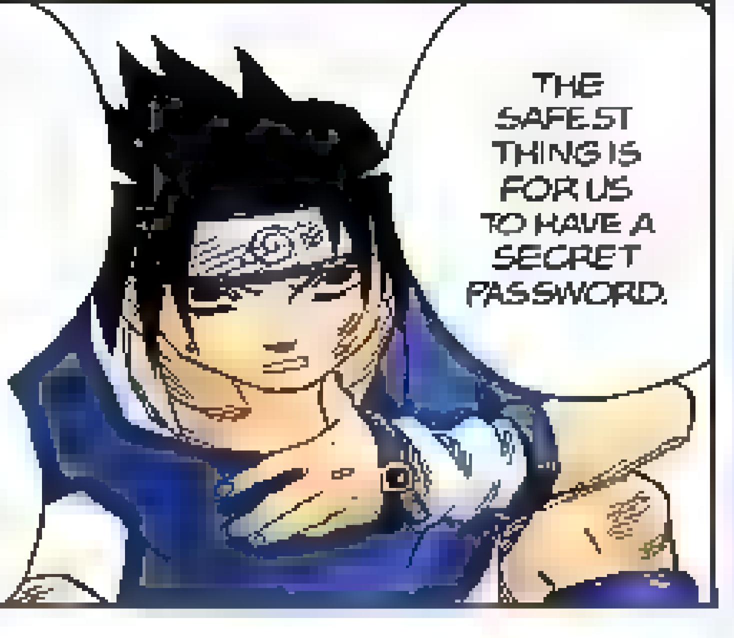
SHLUP

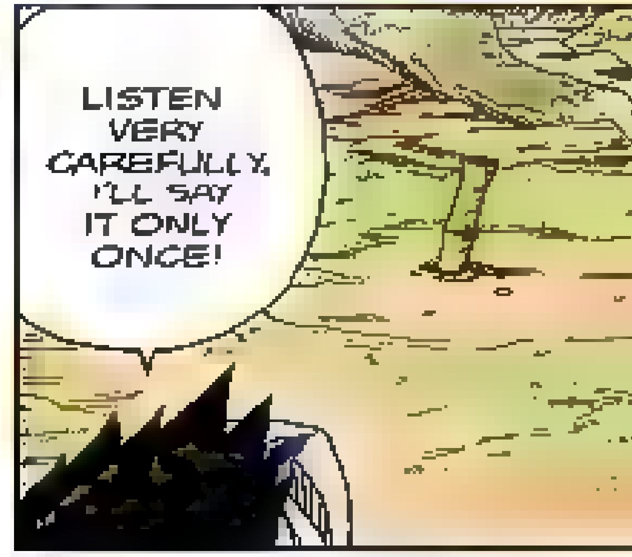
LEAP

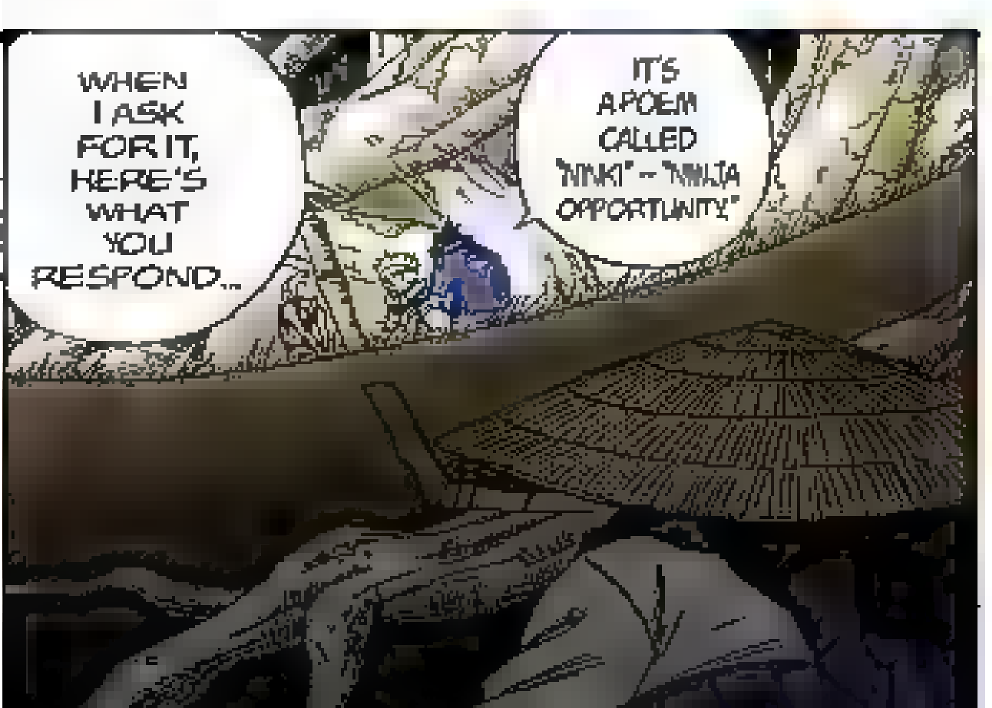



REMEMBER THIS. IF WE GET SEPARATED AGAIN...
...WE CAN'T TRUST EACH OTHER BLINDLY!
IT COULD END UP THE WAY THIS DID!

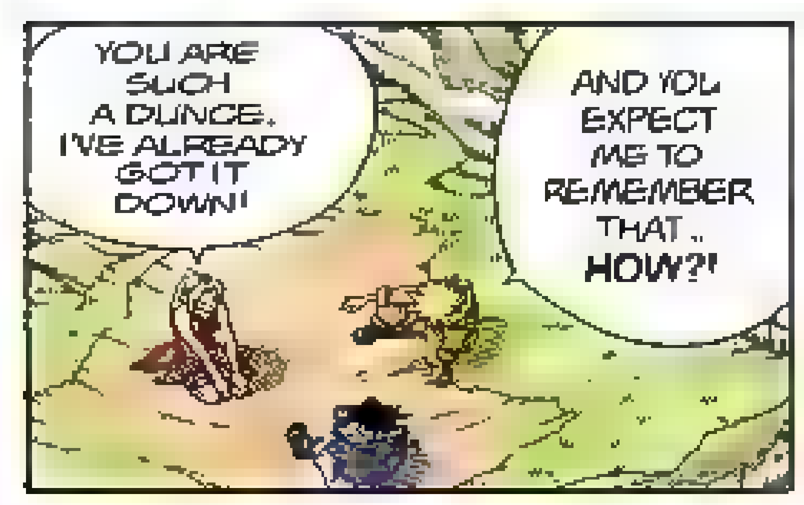

BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?

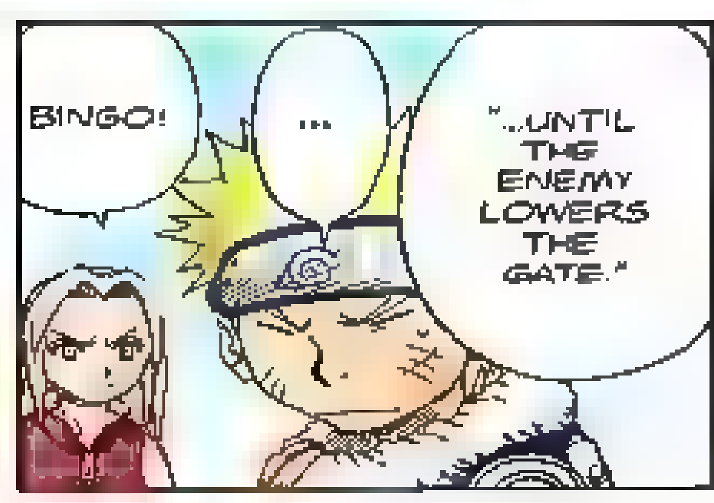

THE SAFEST THING IS FOR US TO HAVE A SECRET PASSWORD.
THAT WAY, WE'LL KNOW. NO MATTER WHO THEY LOOK LIKE OR HOW THEY SOUND, IF ONE OF US GETS THAT WRONG...
...THEY'RE AN ENEMY!

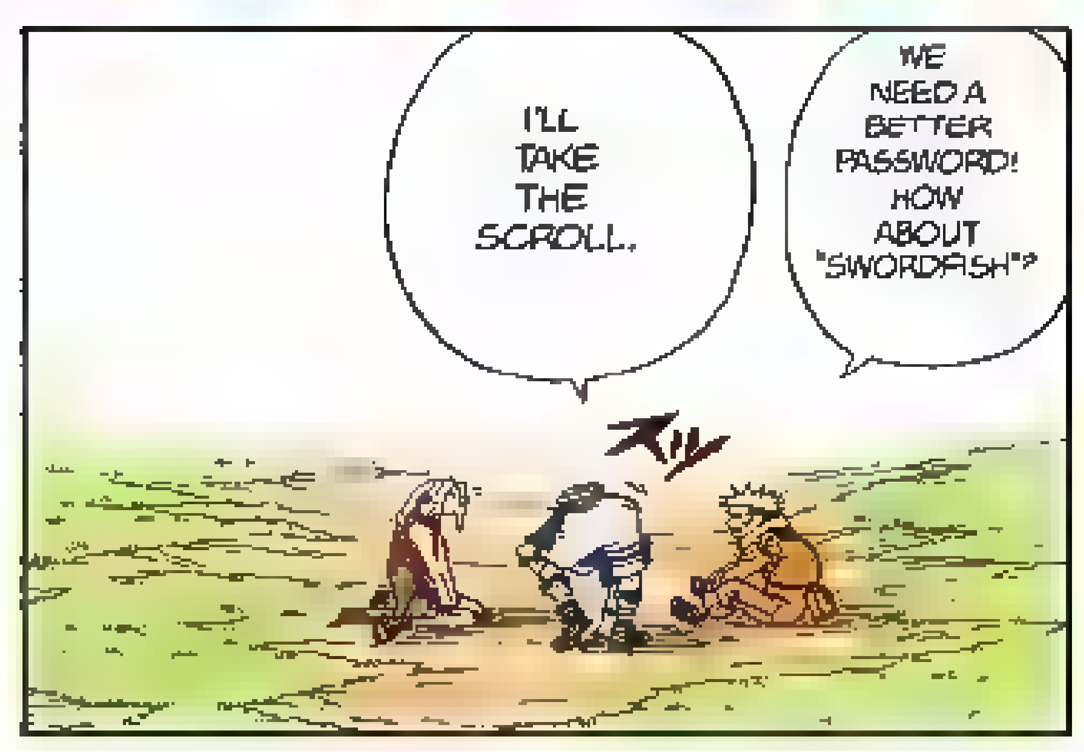

LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY. I'LL SAY IT ONLY ONCE!

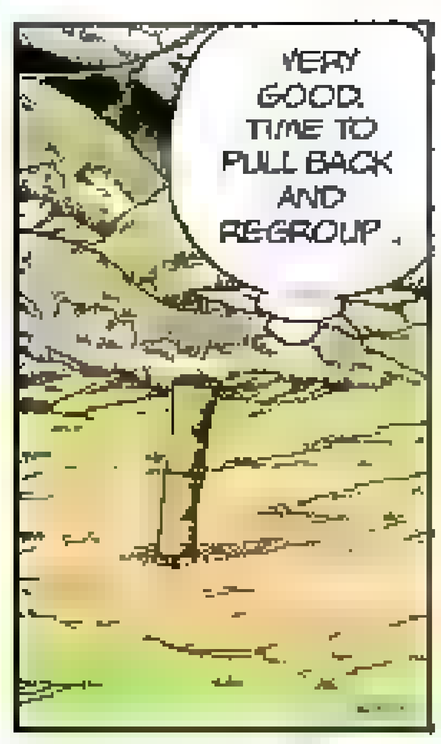

IT'S A POEM CALLED "NINKI" -- "NINJA OPPORTUNITY."
WHEN I ASK FOR IT, HERE'S WHAT YOU RESPOND...


"WE THRIVE IN THE CHAOS OF THE ENEMY TIDE. QUIET SHINOBI DON'T NEED DENS TO HIDE
"OUR ONLY CONCERN IS TO WATCH AND WAIT...


AND YOU EXPECT ME TO REMEMBER THAT... HOW?!
YOU ARE SUCH A DUNCE. I'VE ALREADY GOT IT DOWN!


"...UNTIL THE ENEMY LOWERS THE GATE."
...
BINGO!


WE NEED A BETTER PASSWORD! HOW ABOUT "SWORDFISH"?
I'LL TAKE THE SCROLL.


VERY GOOD. TIME TO PULL BACK AND REGROUP...

SHF



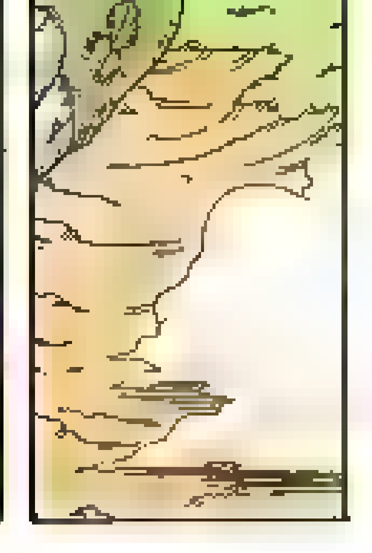


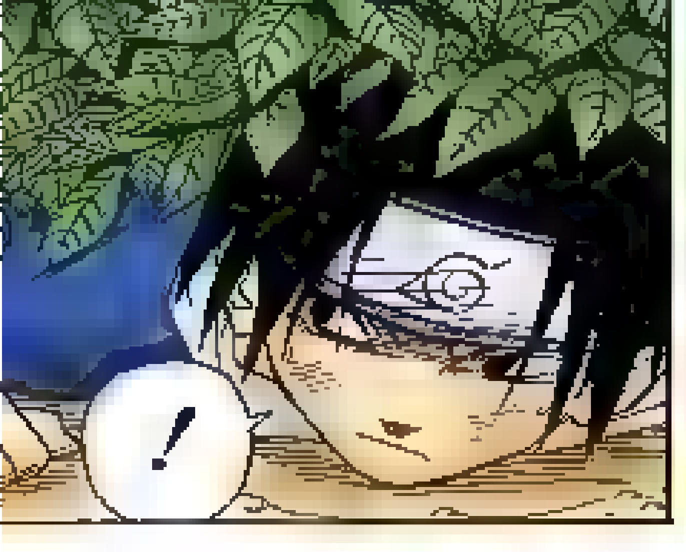
WHAT THE...?

OW!
!

YAAAAAH!!
!!
A NEW ENEMY!?

STICK AROUND, YOU TWO. IT COULD BE FUN!
I'LL GO IN ALONE!





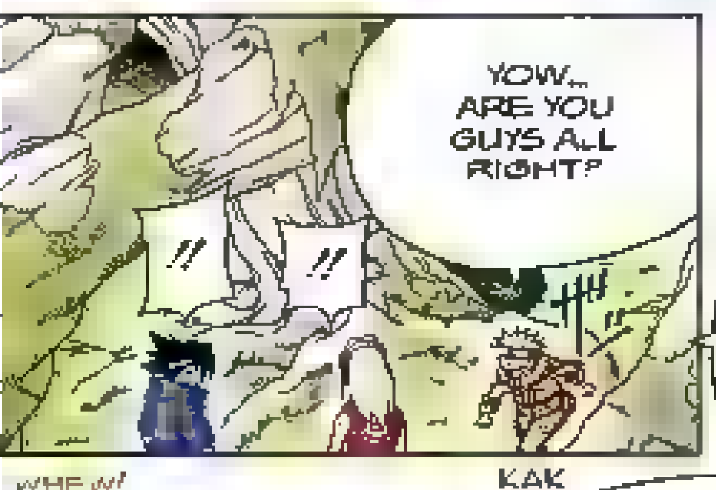


FWP



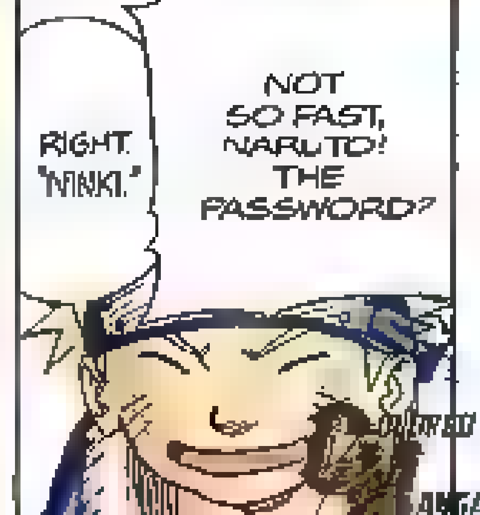
"WE THRIVE IN THE CHAOS OF THE ENEMY T DE QUIET *SHINOBI* DON'T NEED DENS TO HIDE OUR ONLY CONCERN S TO WATCH AND WAIT UNTIL THE ENEMY LOWERS THE GATE."

GOOD.



WHEW!

KAK



"WE THRIVE IN THE CHAOS OF THE ENEMY TIDE. QUIET *SHINOBI* DON'T NEED DENS TO HIDE. OUR ONLY CONCERN IS TO WATCH AND WAIT UNTIL THE ENEMY LOWERS THE GATE."



!!

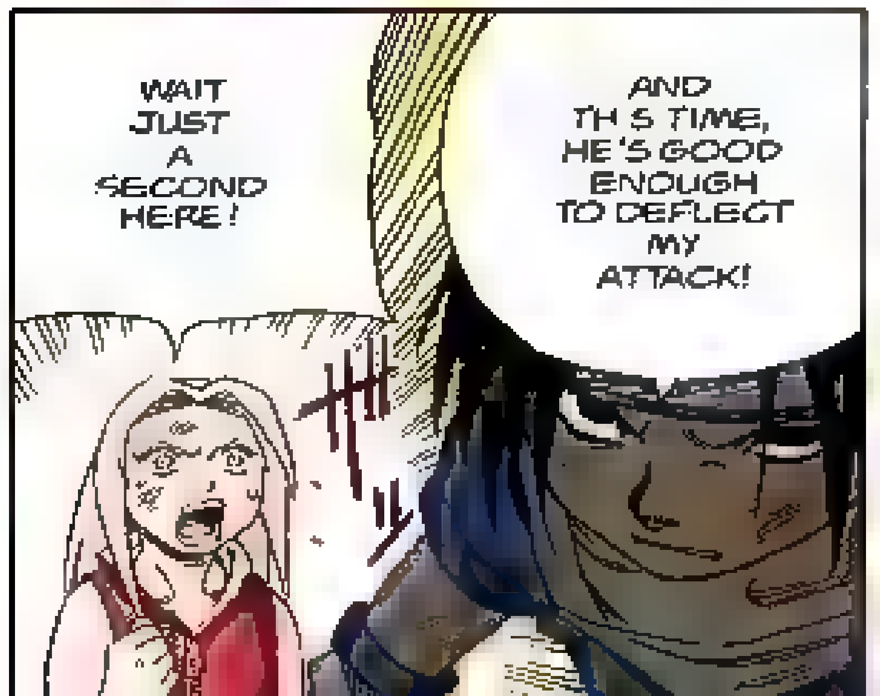
TOK

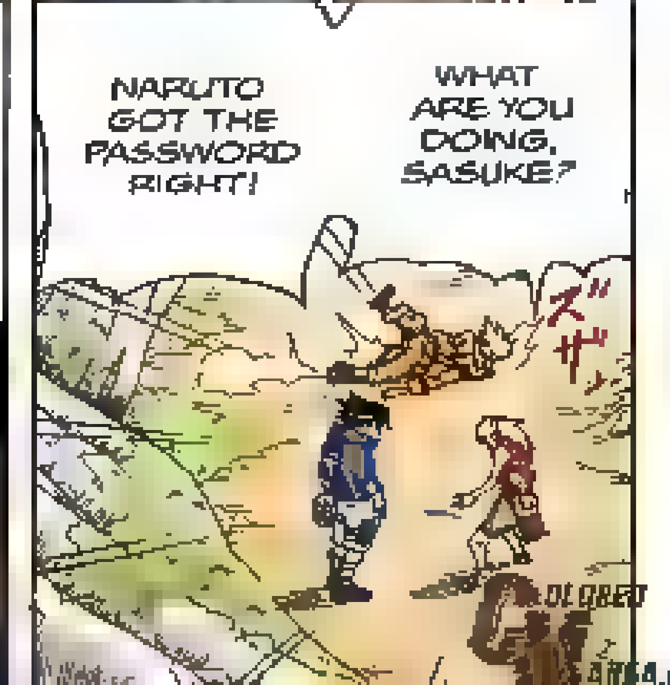
WHAT?!

!!

HEYY!

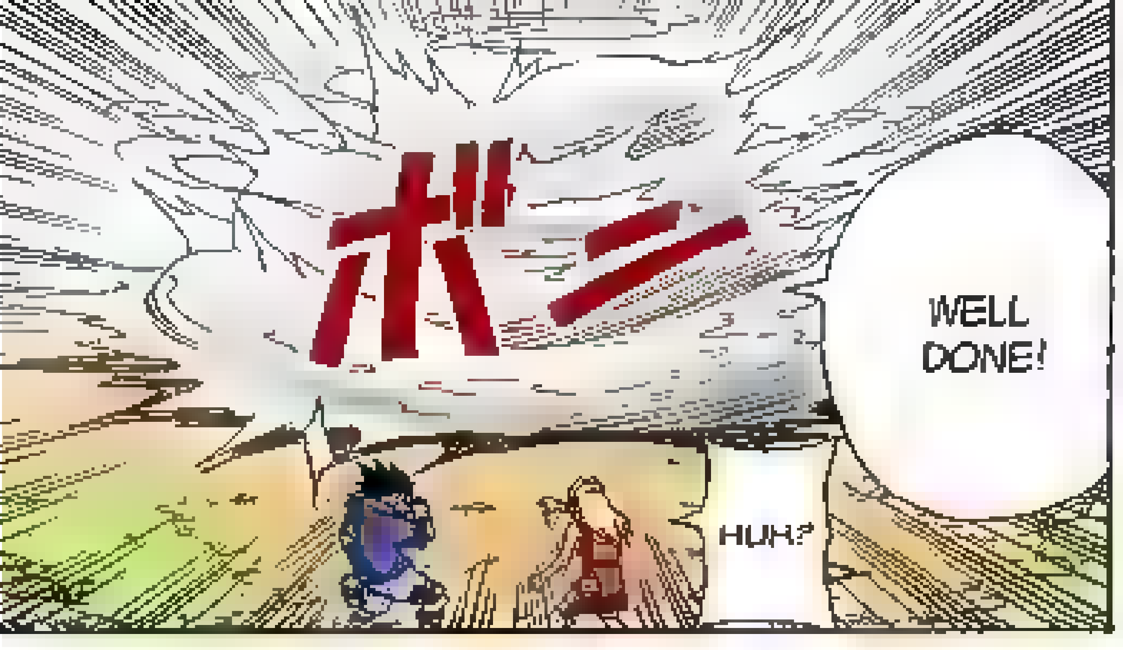
FWIP





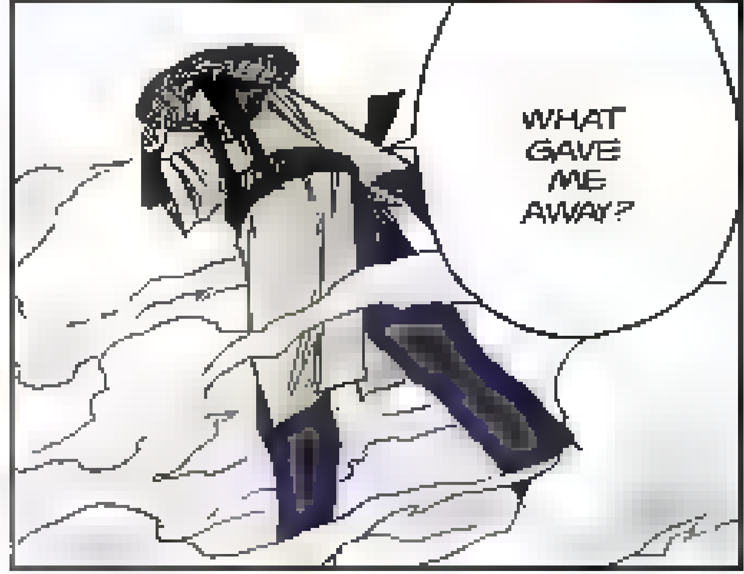


HEH

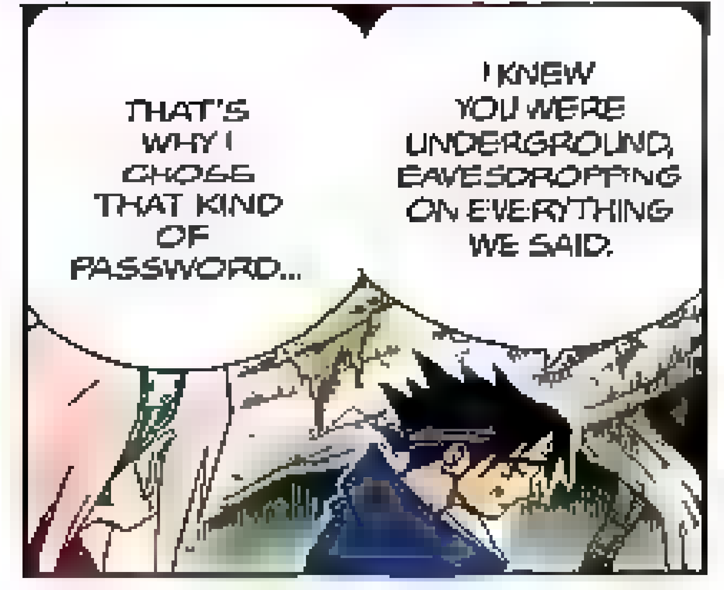


ボン
WELL DONE!
HUH?

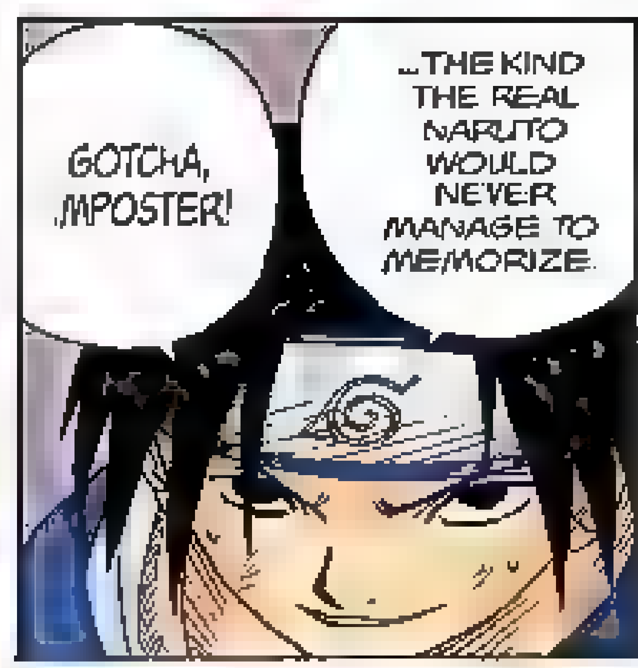
ONG



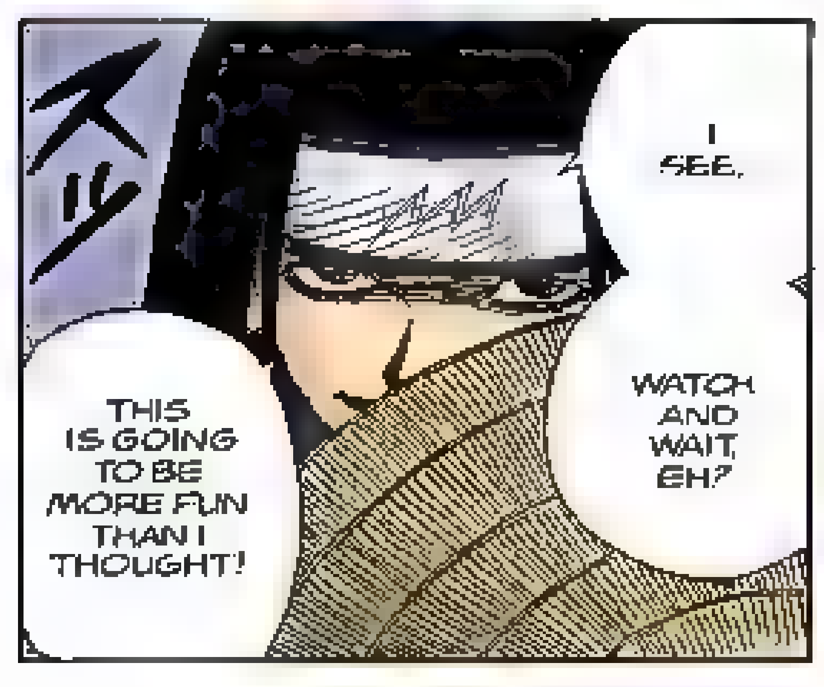
WHAT GAVE ME AWAY?



I KNEW YOU WERE UNDERGROUND, EAVESDROPPING ON EVERYTHING WE SAID.
THAT'S WHY I CHOSE THAT KIND OF PASSWORD...



...THE KIND THE REAL NARUTO WOULD NEVER MANAGE TO MEMORIZE.
GOTCHA, IMPOSTER!



スッ
I SEE.
WATCH AND WAIT, EH?
THIS IS GOING TO BE MORE FUN THAN I THOUGHT!

DOFF



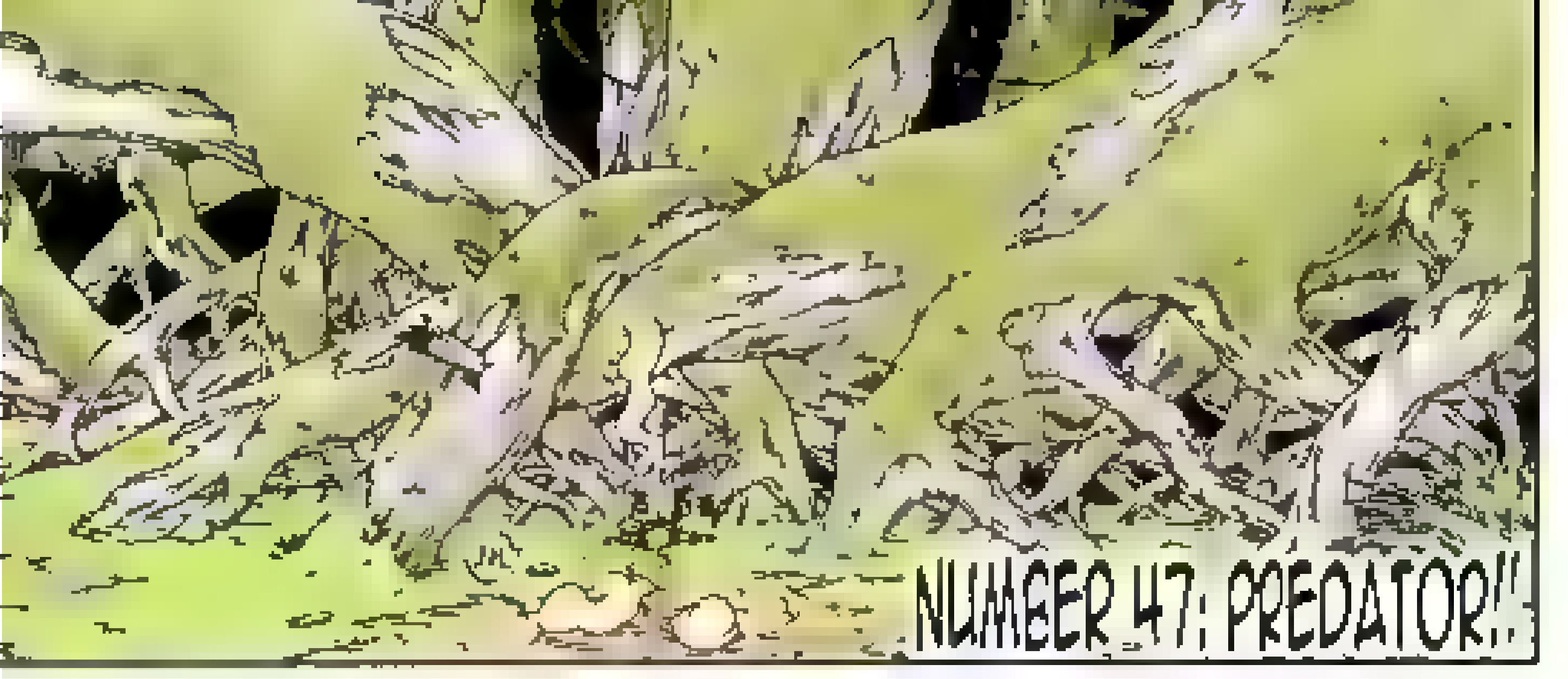
MEET KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S ASSISTANTS – PART ONE

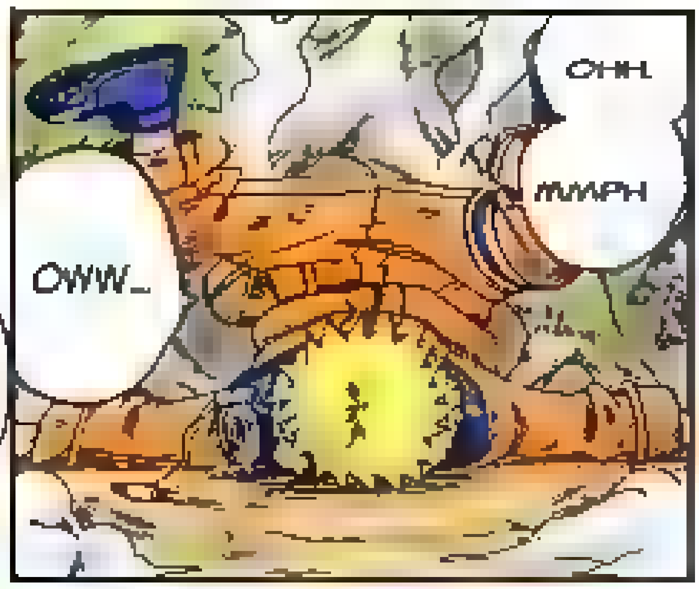
• ASSISTANT NO. 1: TAKAHASHI KAZUHIRO



PROFILE

- A NATIVE OF KYUSHU WITH A TASTE FOR GOOD SAKE AND RED BEAN BUNS, HE COMES FROM THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF BEPPU, ALSO KNOWN AS HELL (BECAUSE OF THE SULFUROUS FUMES THAT BILLOW FROM ITS FAMOUS HOT SPRINGS).
- LOVES TO EAT AND ALWAYS HAS HIS NOSE IN THE OFFICE REFRIGERATOR.
- LOTS OF TREASURES ARE SLEEPING IN HIS CLOSET AT H[illegible]
- HAS A TASTE FOR LEATHER AND WILD MOTORBIKE RIDES.
- HE'S A SUB-ZERO SUPER-COOL BAD BOY WHO LIKES TO PLAY DUMB. HE WORKS AS MY BETA -- THE ARTIST WHO SPOTS THE SOLID BLACKS IN HAIR AND CLOTHING, LAYS DOWN THE HALF TONES, AND COMPLETES THE BACKGROUND ART -- AND LIVES LIKE A CHIEF.

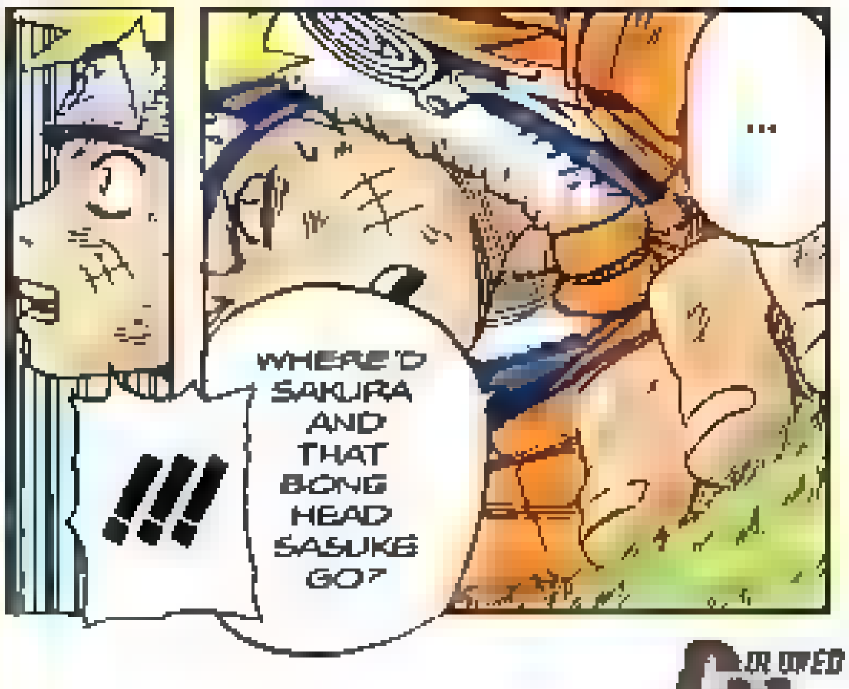

NUMBER 47: PREDATOR!!


OHH
MMPH
OWW..

FWP


OOH..

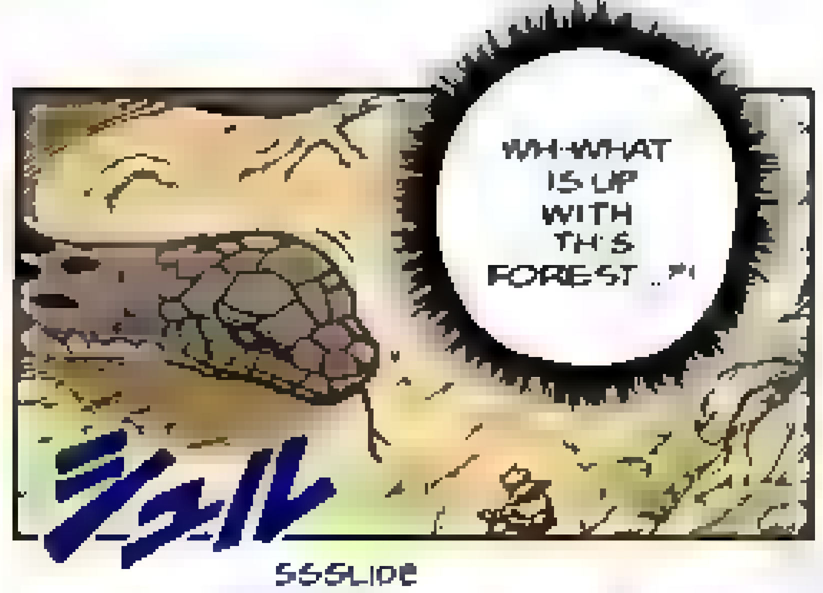

...!
HUNH?


...
WHERE'D SAKURA AND THAT BONG HEAD SASUKE GO?
!!!

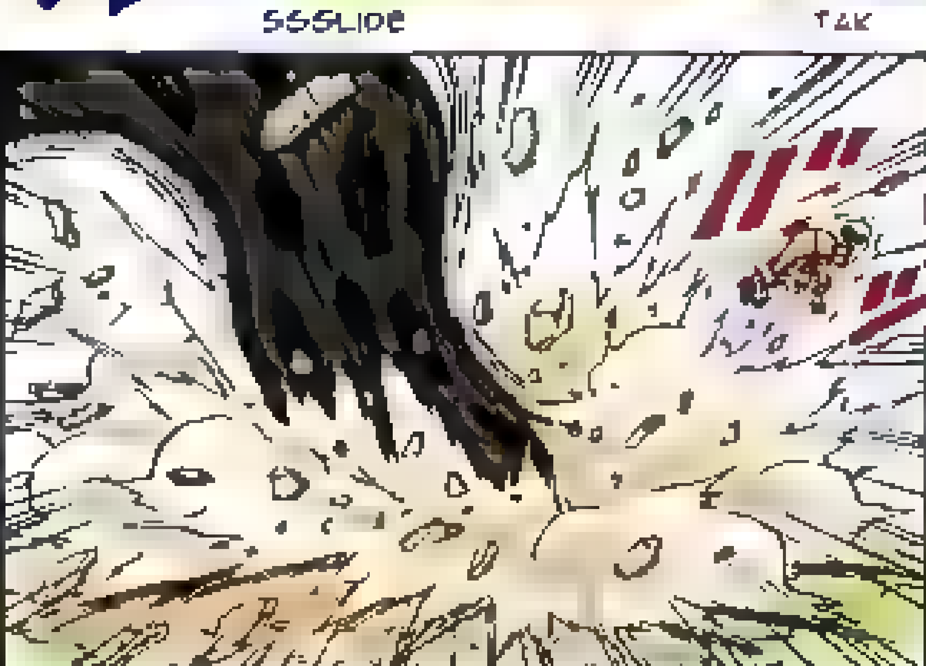

...YAAAAH!
I-IT'S..

NUMBER 47: PREDATOR!!

...HUGE!!!


WH-WHAT IS UP WITH THIS FOREST...?!
シュル
SSSLIDE


-I'VE NEVER SEEN
A SNAKE THAT BIG!
TAK


SSSSS


GRRR


!!
FWUP


!


!!
...TH-THE TAIL...!
BEHIND ME?!
ACK!

GULP

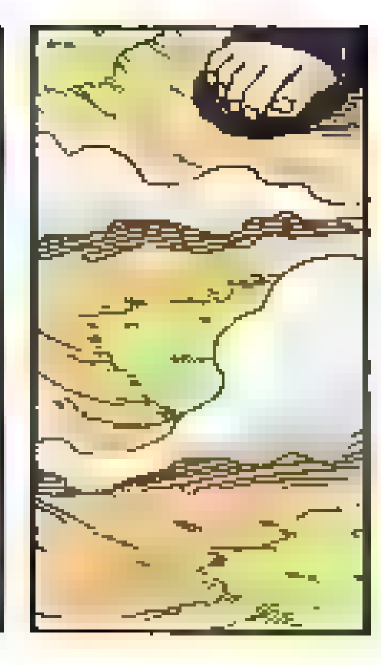
AAAAAGH!!

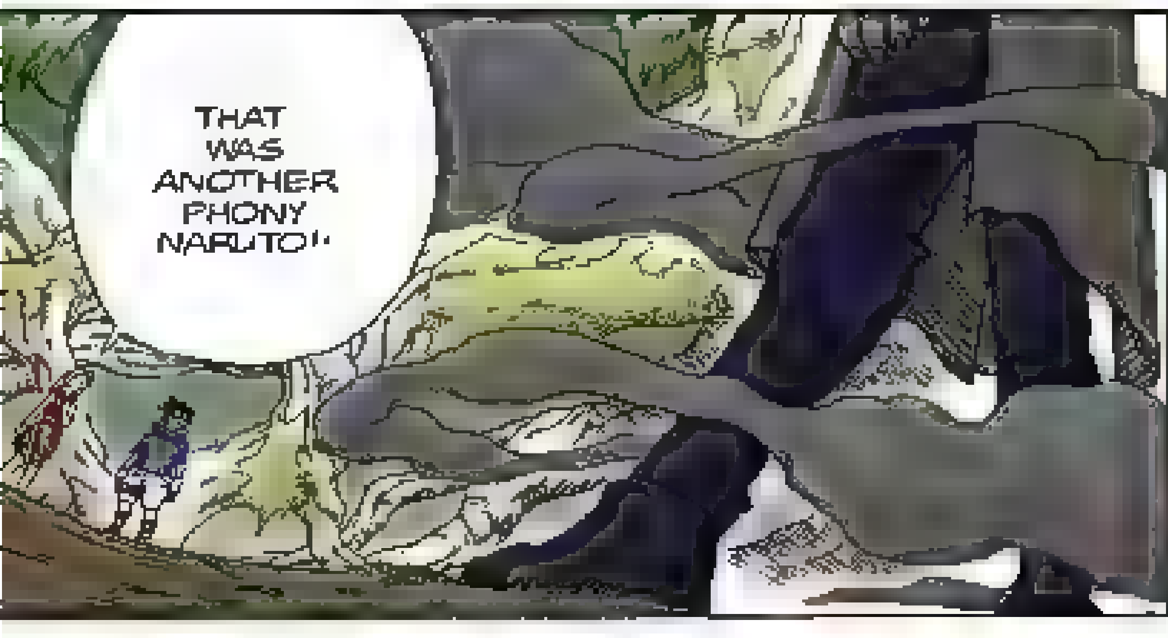


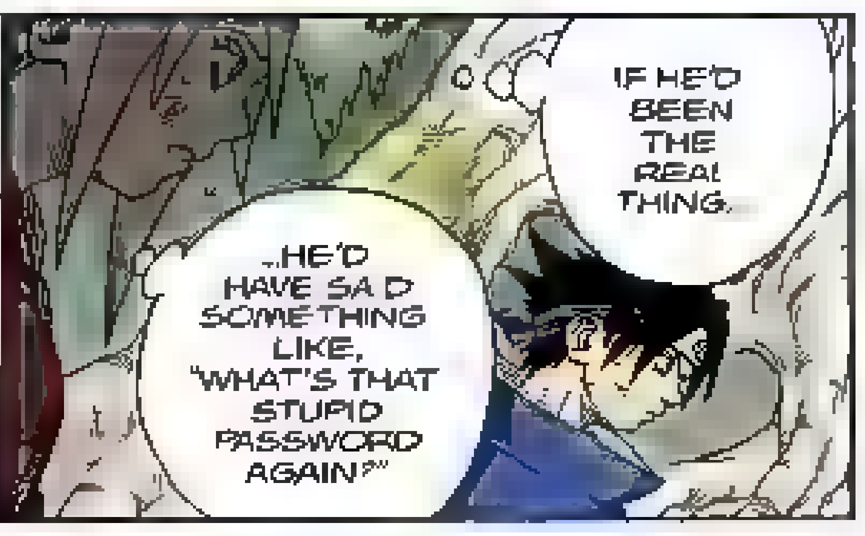








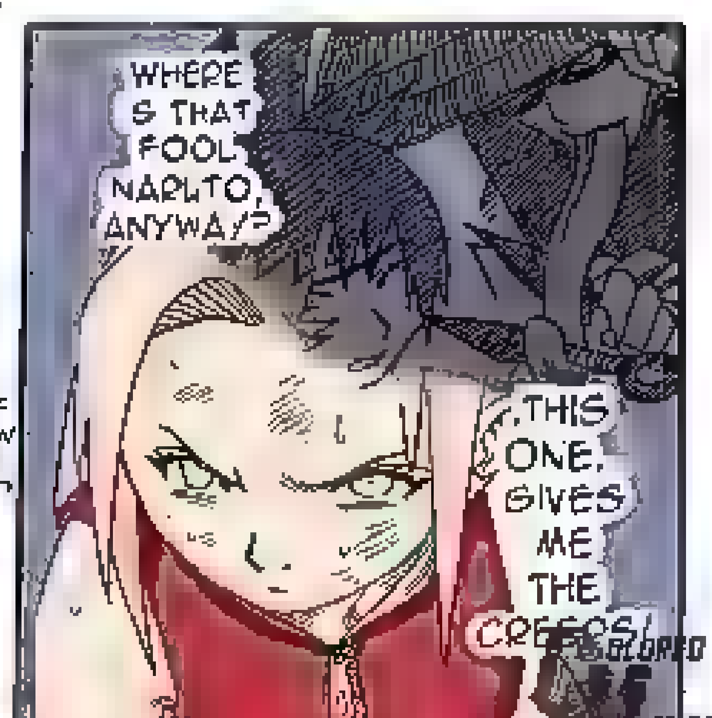


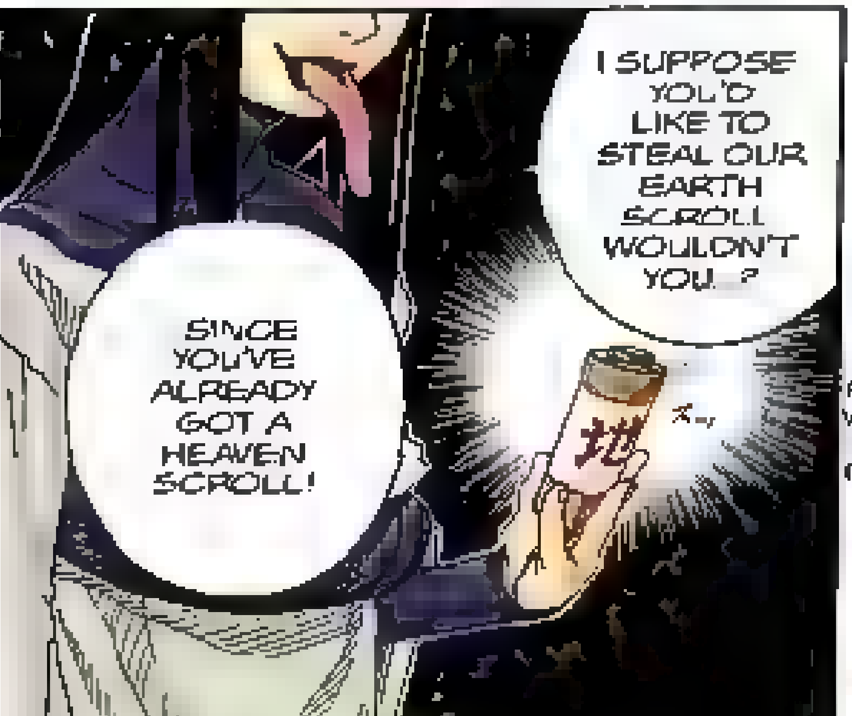






THIS SCROLL READS *CHI*, MEANING "EARTH."



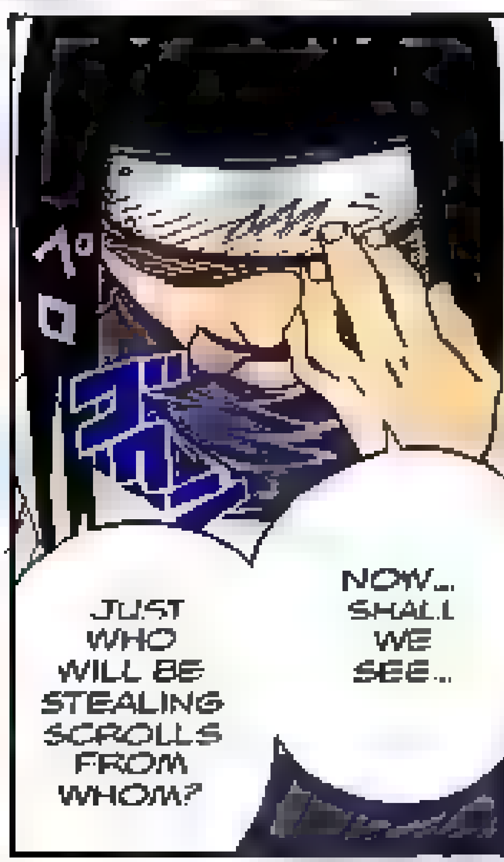


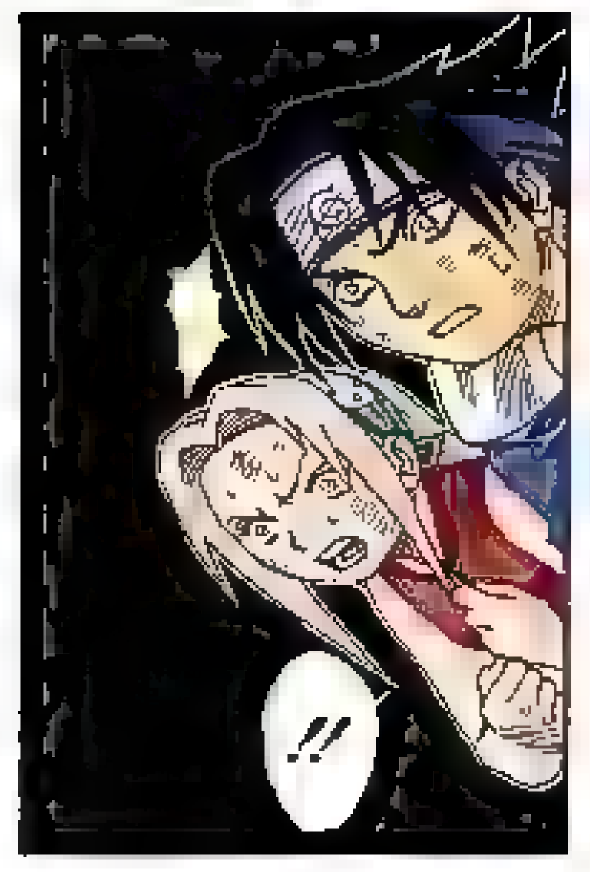
GLUGK


SLUPP

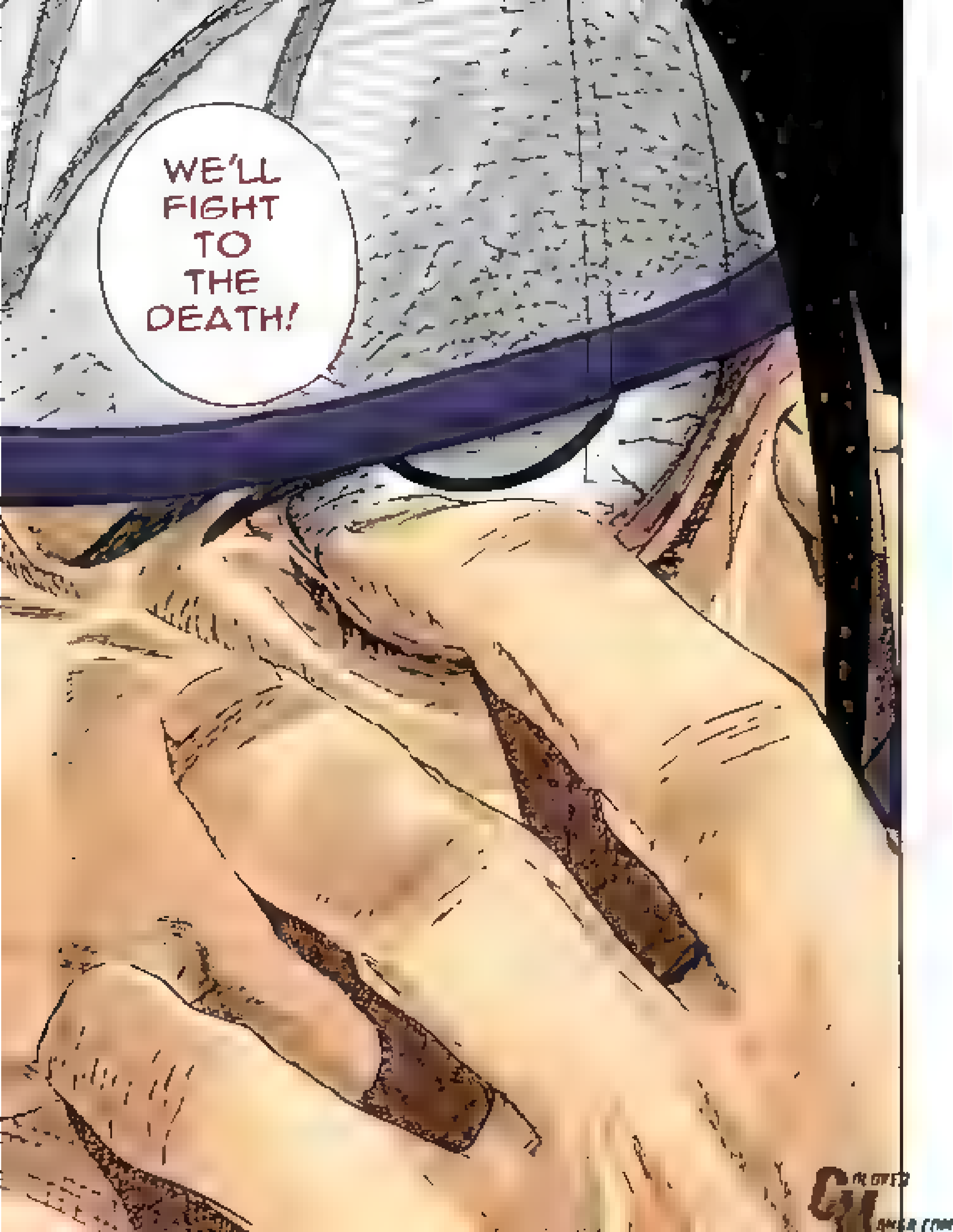


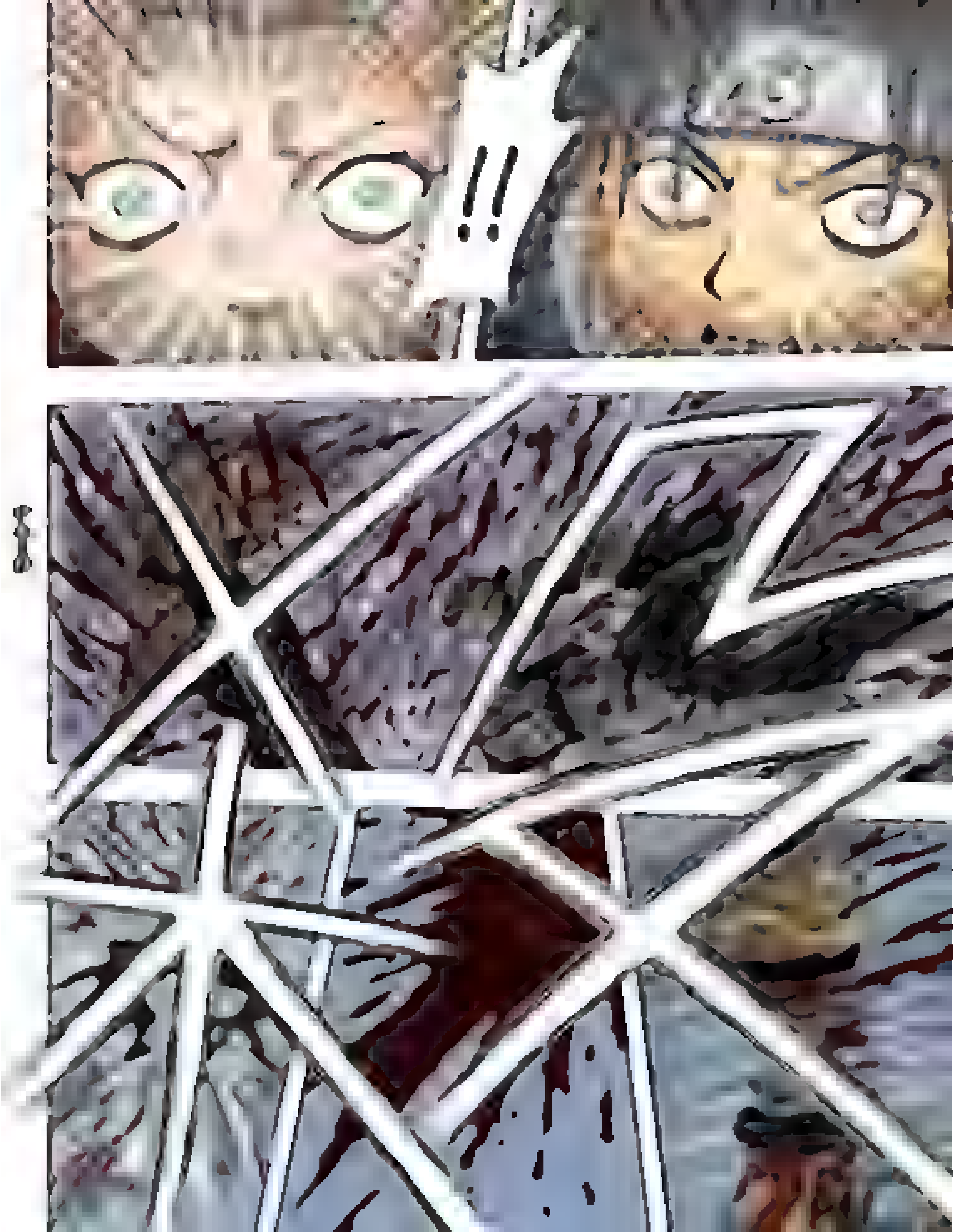

GULP GULP


NOW... SHALL WE SEE...
JUST WHO WILL BE STEALING SCROLLS FROM WHOM?


!!


COLORED MANGA.COM


WE'LL FIGHT TO THE DEATH!

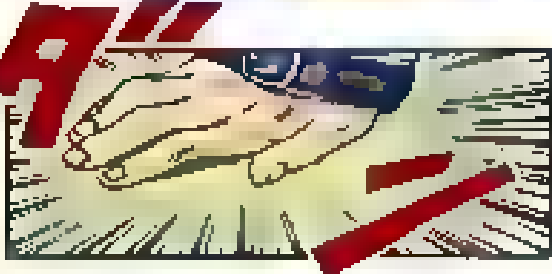



PULSE

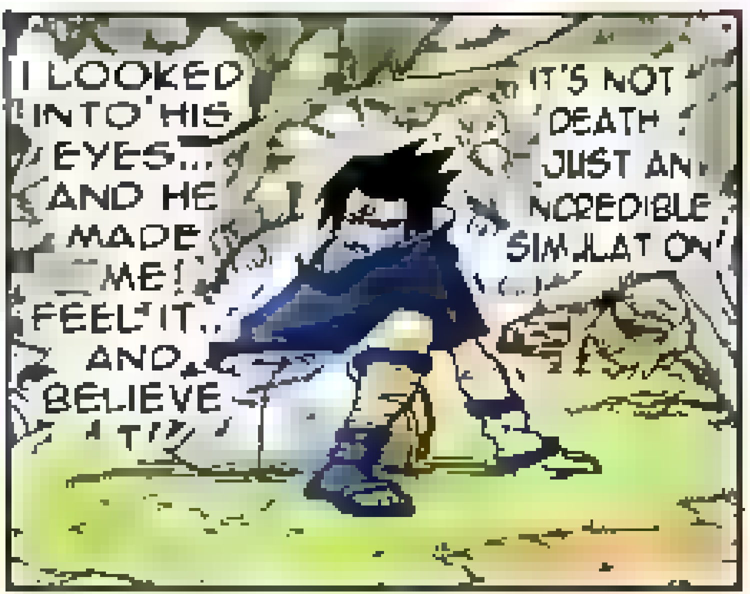



UHHN...
BLORTCH !!


HE'S CASTING AN ILLUSION!
HUFF
PUFF
PUFF


THOK


WH-WHO THE HECK IS HE...?!


I LOOKED INTO HIS EYES... AND HE MADE ME FEEL IT... AND BELIEVE IT!
IT'S NOT DEATH JUST AN INCREDIBLE SIMULATION!

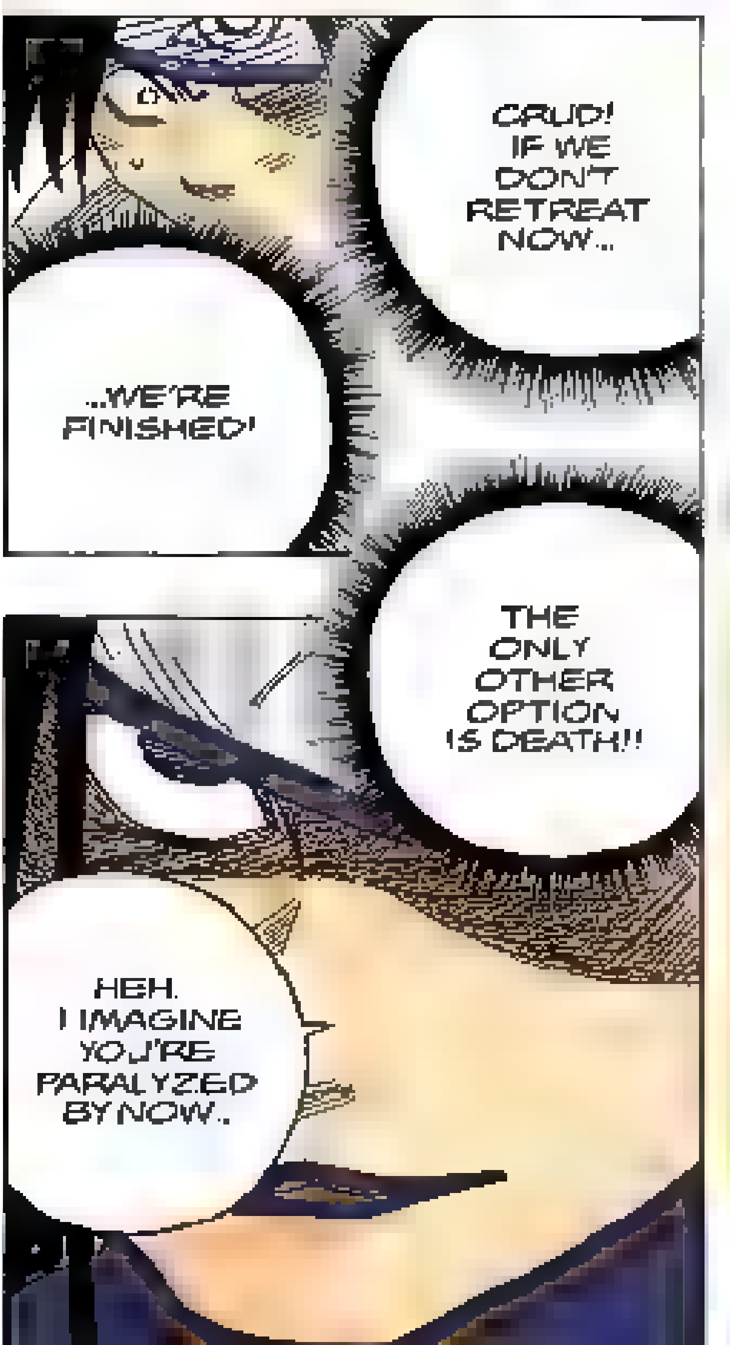

PUFF HUFF PUFF PUFF





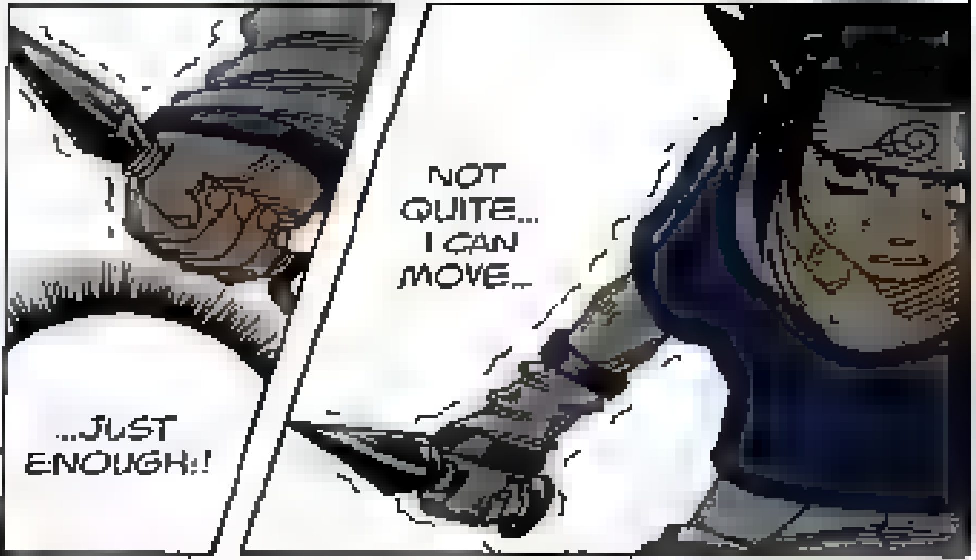

!

...!!

SAKURA...

CRUD! IF WE DON'T RETREAT NOW...
...WE'RE FINISHED!
THE ONLY OTHER OPTION IS DEATH!!
HEH. I IMAGINE YOU'RE PARALYZED BY NOW...


COLORED MANGA.COM





TOK



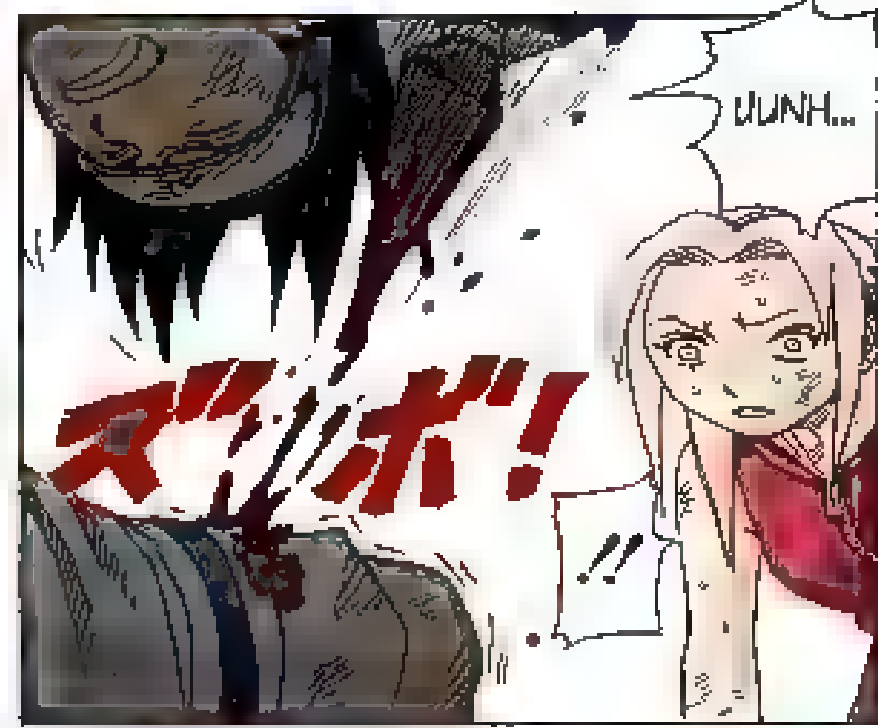
THOK THOK






STAB

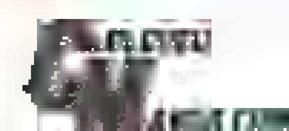

PUFF PUFF PUFF

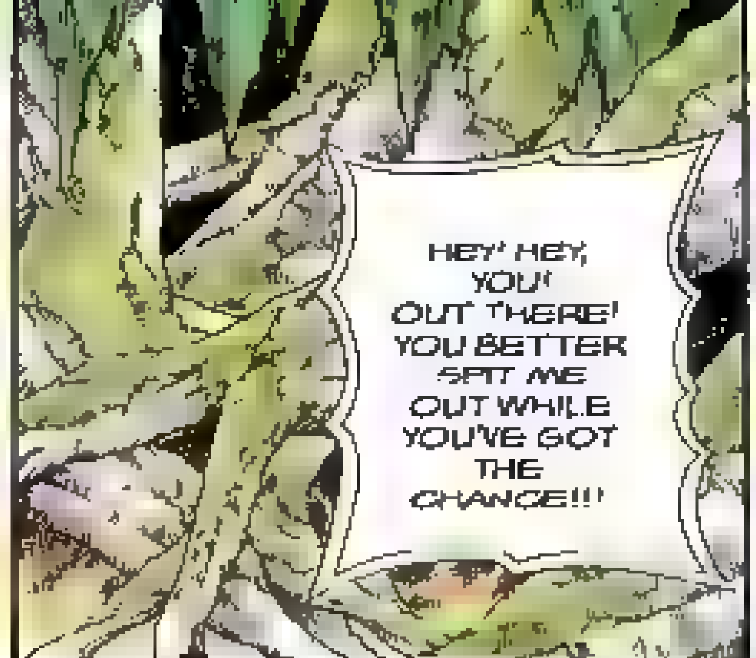


SHLUCK

AMAZING! THE BOY STABBED HIMSELF SO THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO FOCUS ON THE PAIN AND BLOCK OUT FEAR AND ILLUSION

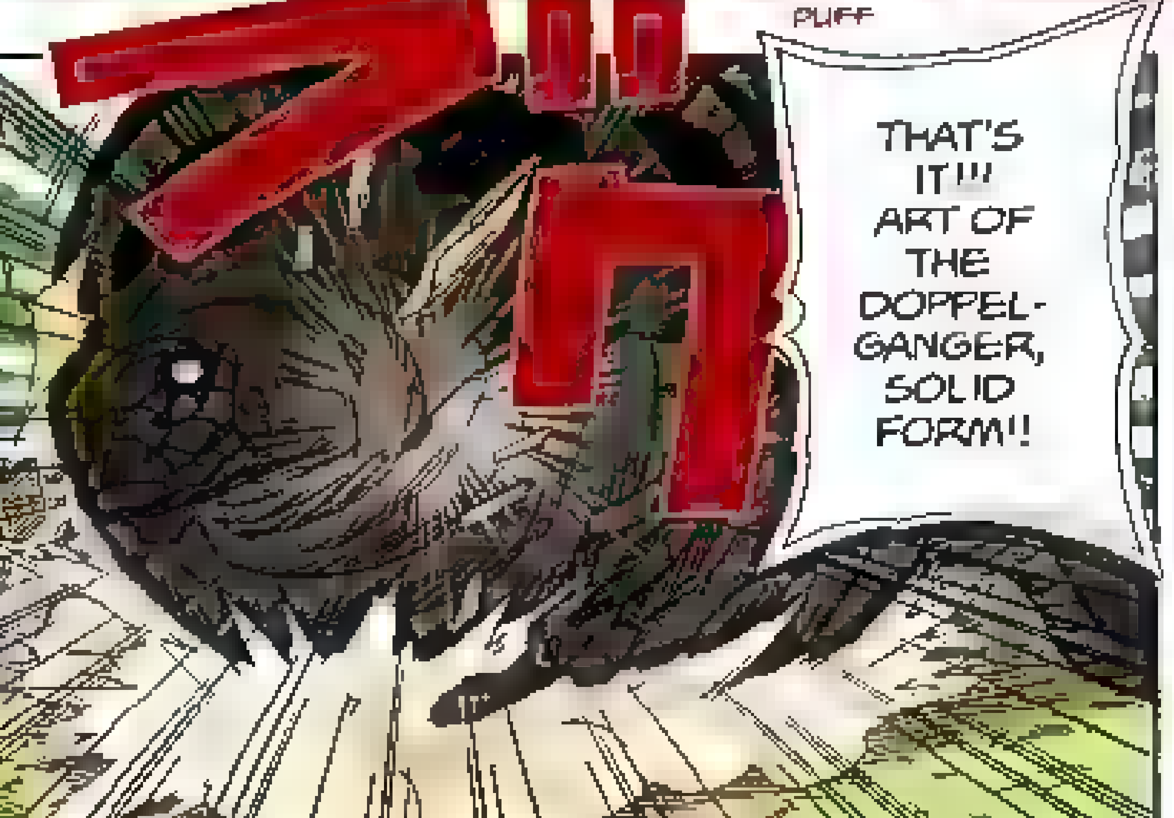
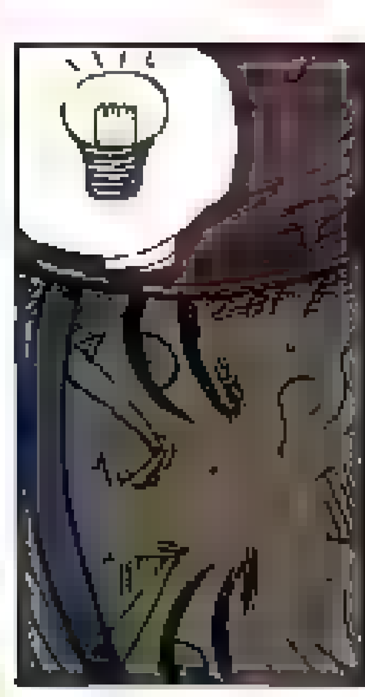
HEH... JUST AS I THOUGHT THERE IS FAR MORE TO THIS ONE THAN TO THE COMMON PREY!





HEY! HEY, YOU! OUT THERE! YOU BETTER SPIT ME OUT WHILE YOU'VE GOT THE CHANCE!!!

MORE, PLEASE KEEP IT COMING!
ULP!

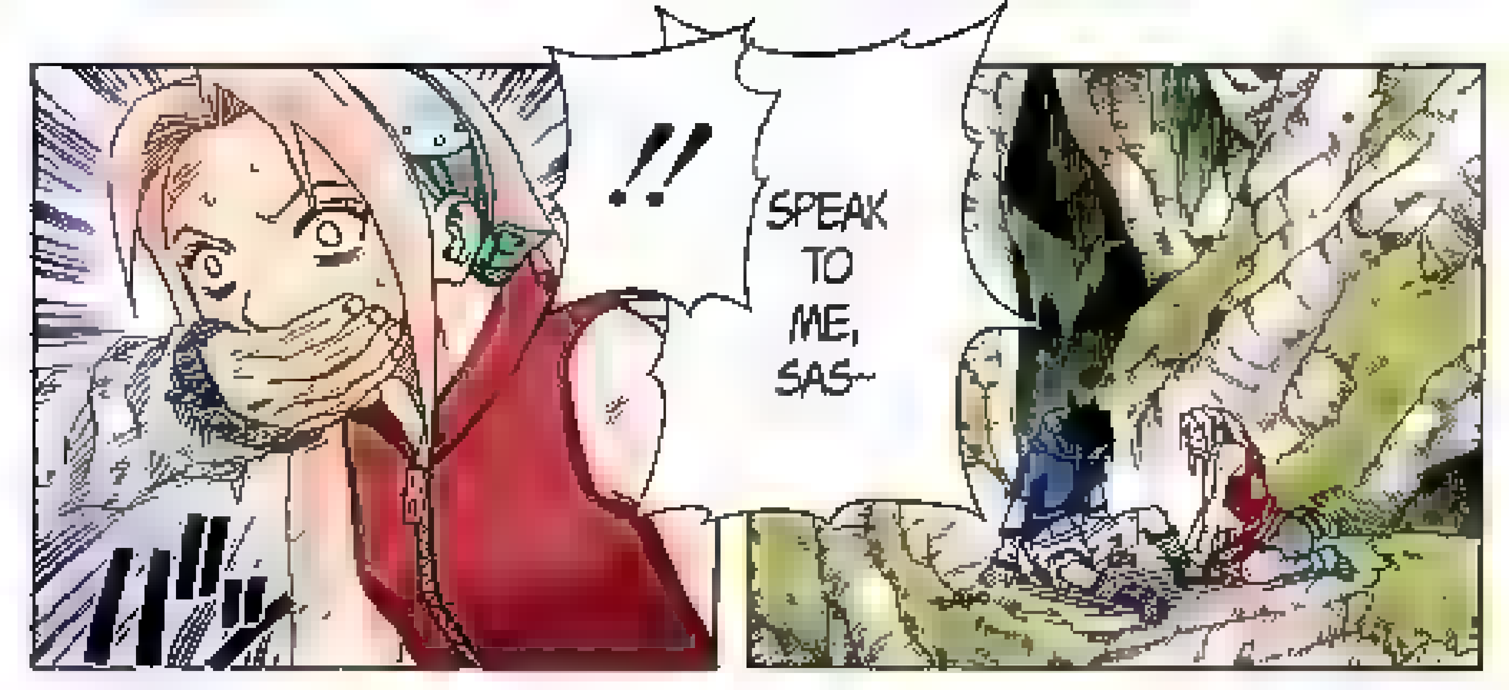
BUT HOW DO I MAKE THIS FREAK BARF?
...

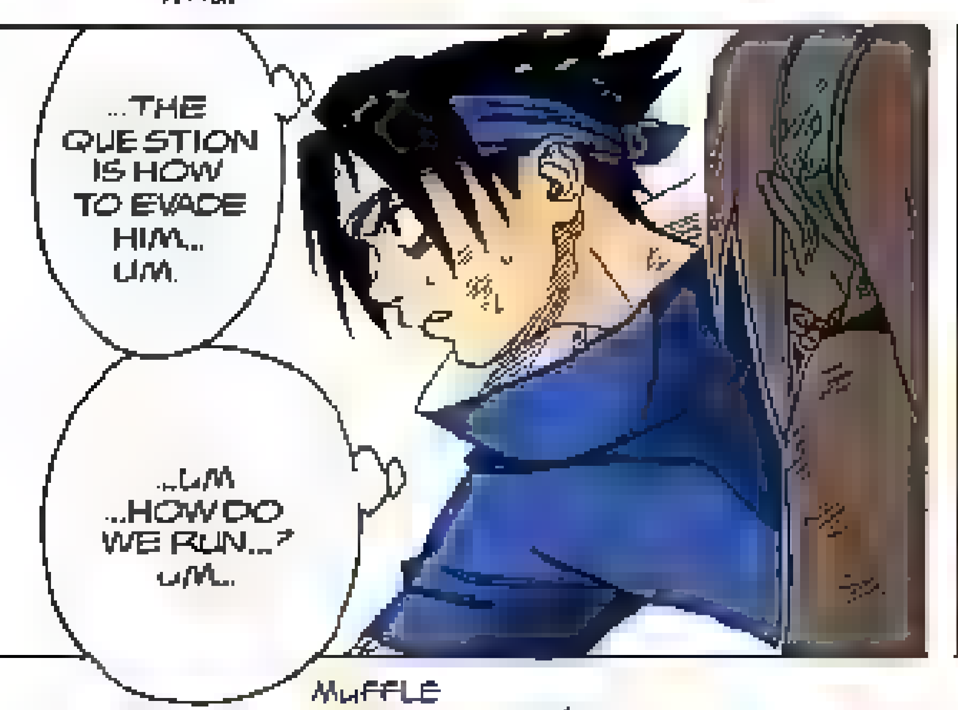
I GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE BEFORE MISTER SLIMY DIGESTS ME!
RATS!

PUFF
THAT'S IT!!! ART OF THE DOPPEL-GANGER, SOLID FORM!!


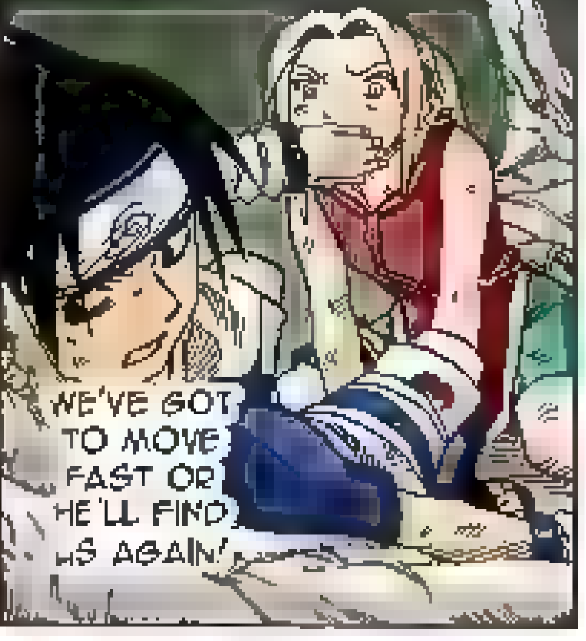


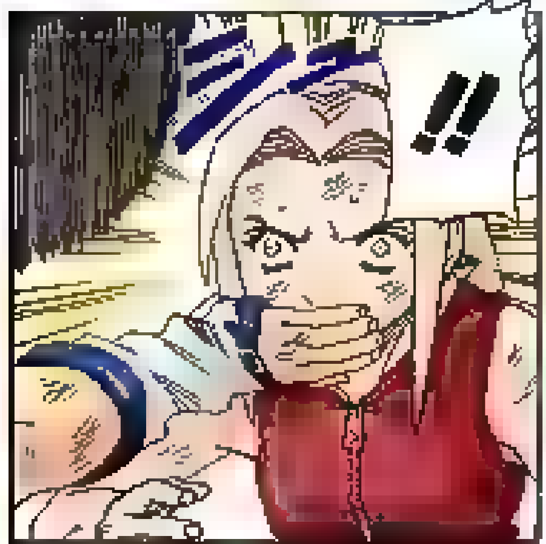




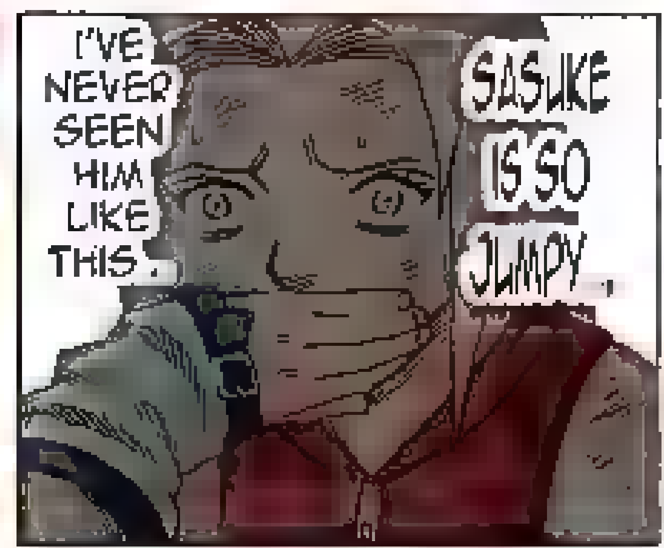


!!
SPEAK TO ME, SAS-
WHUP


...THE QUESTION IS HOW TO EVADE HIM... UM.
...UM ...HOW DO WE RUN...? UM...
MUFFLE


WE'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST OR HE'LL FIND US AGAIN!

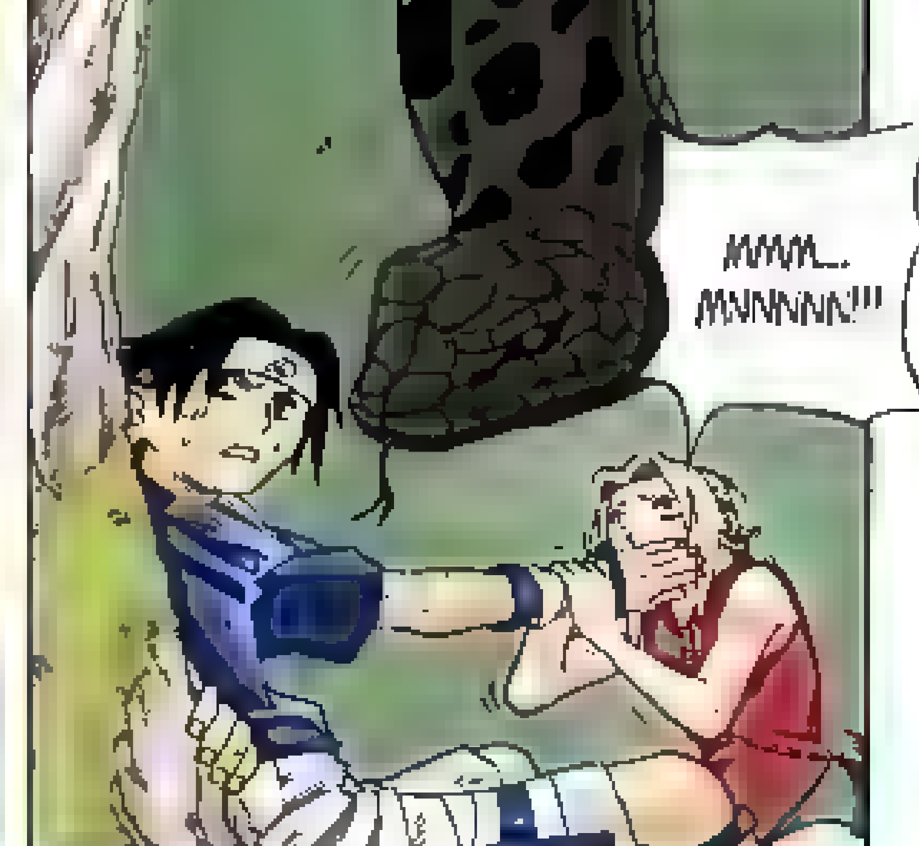

!!

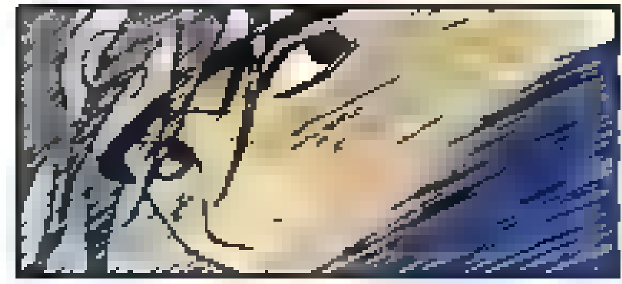

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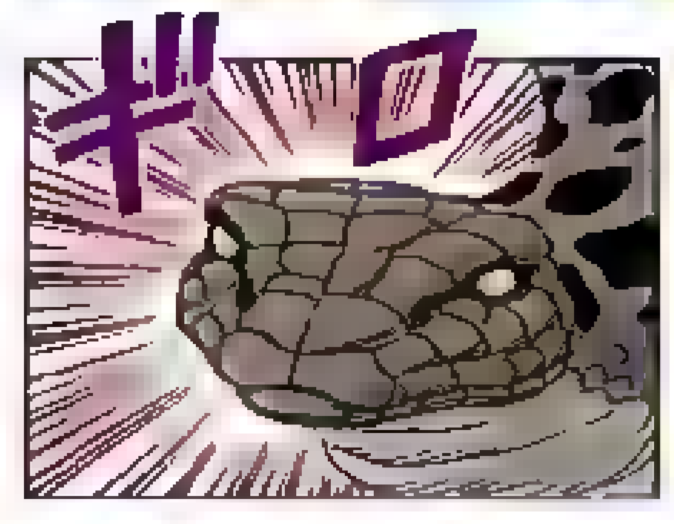

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS.
SASUKE IS SO JUMPY...


COLORED MANGA.COM

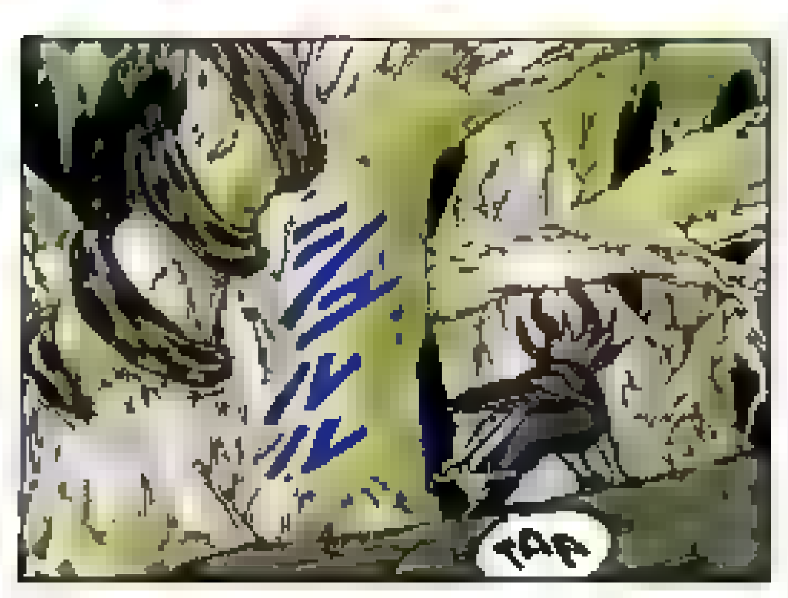
SASUKE!
SNAAAAAKE!

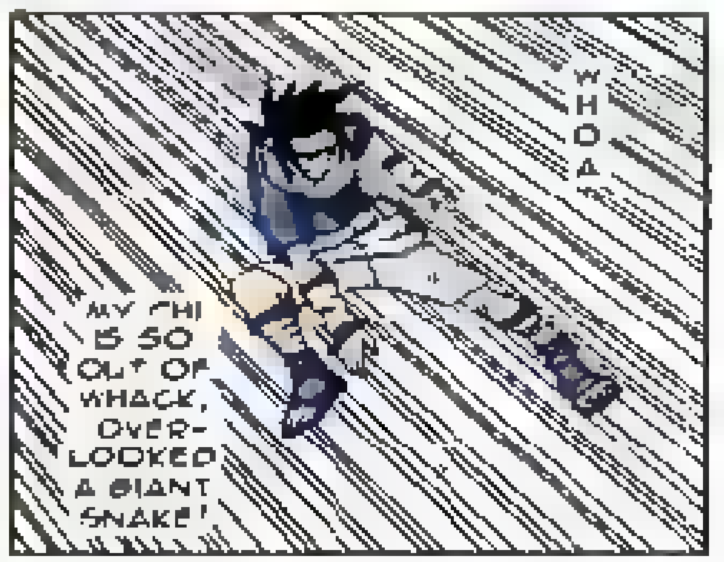


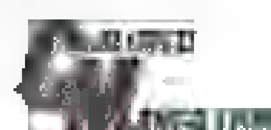








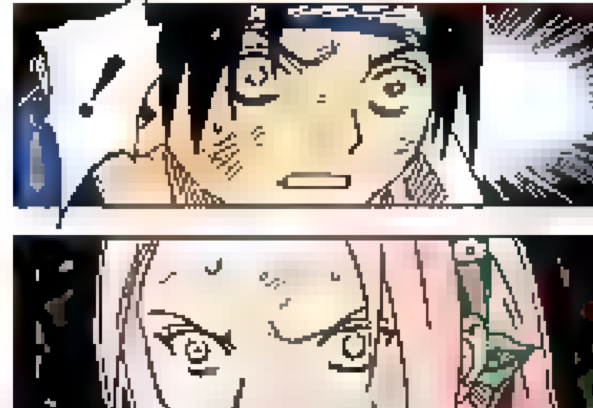




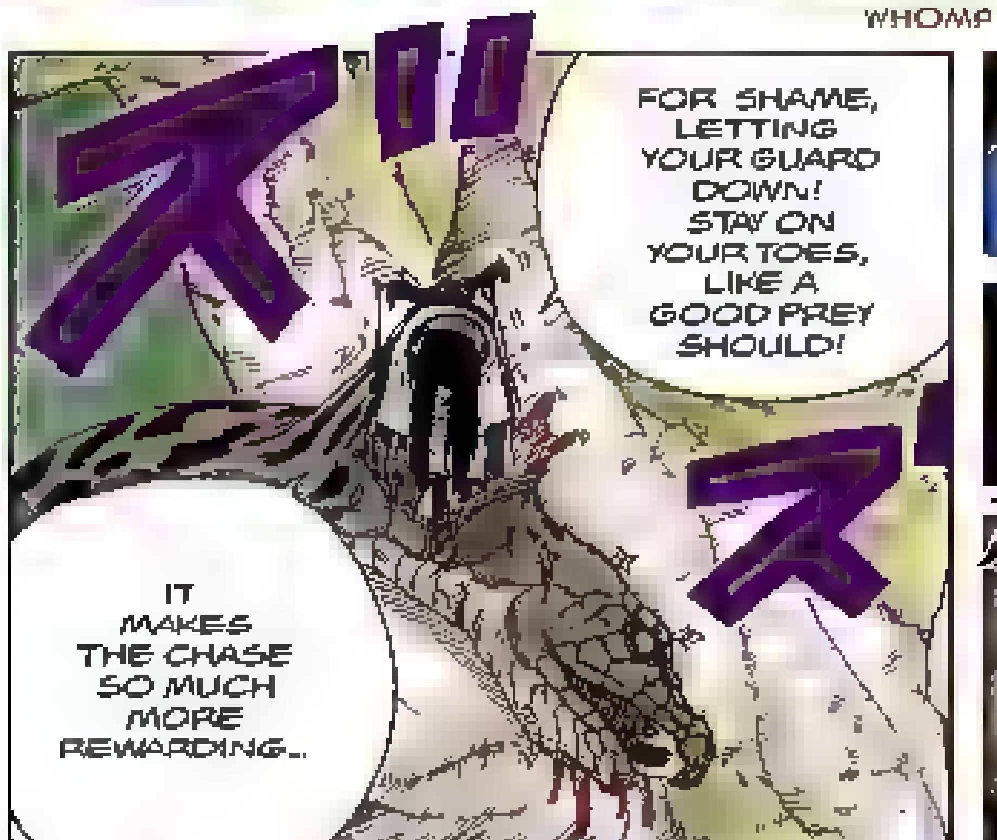

!!
HSSSS
YPE
!!
YAAAAH!! GET LOST!
PWUK PWUK PWUK
PWUK
THUK THUK THUK
COLORED MANGA.COM

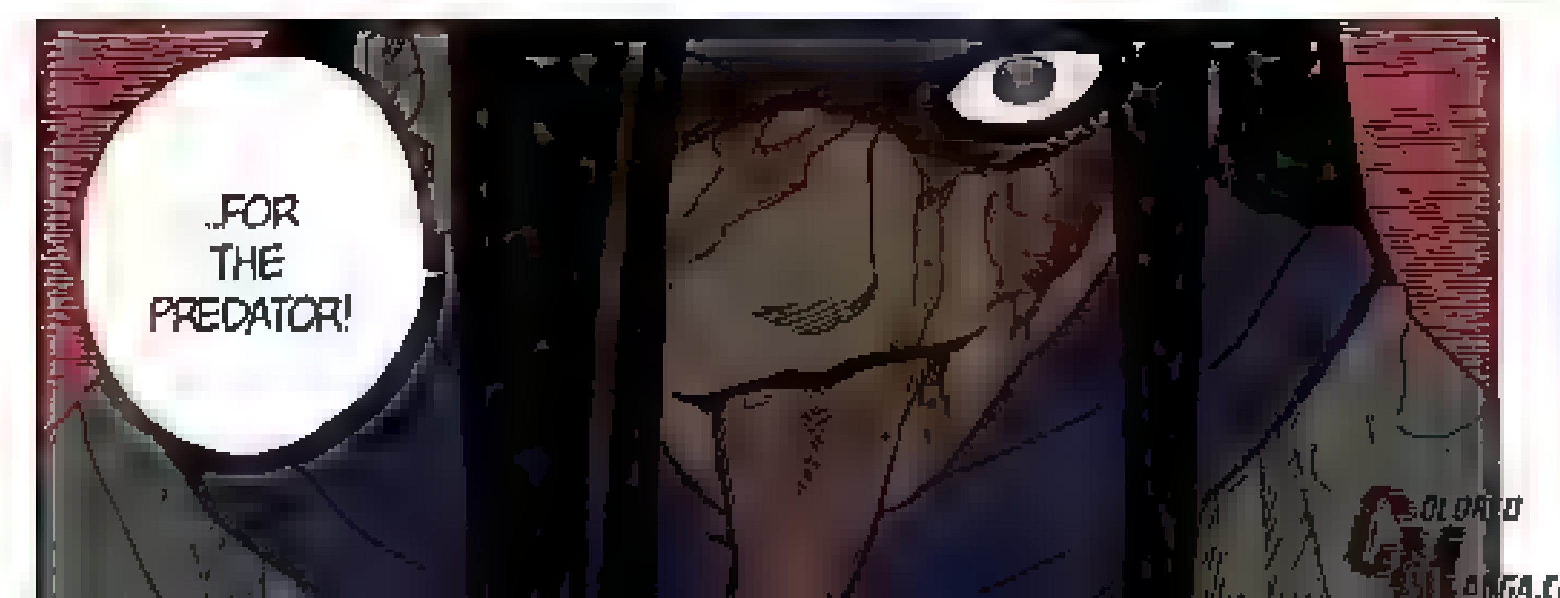


HUFF
PUFF
PUFF
SKFF







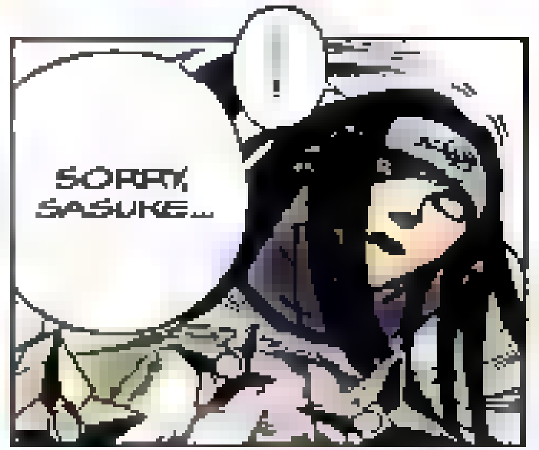


WHIP

SLITHER

CHUK CHUK





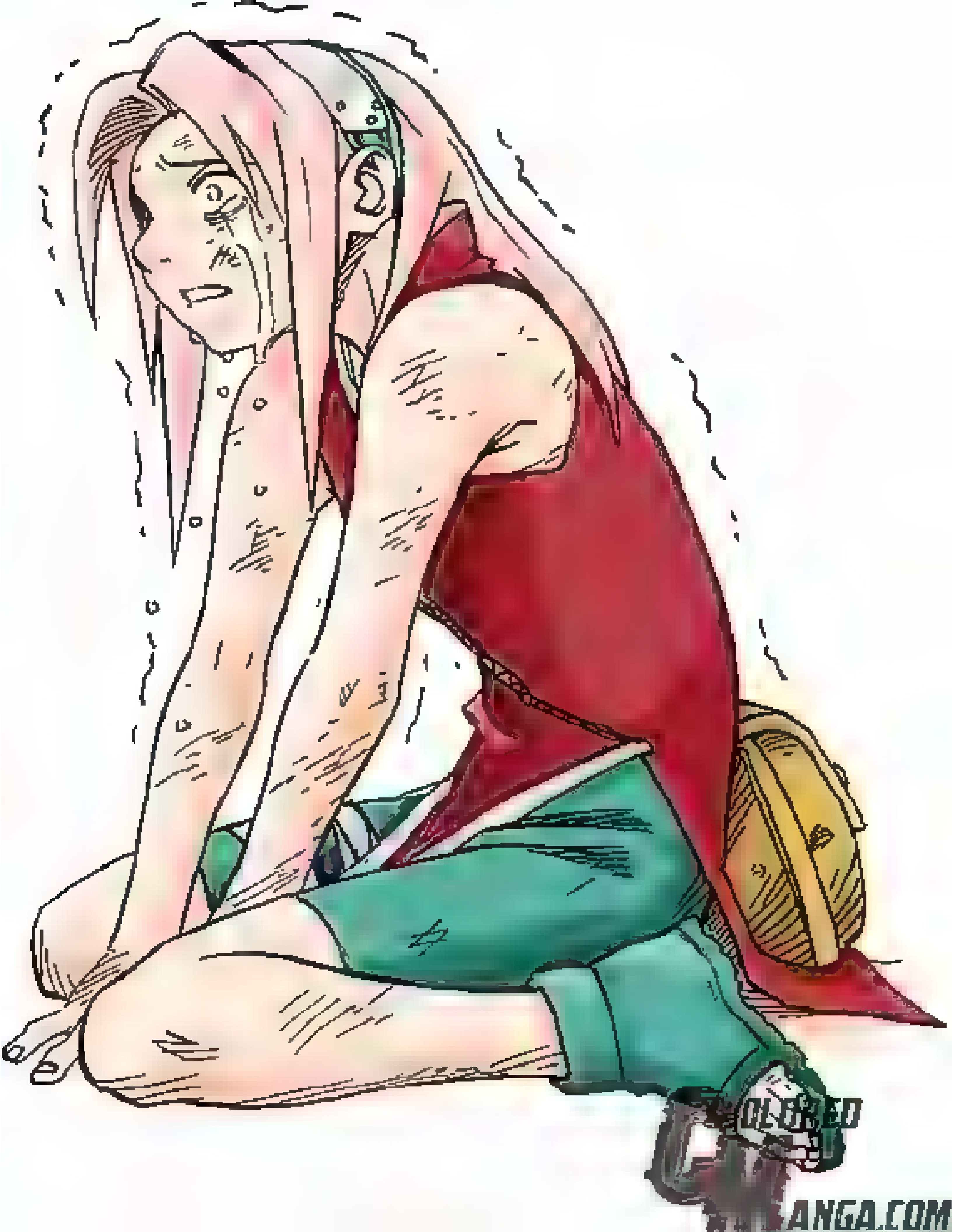


HOP

ONNNG



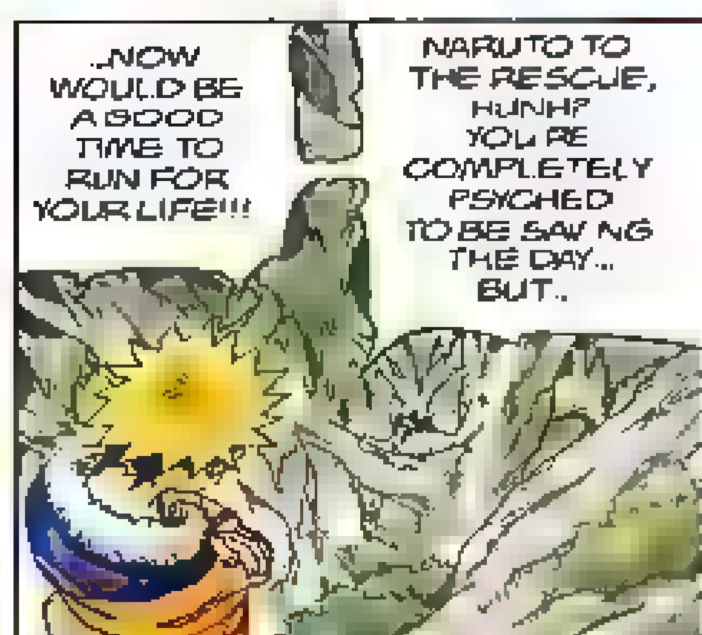




48: THE TARGET IS!!

SWEET NARUTO, THAT WAS AWESOME!!






48 :
THE TARGET IS!!



...NARUTO.

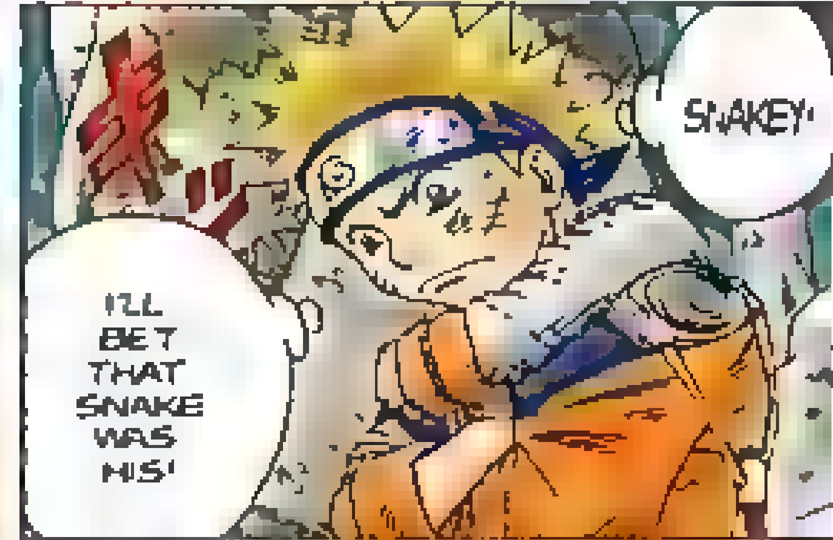
HEH HEH. MY COMPLIMENTS ON YOUR STUNNING DEFEAT OF THE GIANT SNAKE...

!

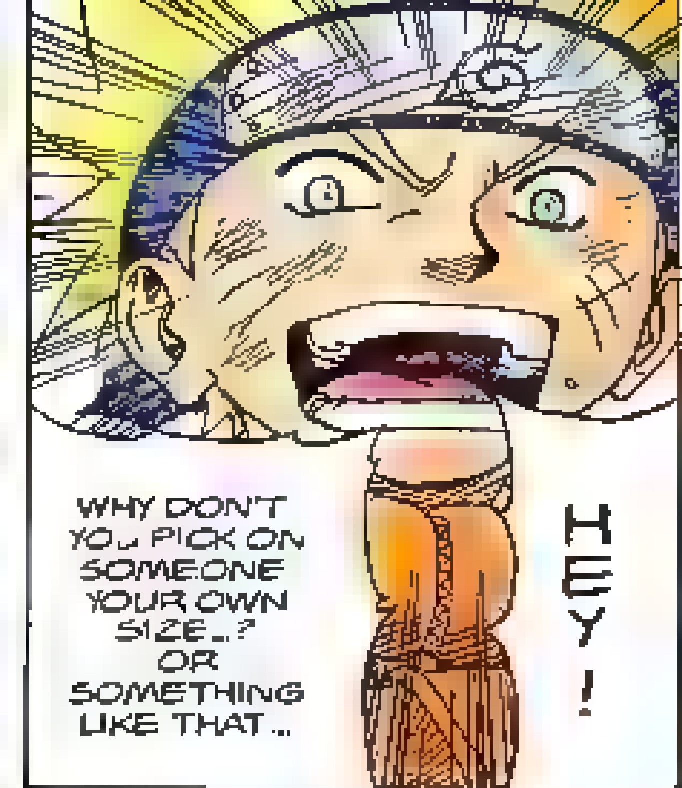
THIS GUY'S A FREAK. HE'S A MAN... BUT ALL I CAN SEE WHEN I LOOK AT HIM IS A SNAKE. EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM...

GRRRR



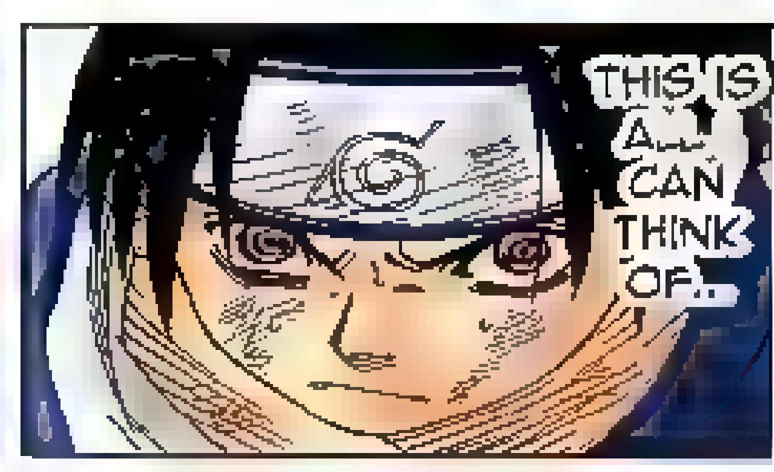



I'VE GOT TO STOP THIS BEFORE HE GETS US ALL KILLED.


HEY!
WHY DON'T YOU PICK ON SOMEONE YOUR OWN SIZE...? OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

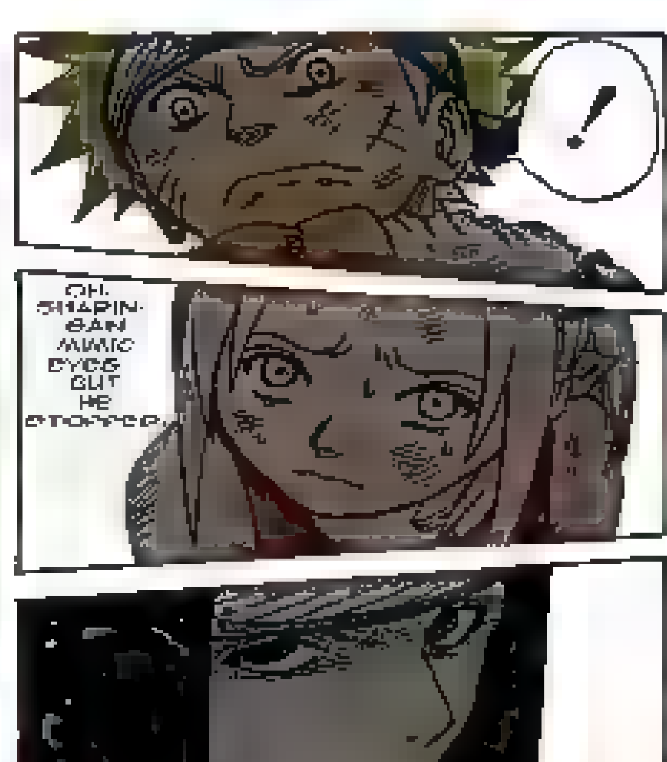
SNAP




THIS IS A... CAN THINK OF...

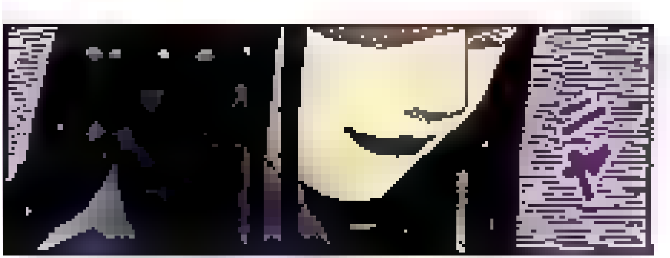

IF IT'S OUR SCROLL YOU WANT, COME AND GET IT!
JUST...
TAKE IT AND GO

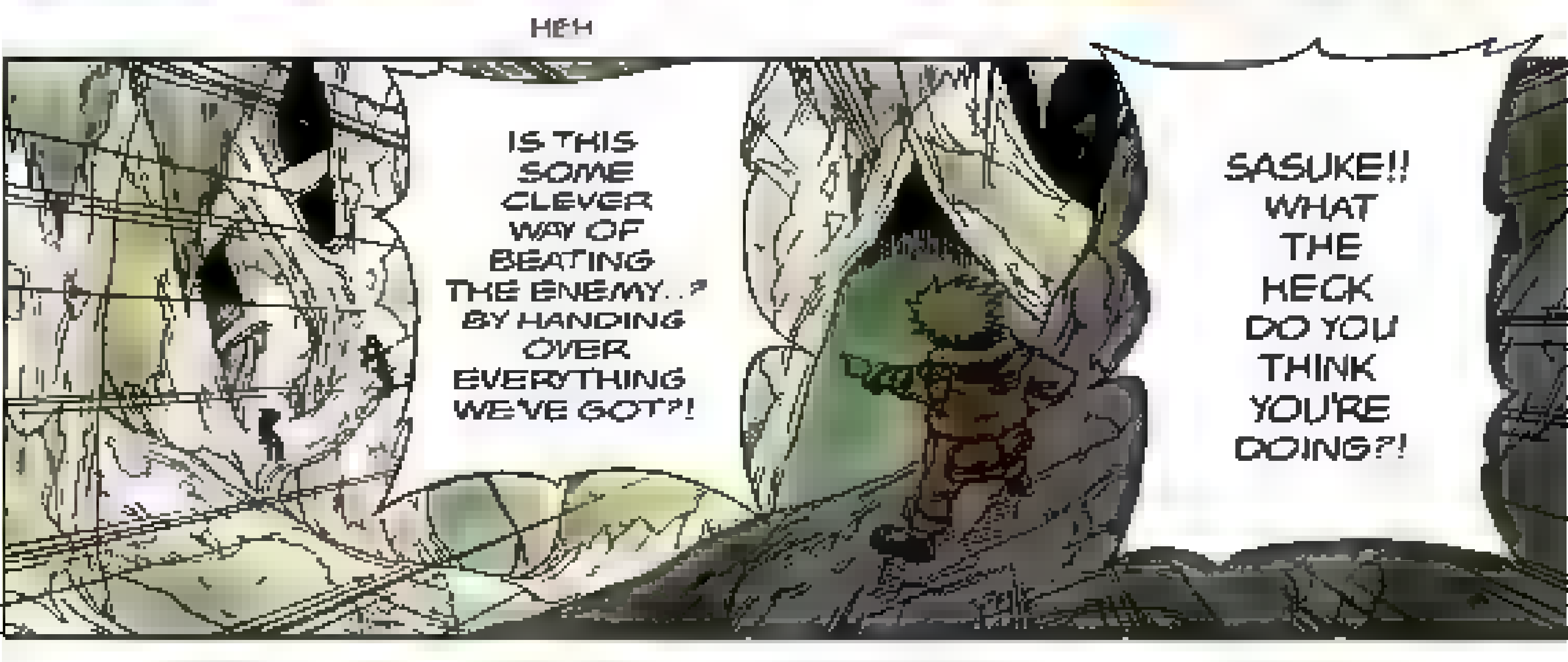
SHP

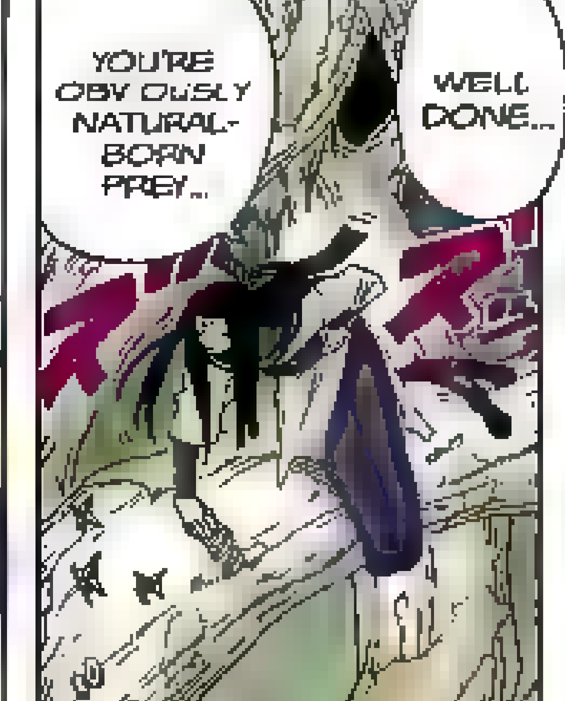

!
OH, SHARINGAN MIMIC EYES BUT HE STOPPED.

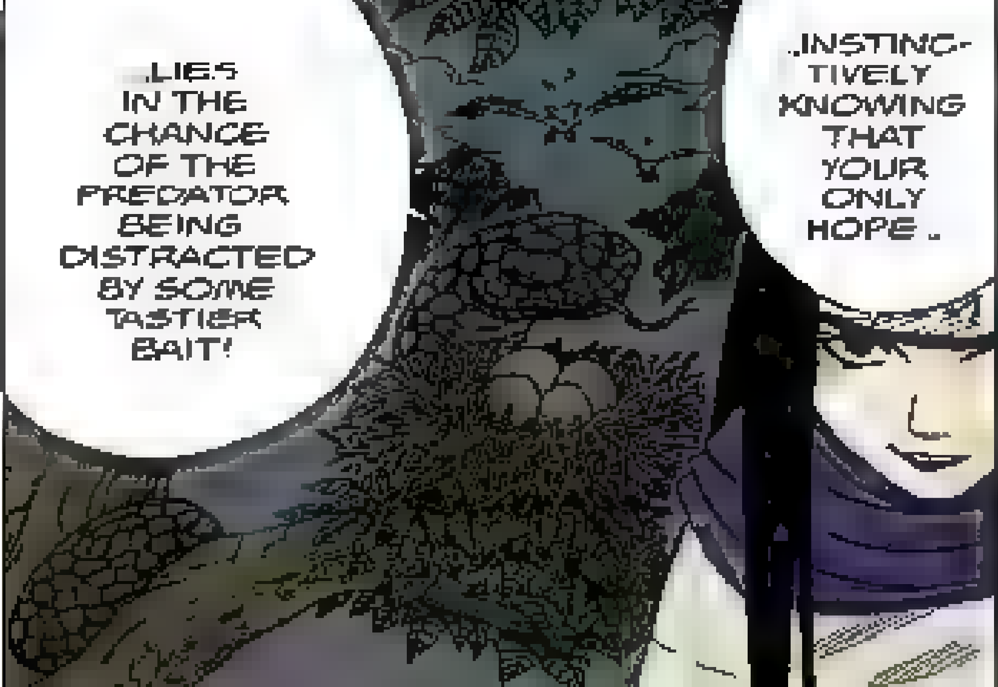

WHAT?!


HUH?

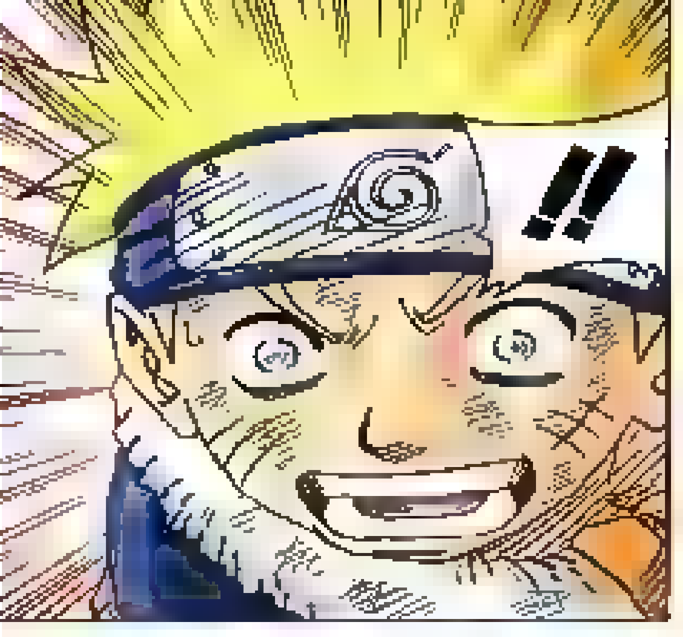

HEH


SASUKE!! WHAT THE HECK DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
IS THIS SOME CLEVER WAY OF BEATING THE ENEMY...? BY HANDING OVER EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT?!


WELL DONE...
YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY NATURAL-BORN PREY...


...INSTINCTIVELY KNOWING THAT YOUR ONLY HOPE...
...LIES IN THE CHANCE OF THE PREDATOR BEING DISTRACTED BY SOME TASTIER BAIT!

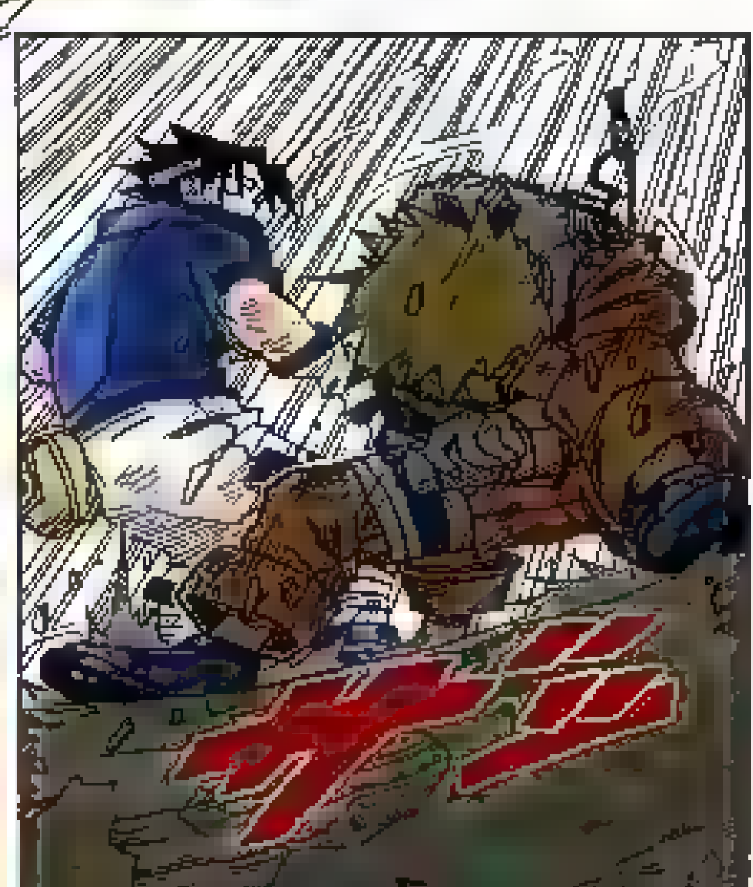


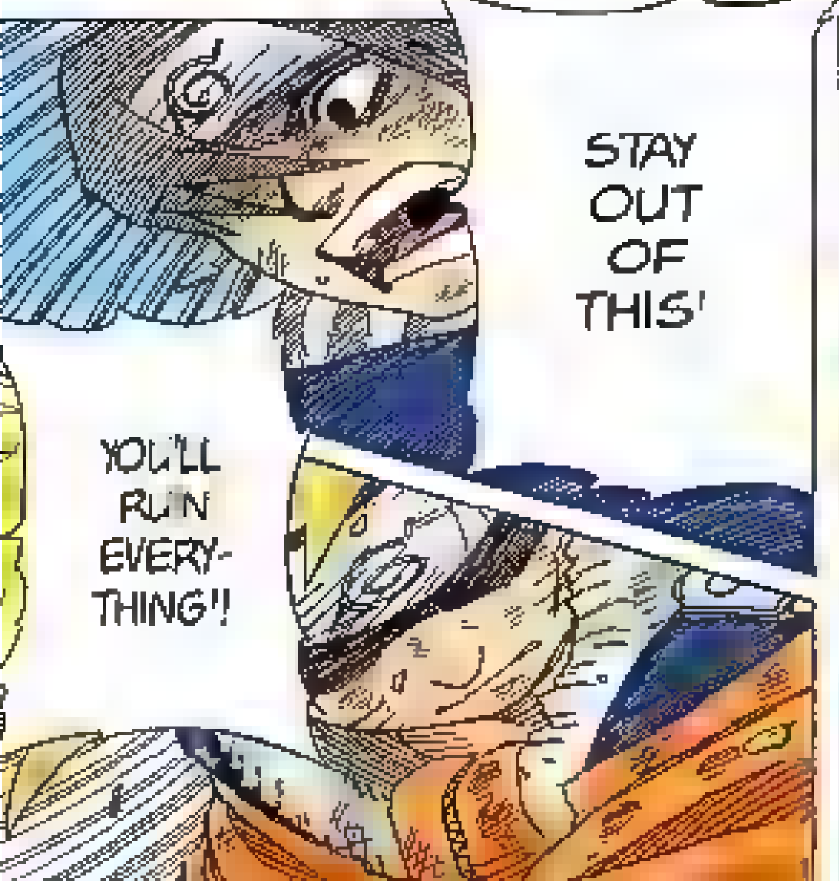


FWUP FLIP POK







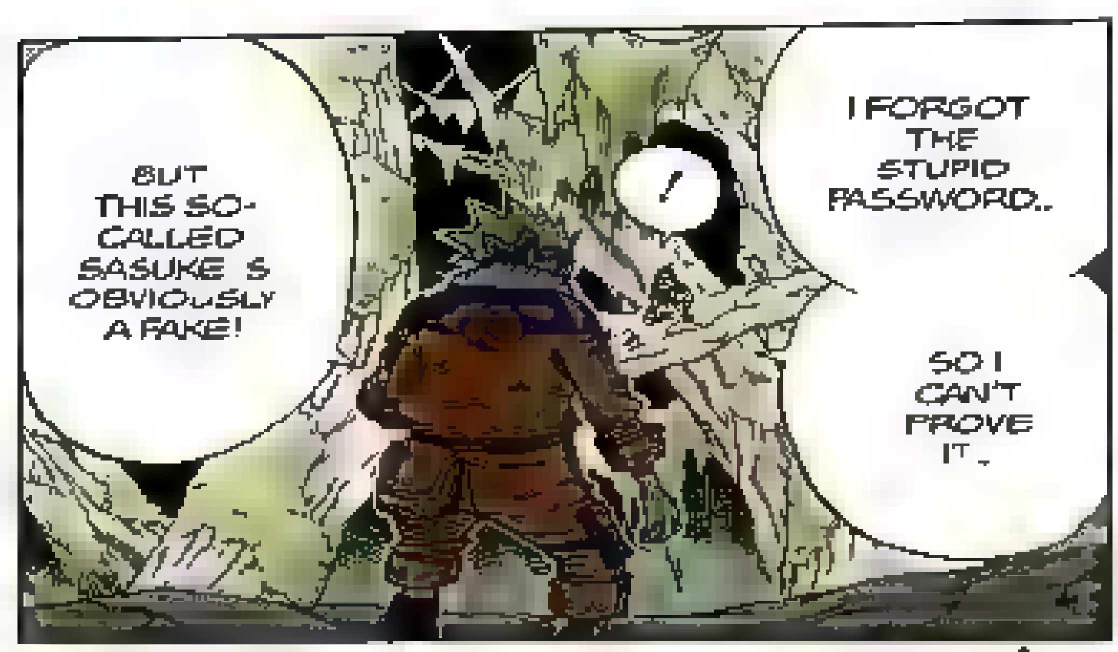




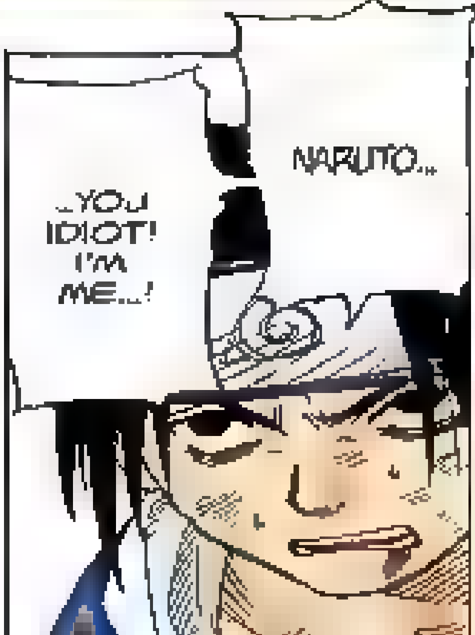



HUFF
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
TAP


NARUTO.. WHAT ARE YOU...?


!
I FORGOT THE STUPID PASSWORD..
SO I CAN'T PROVE IT..
BUT THIS SO-CALLED SASUKE'S OBVIOUSLY A FAKE!

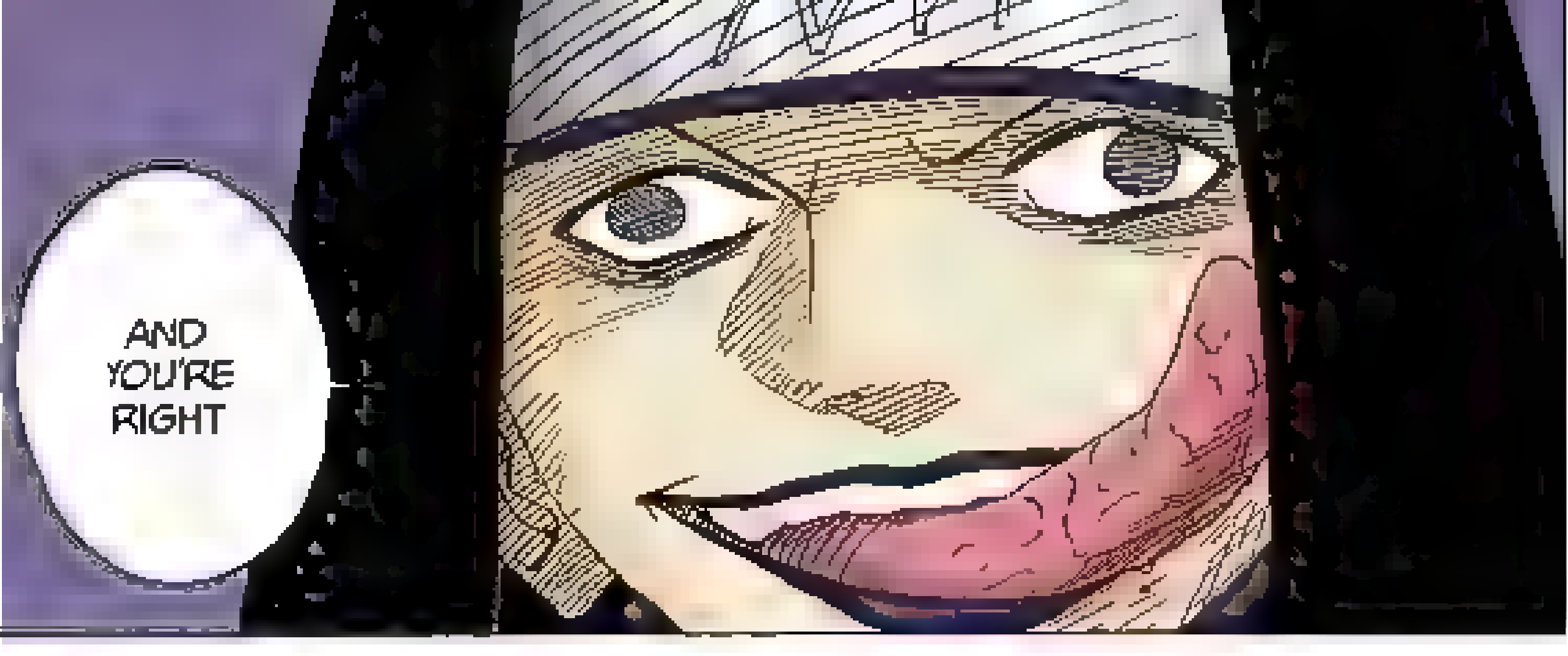

WHAT?!


NARUTO..
...YOU IDIOT! I'M ME...!


...THAT'S BULL!

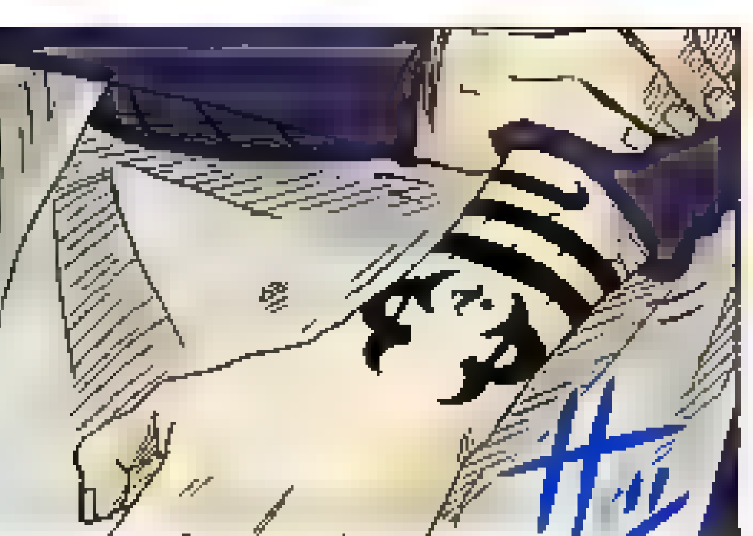



PUFF
AND YOU'RE THE IDIOT, IDIOT!
YOU'RE A COWARD, WHICH SASUKE ISN'T. SO YOU'RE NOT HIM!!!
HUFF
PUFF
SO, EVEN IF YOU WERE SASUKE, I'D STILL BE TELLING YOU YOU'RE AN IDIOT... AND MAYBE A CHICKEN, TOO!
AND EVEN IF WE DID HAND OVER THE SCROLL THERE'S NO GUARANTEE HE'D SPARE US!
'M NOT SO SURE WE NEED TO BE AFRAID OF THIS GUY...
OH, NARUTO! THIS IS RICH!
...!


AND YOU'RE RIGHT




WHY BARGAIN...




SHF


...WHEN I CAN SIMPLY KILL YOU... AND TAKE THE SCROLL?
NIP



SLUP

SHUT UP!

TAK TAK

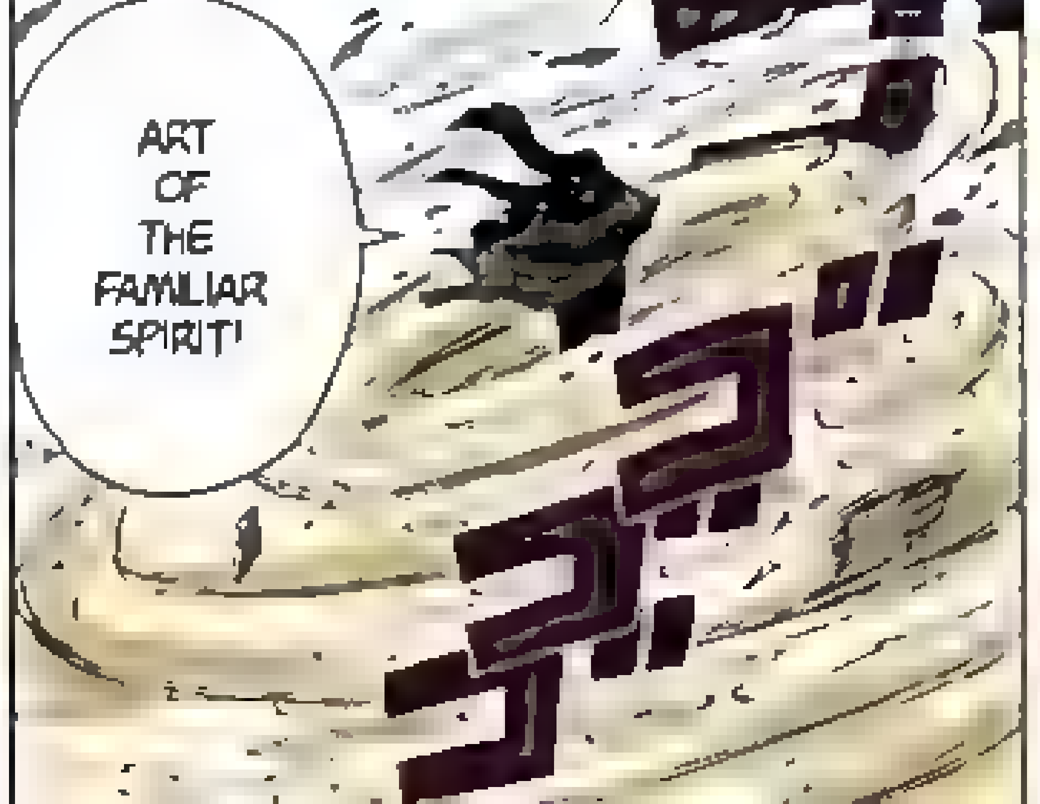
TAK

GRRRR

DON'T DO IT, NARUTO!!

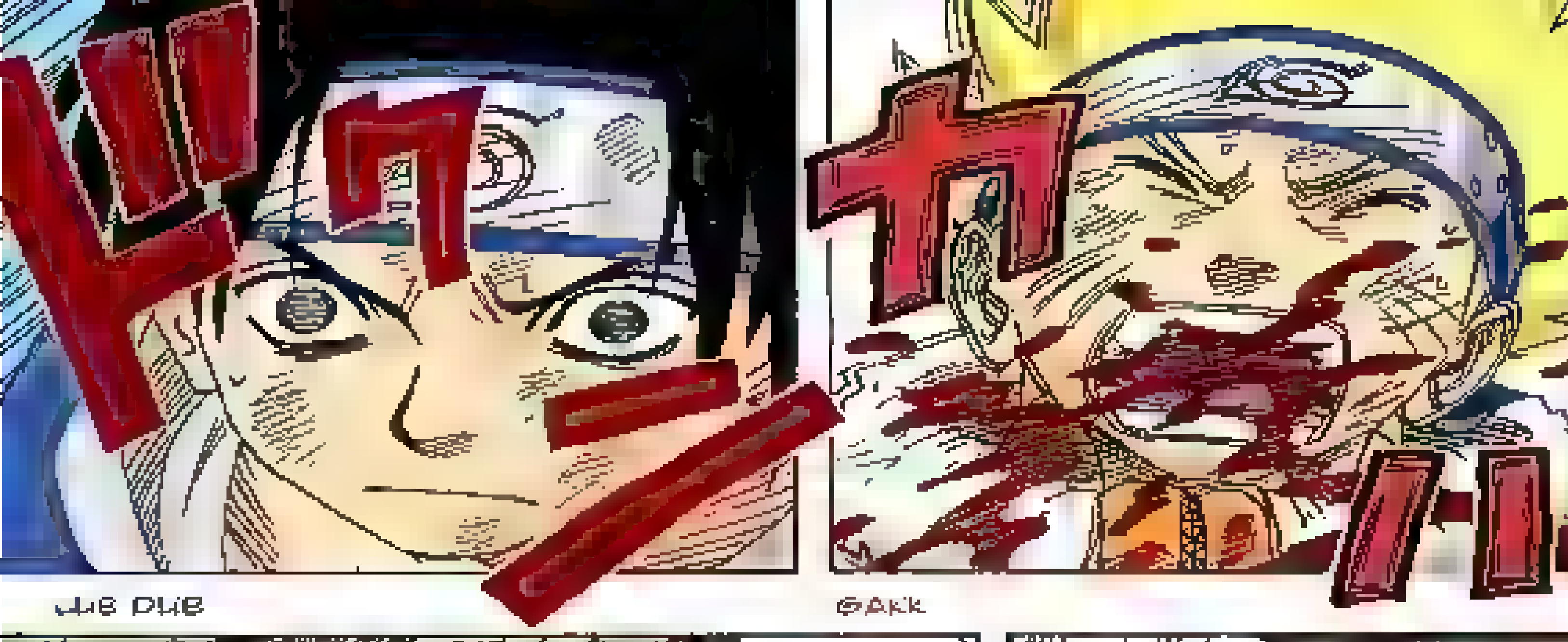
AW MAN...







ドッ
ガ
バキ
NARUTO!!
ドカ
OW



LUB DUB

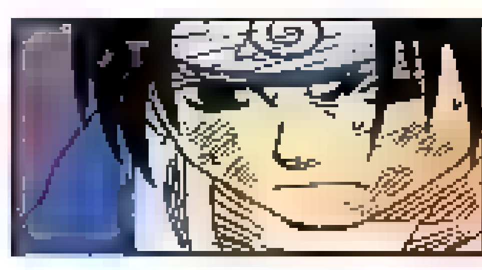
GAKK



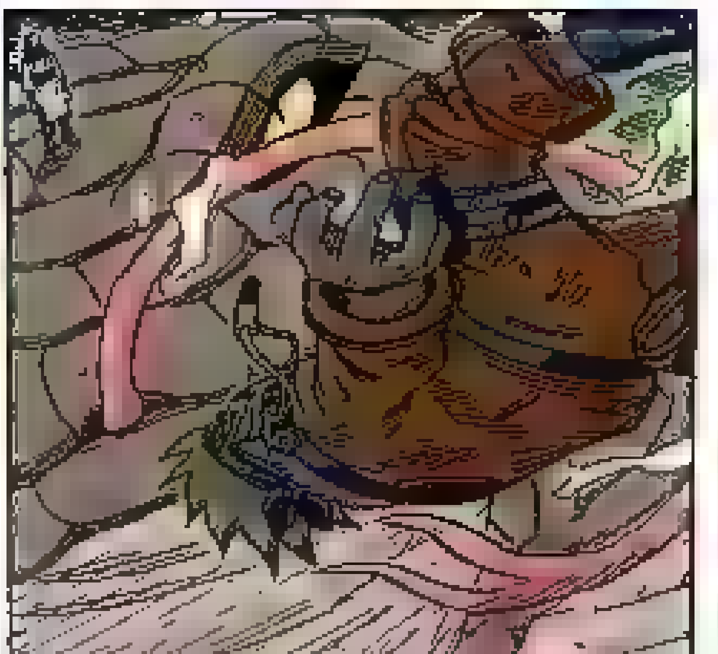


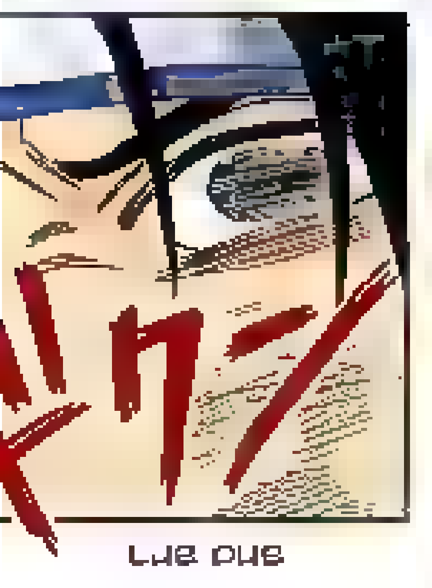
FWUUP

SLLIP





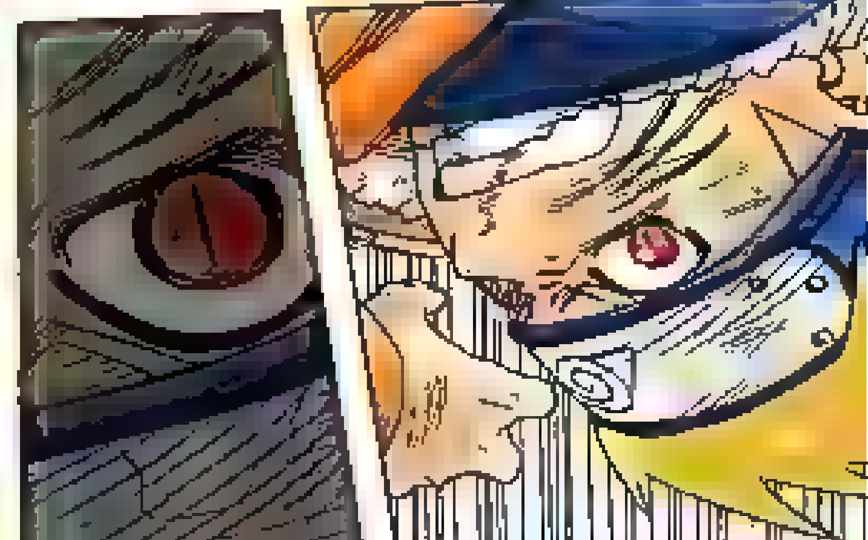


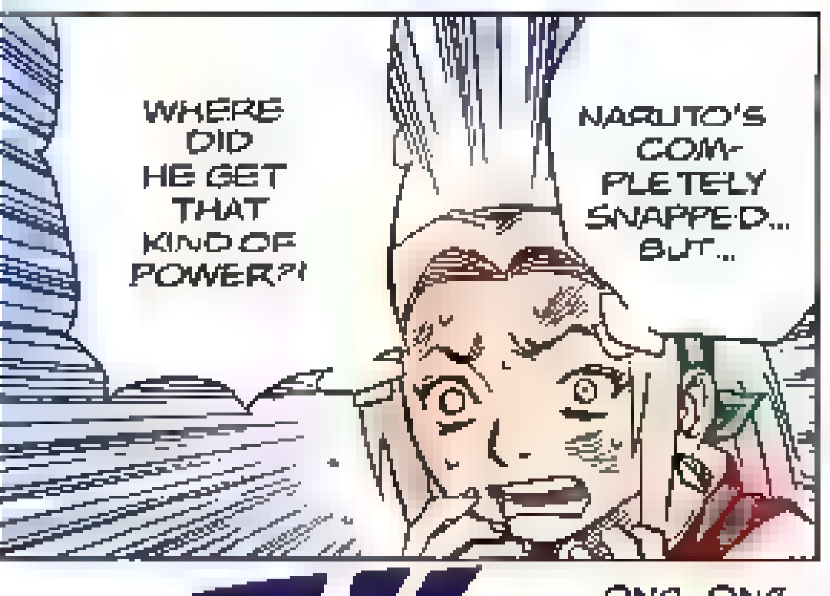


LUB DUB

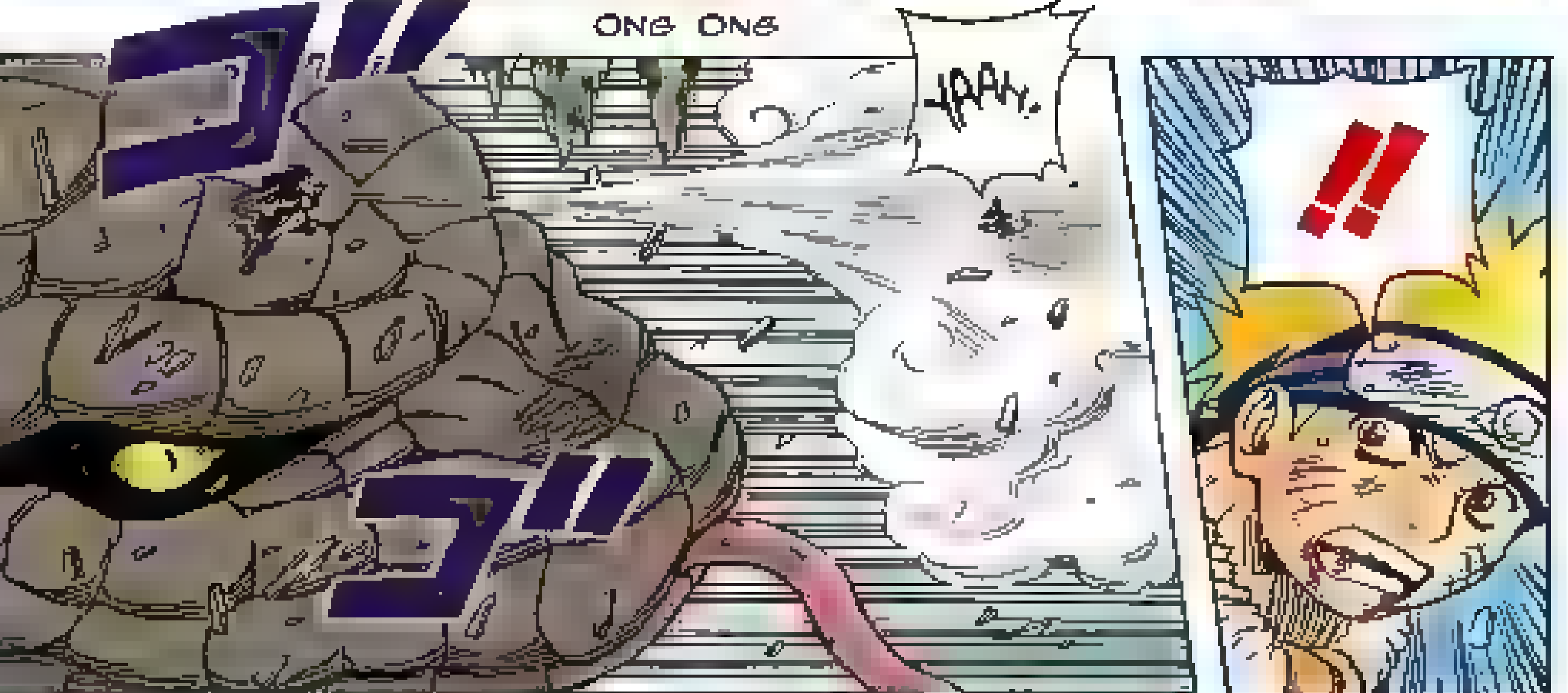
EAT SNOT, SUCKER!!

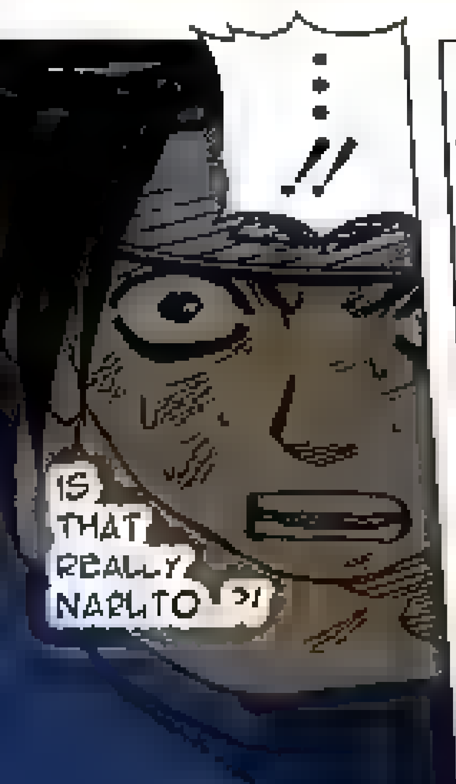


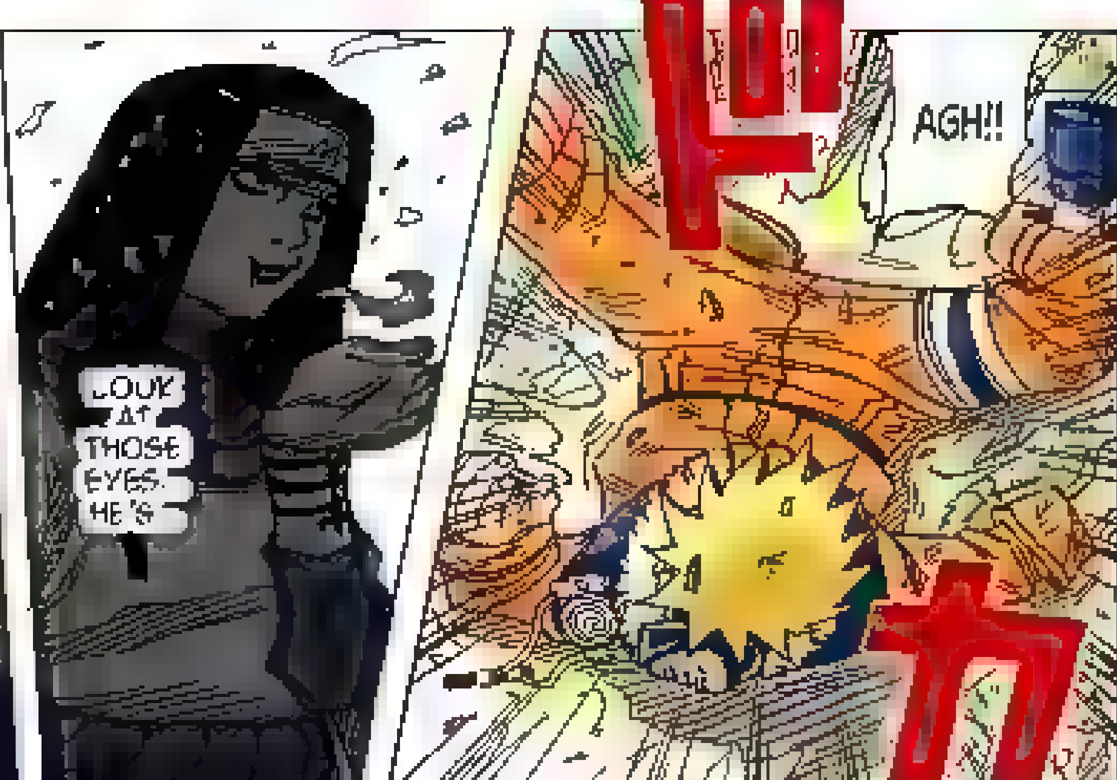



WHERE DID HE GET THAT KIND OF POWER?!
NARUTO'S COMPLETELY SNAPPED... BUT...


RRRROAR!!


ONG ONG
YAAH!
!!


...!!
IS THAT REALLY NARUTO?!


LOOK AT THOSE EYES. HE'S
AGH!!

HO HO AND THE FUN HAS JUST BEGUN!

AND IT'S SASUKE'S TURN NEXT! HOW WILL HE TAKE IT?!

!!

ドッ

SASUKE!!

!!

...HEY, ARE YOU OKAY...?

PUFF

HUFF

PUFF

...!

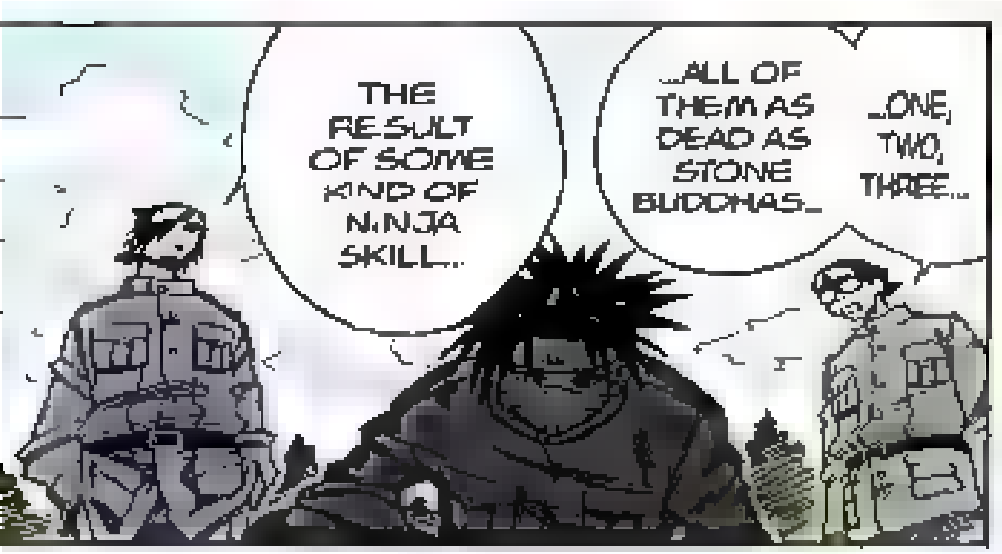
......

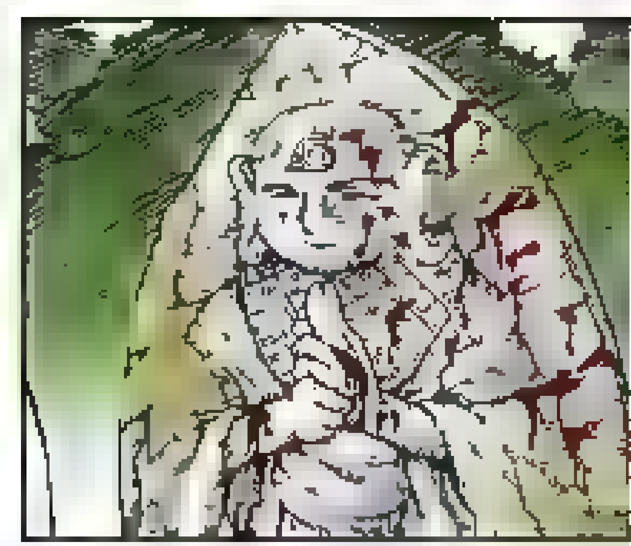
...YOU BIG CHICKEN?!

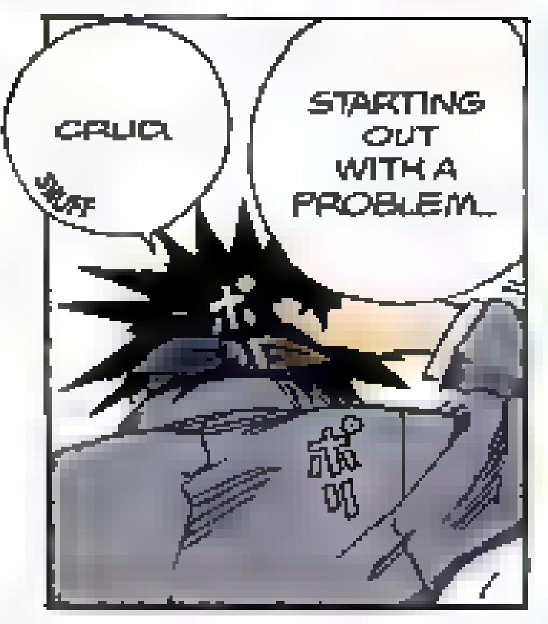
HUFF

PUFF

49 : COWARD!!

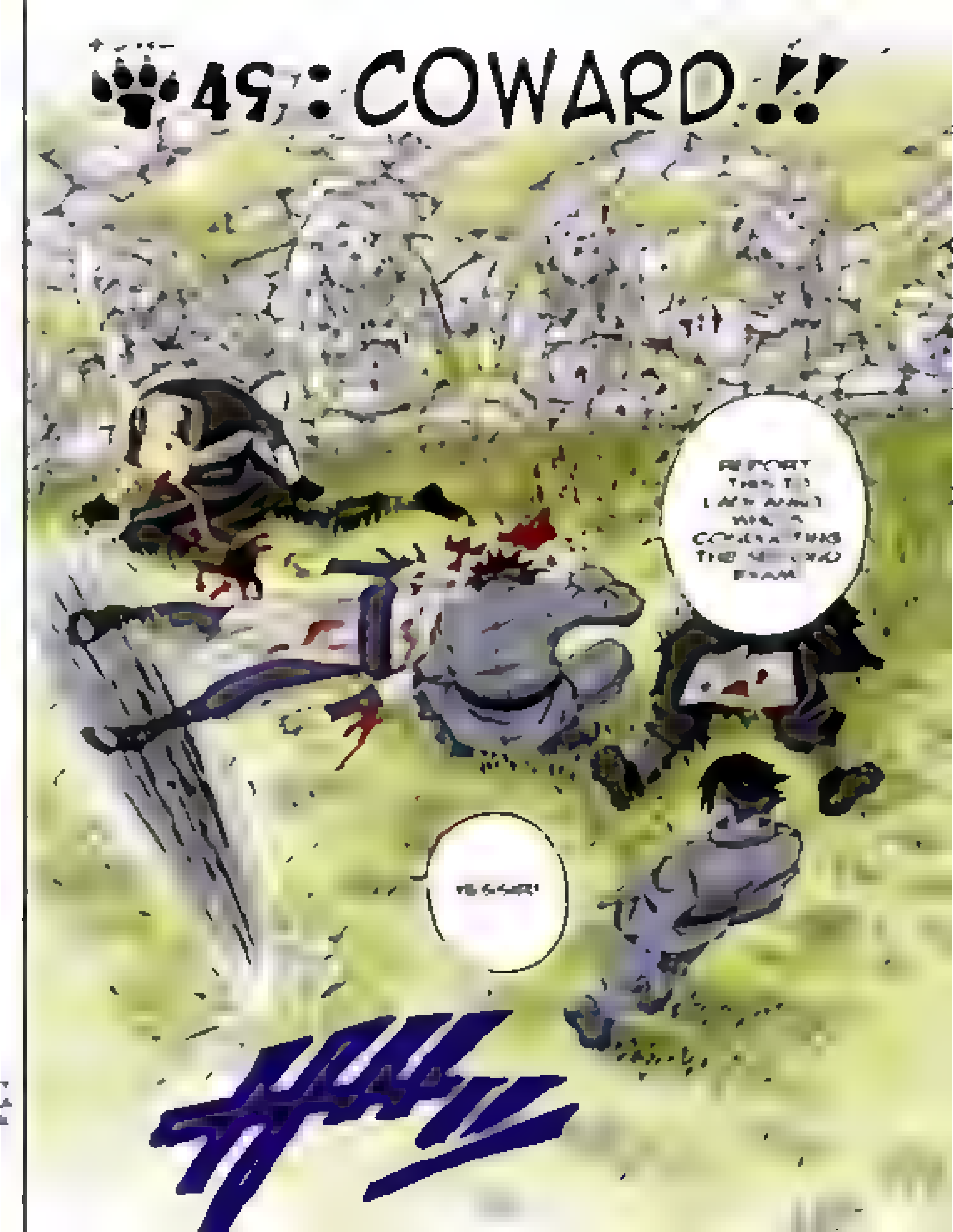

THE RESULT OF SOME KIND OF NINJA SKILL...
...ALL OF THEM AS DEAD AS STONE BUDDHAS...
...ONE, TWO, THREE...

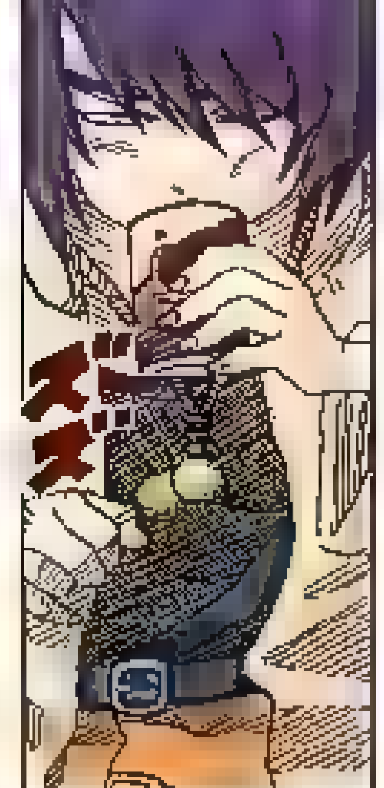


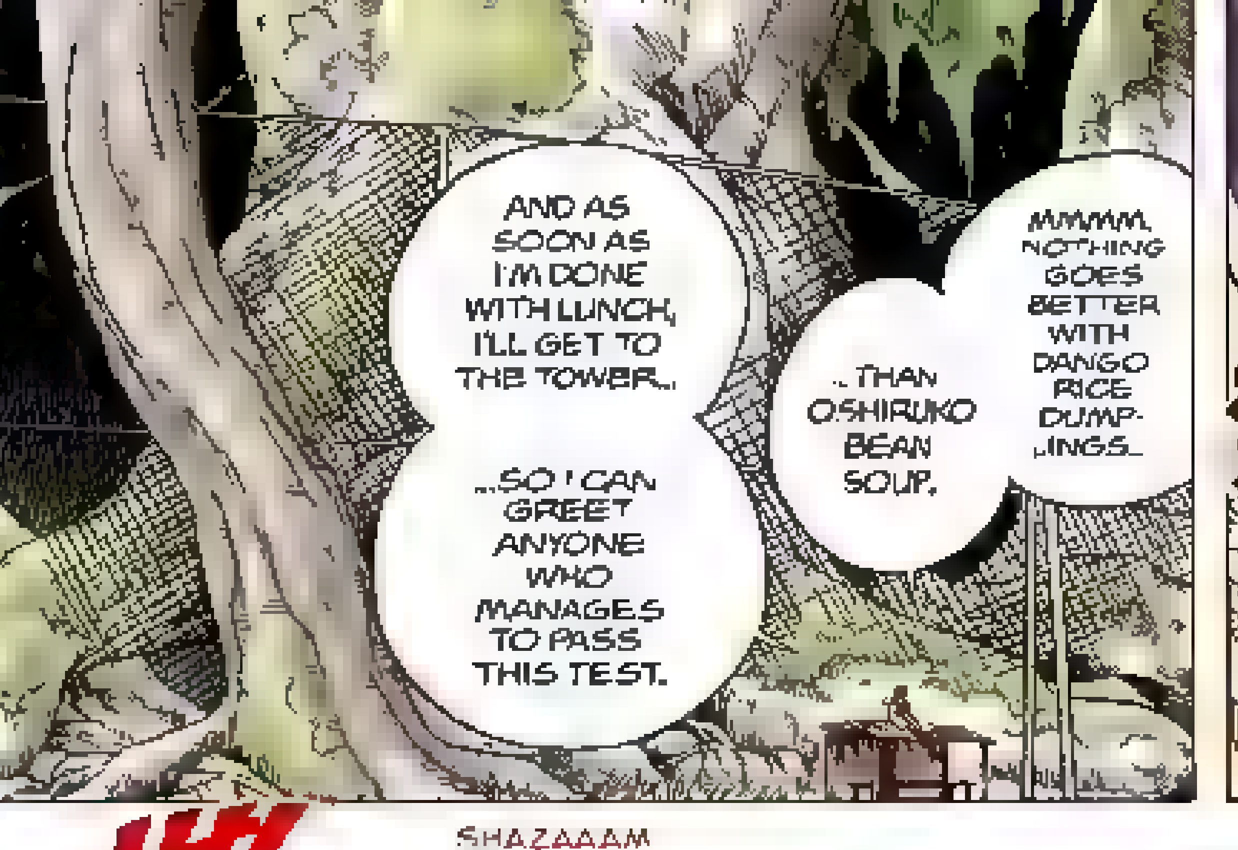

CRUG
SNIFF
STARTING OUT WITH A PROBLEM...
SCRATCH SCRATCH

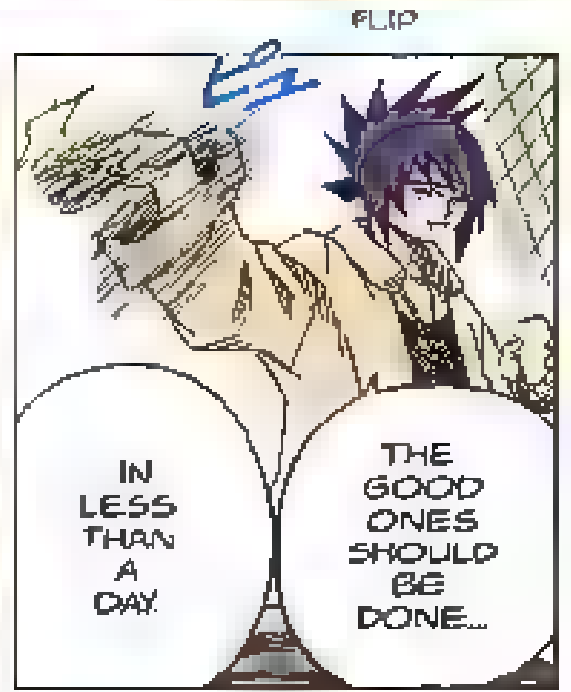

ULP!


BAD NEWS...

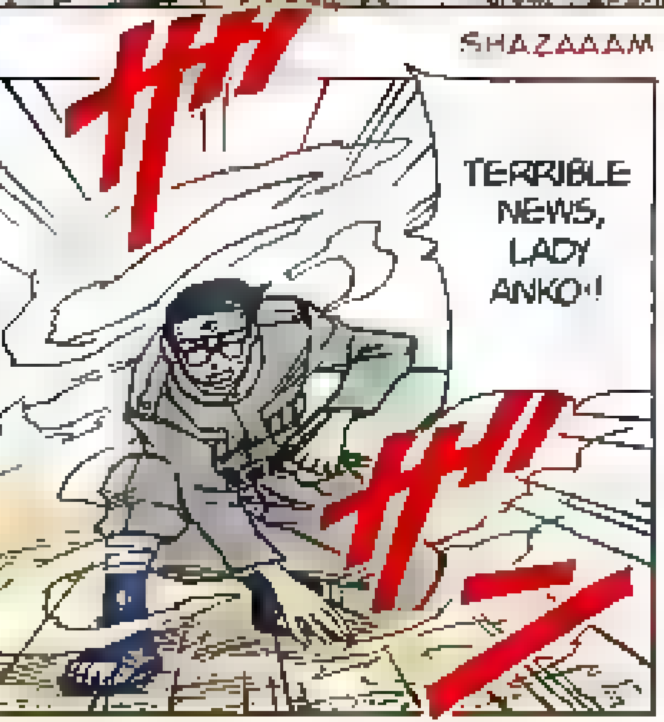

49: COWARD!!

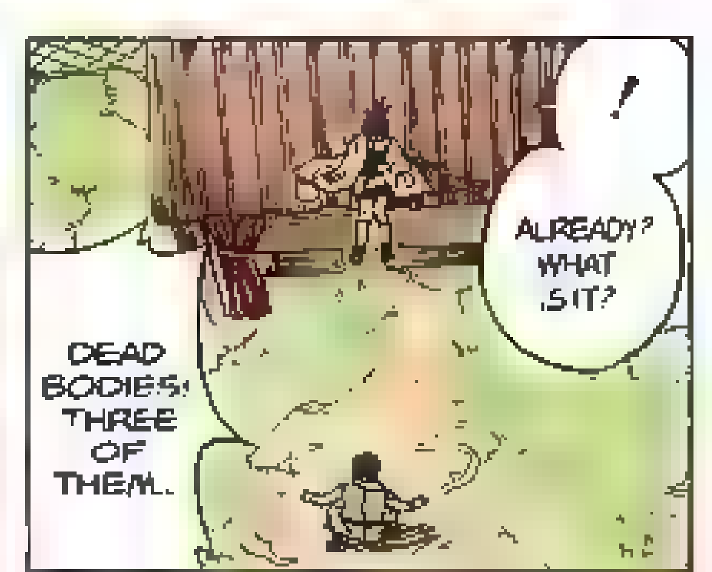



MMMM. NOTHING GOES BETTER WITH DANGO RICE DUMP-LINGS...
...THAN OSHIRUKO BEAN SOUP.
AND AS SOON AS I'M DONE WITH LUNCH, I'LL GET TO THE TOWER...
...SO I CAN GREET ANYONE WHO MANAGES TO PASS THIS TEST.


FLIP
THE GOOD ONES SHOULD BE DONE...
IN LESS THAN A DAY.


WHOP
AH.. A COMPLETE KONOHA TREE-LEAF MARK!!


SHAZAAAM
TERRIBLE NEWS, LADY ANKO!!


!
ALREADY? WHAT'S IT?
DEAD BODIES! THREE OF THEM...


DEAD BODIES?!


DEAD... AND VERY WEIRD.
PLEASE, COME SEE FOR YOURSELF!

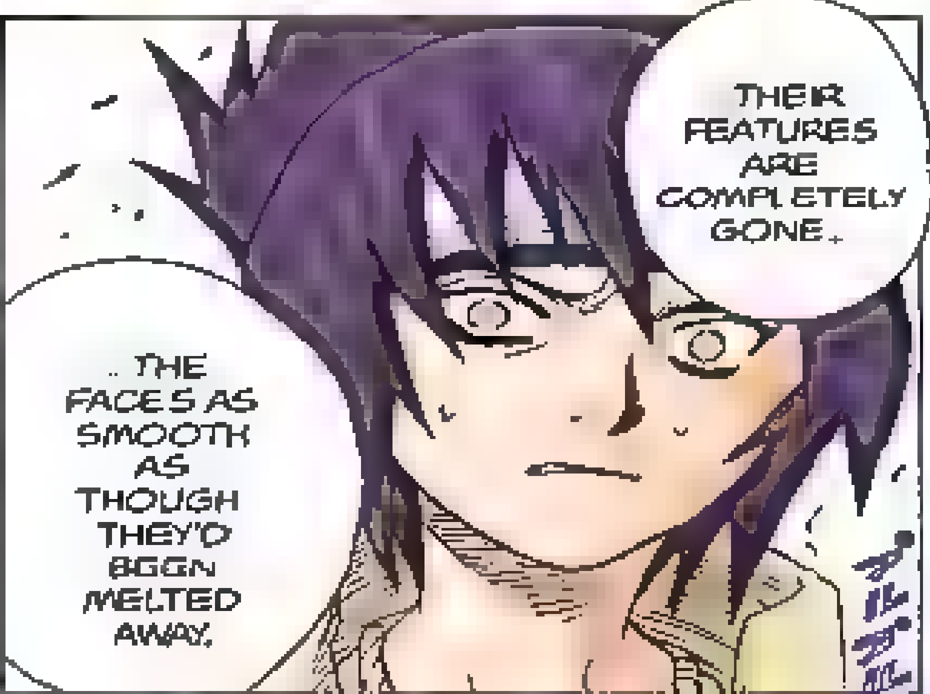




JUDGING FROM THEIR BELONGINGS AND THE PAPERS WE FOUND, THEY WERE ALL SHINOBI FROM KUSAGAKURE—

THE VILLAGE OF "THOSE WHO HIDE IN THE GRASS"— AND WERE REGISTERED TO TAKE PART IN THE CHUNIN JOURNEYMAN NINJA SELECTION EXAMS.



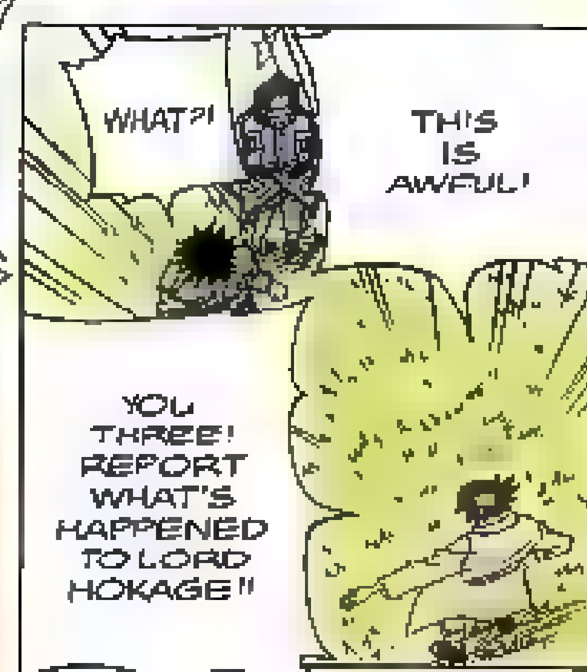


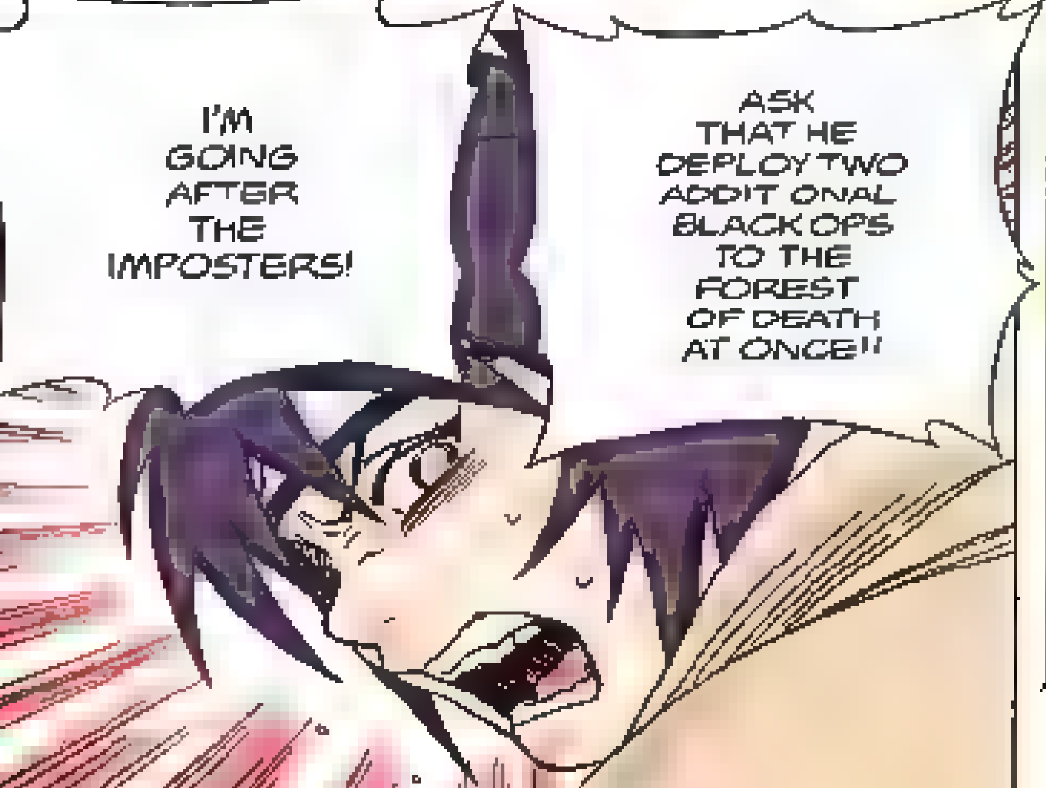

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT... I RECOGNIZE WHOSE TECHNIQUE WAS USED HERE!
BUT WHY WOULD HE MEDDLE IN THIS?


FWP
SHOW ME THE PHOTOS FROM THE DEAD SHINOBIS' I.D.
AT ONCE!!


SO THIS IS THE FACE HE STOLE


BUT THAT MEANS HE'D ALREADY DONE SO WHEN...!!


WHAT?!
THIS IS AWFUL!
YOU THREE! REPORT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO LORD HOKAGE!!


ASK THAT HE DEPLOY TWO ADDITIONAL BLACK OPS TO THE FOREST OF DEATH AT ONCE!!
I'M GOING AFTER THE IMPOSTERS!

NARUTO

ARE YOU OKAY..

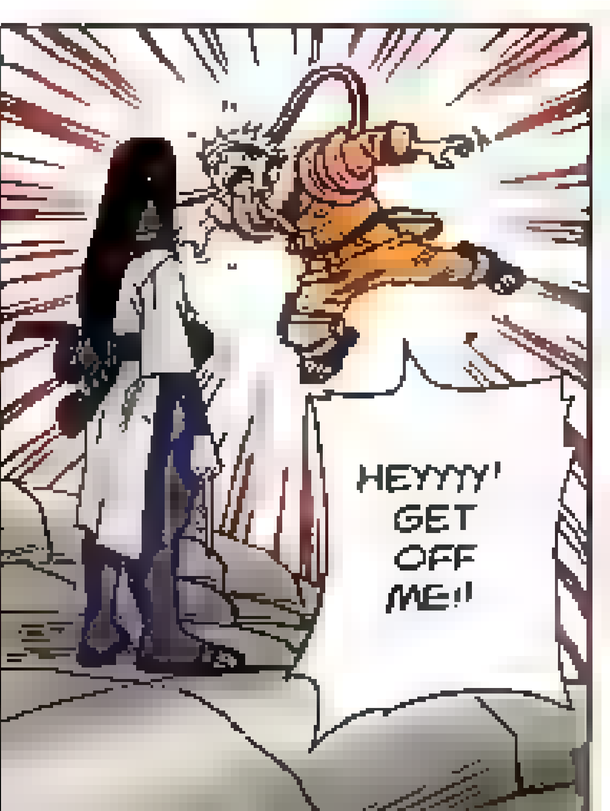
YOU BIG CHICKEN?

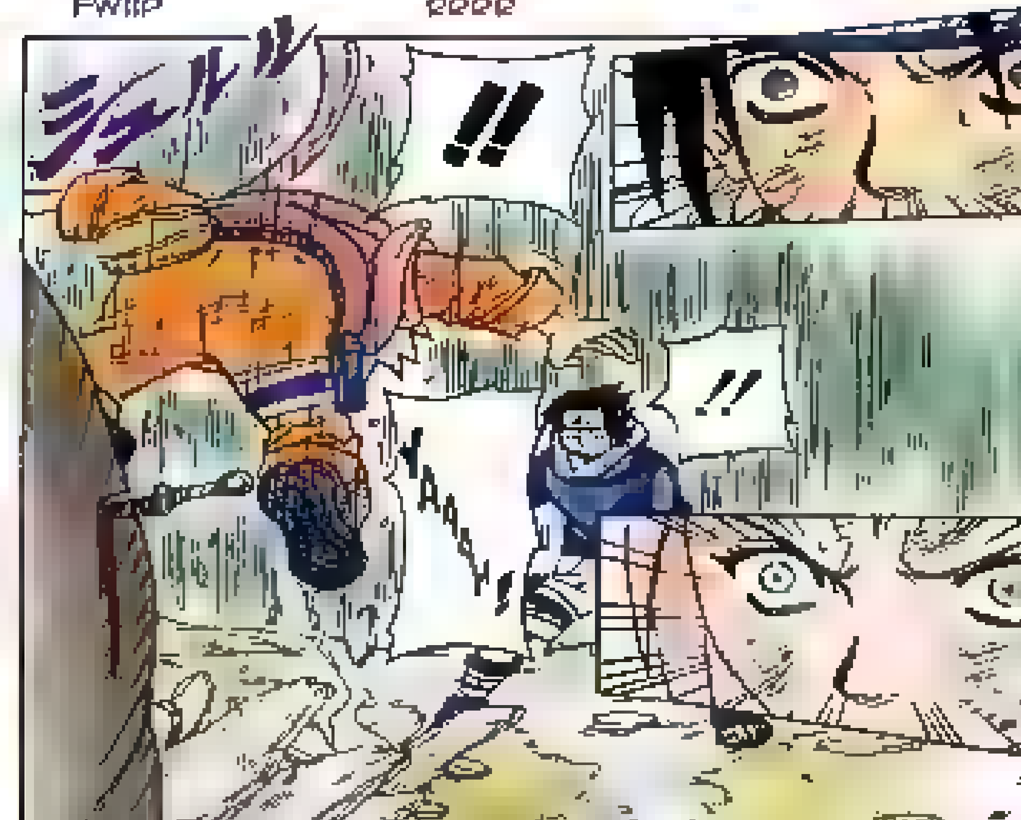
!!!

YOU'RE A COWARD, WHICH SASUKE ISN'T. SO YOU'RE NOT HIM!!!

AND YOU'RE THE IDIOT, IDIOT!

FWIIP







HEH HEH.. THE BRAT OF NINE TAILS IS STILL ALIVE AND KICKING!
FLIP
FWUP
POOM POOM POOM POOM
THERE'S THE PROOF. THE SPELL THAT SEALS THE MONSTER WITHIN APPEARS ON YOUR SKIN LIKE A TATTOO.
HOW FASCINATING THAT, WHEN HE IS CONSUMED WITH RAGE, HE LOSES HIMSELF AND A BIT OF THE NINE-TAILED DEMON FOX TRAPPED WITHIN..
COMES THROUGH. AN AMAZING DEVELOP-MENT!
TREE
FIRE
EARTH
WATER
METAL
A FIVE-PRONGED SPELL!!
SASUKE! NARUTO NEEDS YOU!
SHLUCK

..THE DEMON FOX AND NARUTO'S NATIVE CHAKRA AND PSYCHE HAVE APPARENTLY GONE FROM ENMITY AND OPPOSITION TO COEXISTENCE. AND ARE ON THE VERY BRINK OF SYMBIOSIS!

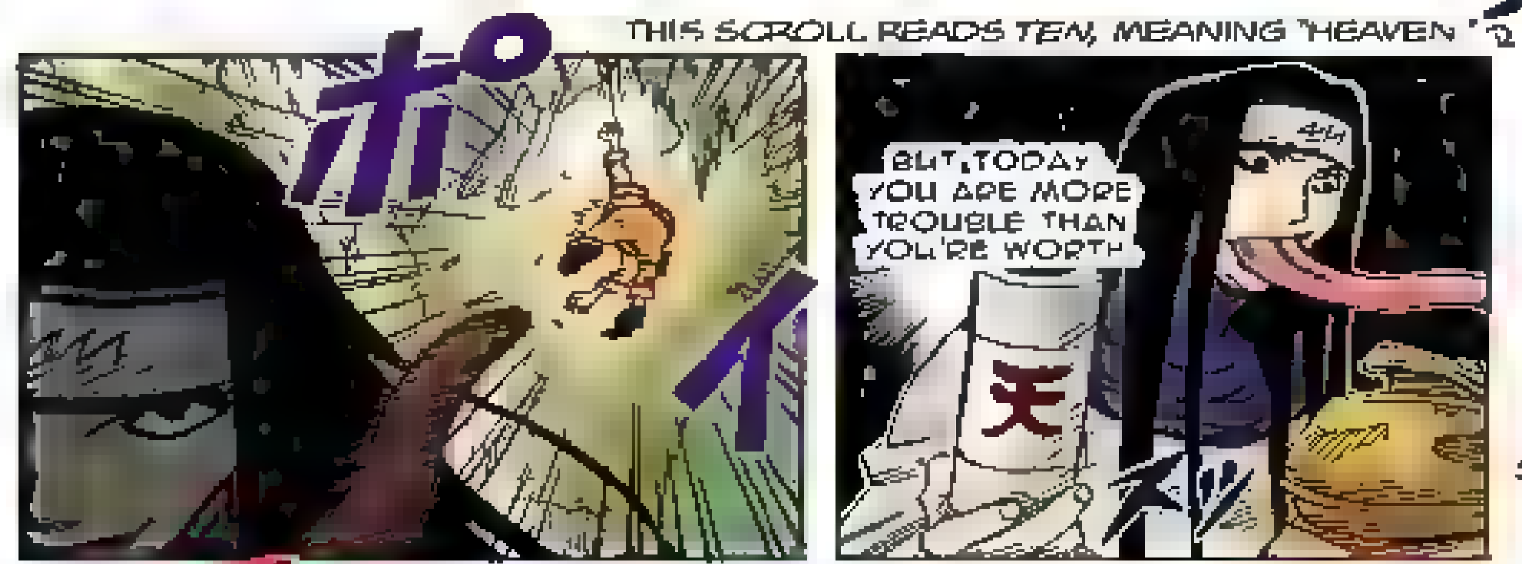
AFTER BEING TRAPPED WITH HIM FOR A DOZEN YEARS...

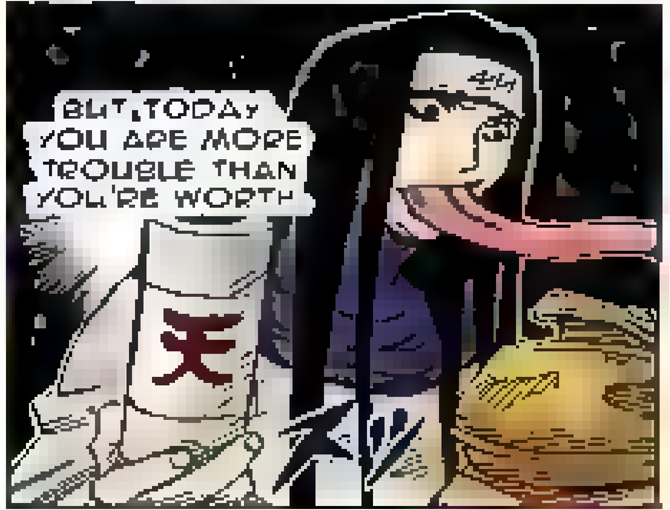
BLINK



THIS SCROLL READS *TEN*, MEANING "HEAVEN"

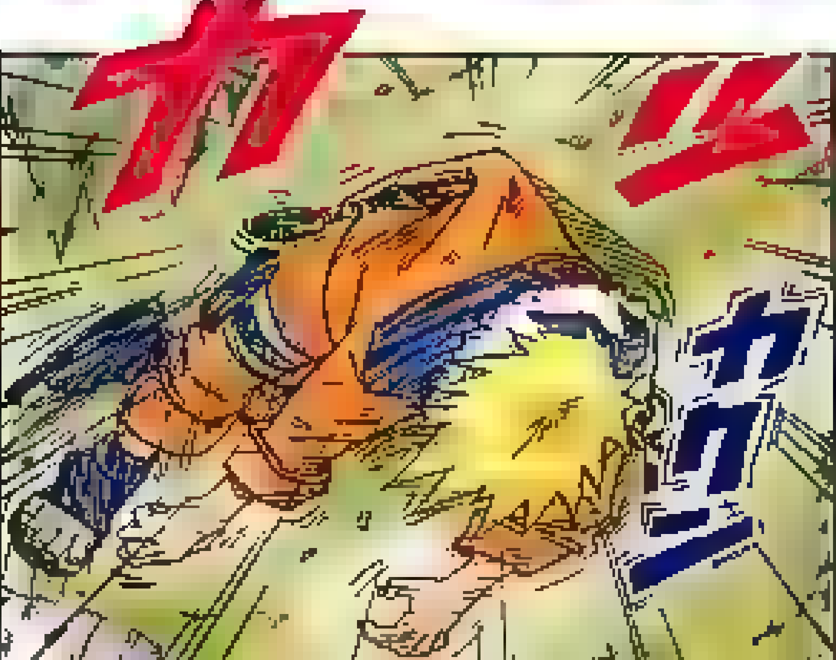
POK

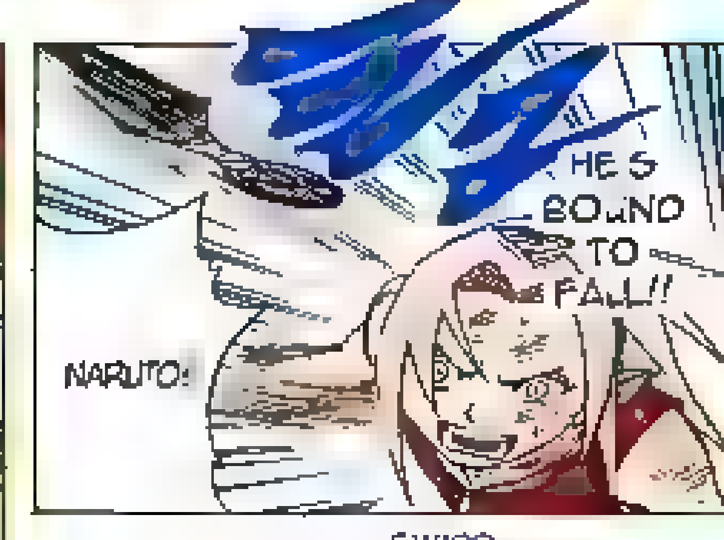






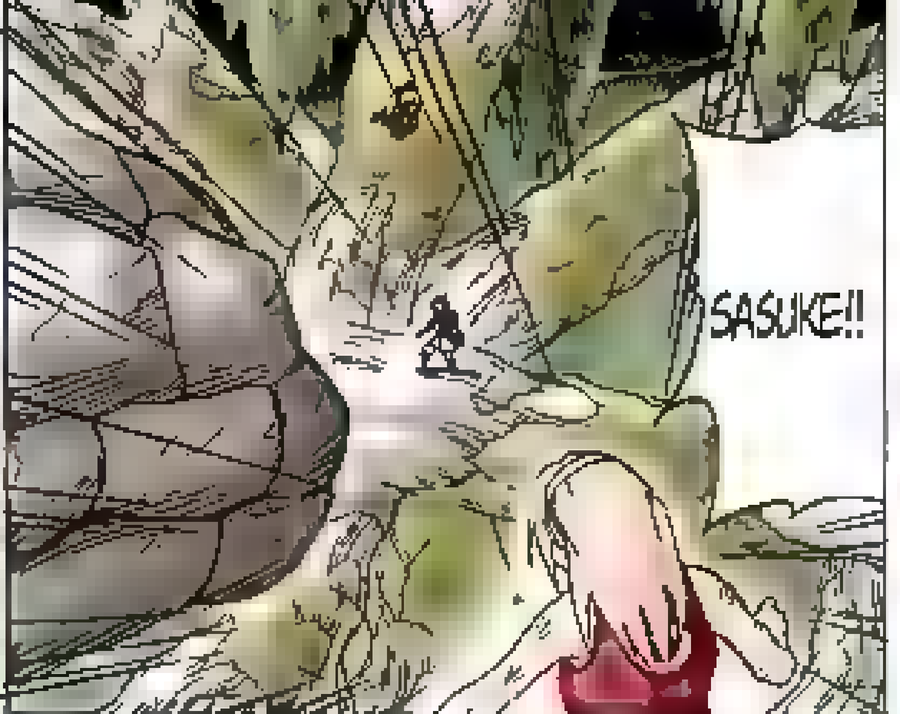
CHOK



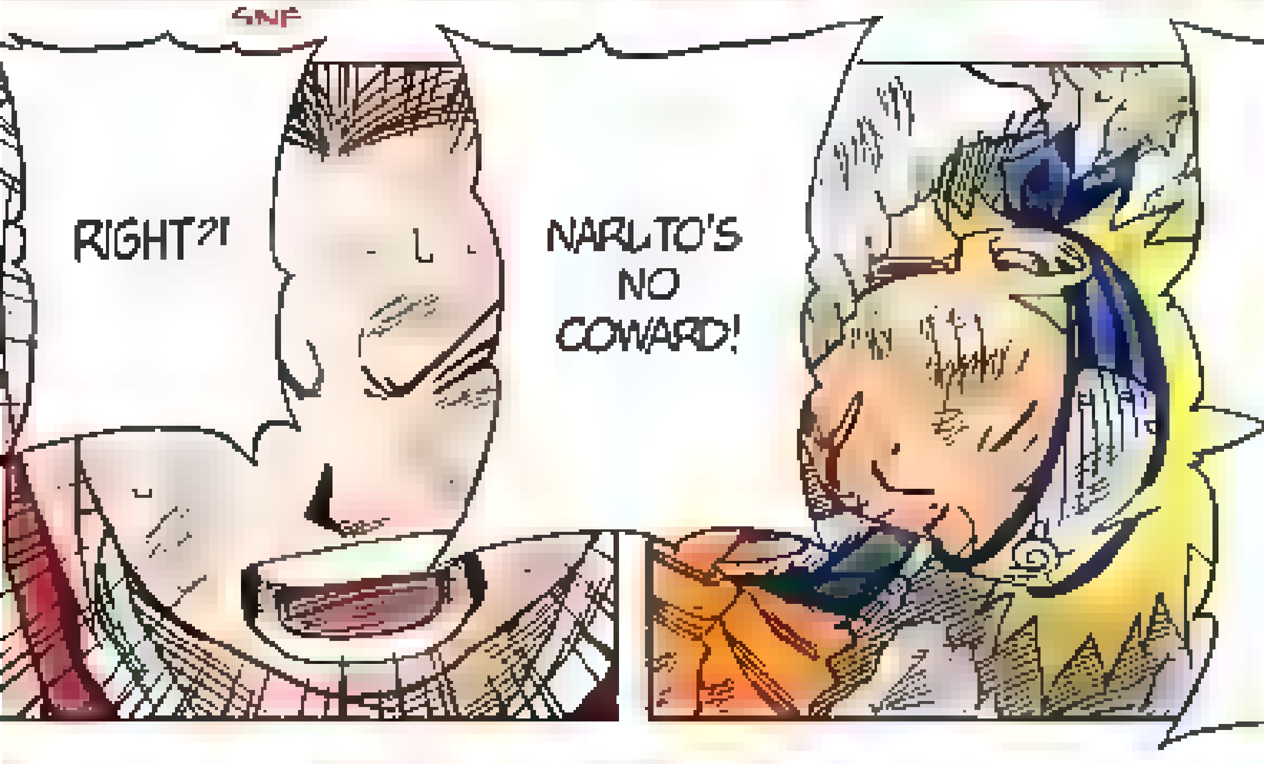


FWIPP





SASUKE!!



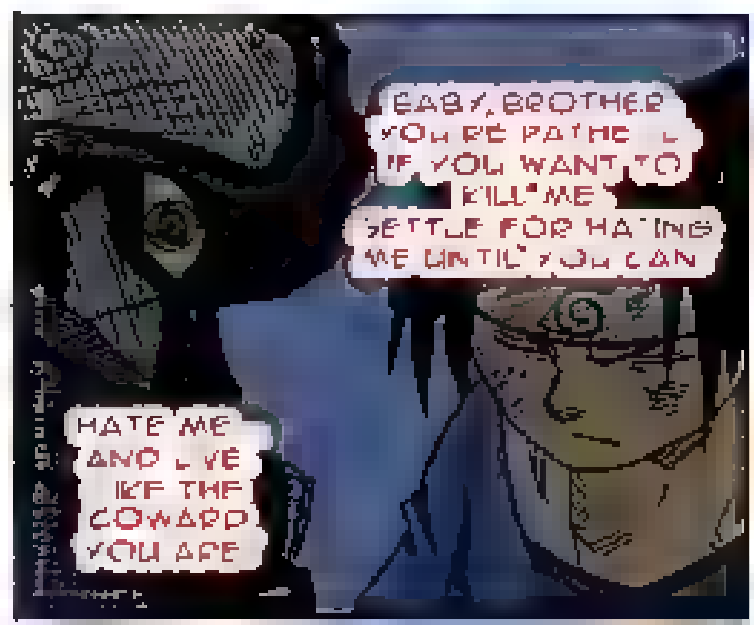
SNIF
NARUTO MAY BE NOTHING L KE YOU... HE'S CLUMSY, AND HE HOLDS US BACK...
AND SOMETIMES HE'S A BIG NUISANCE, BUT AT LEAST HE'S GOT GUTS!
NARUTO'S NO COWARD!
RIGHT?!



WITHOUT HONOR,



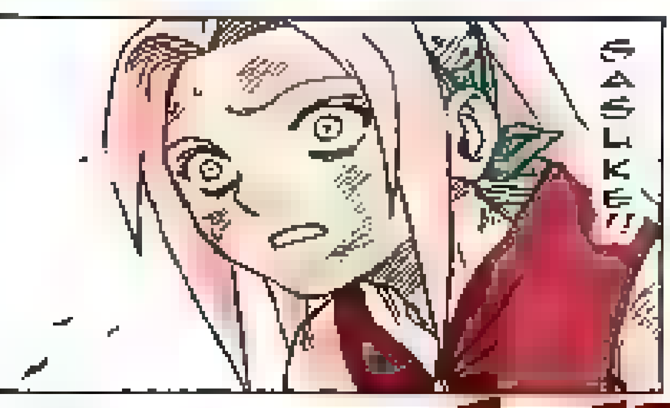
CLING NG TO L FE

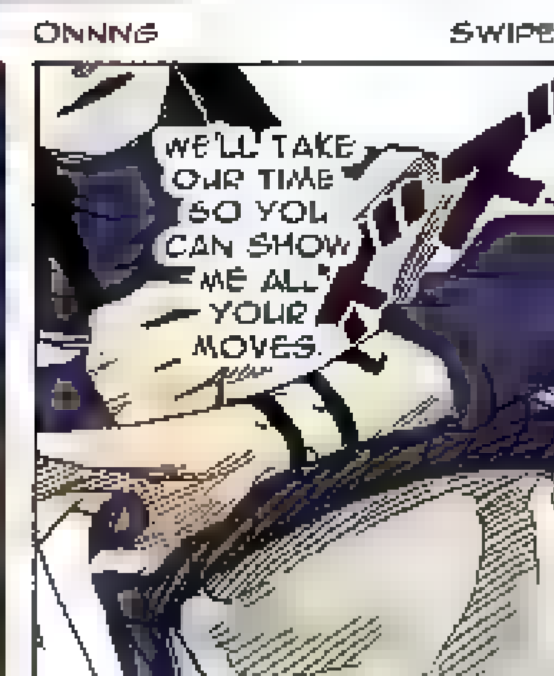


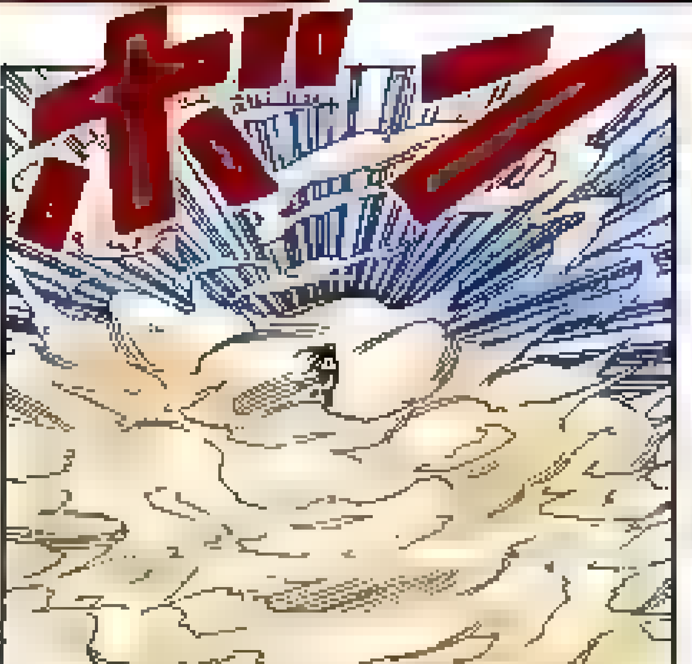
BABY, BROTHER YOU'RE PATHETIC. IF YOU WANT TO KILL ME SETTLE FOR HATING ME UNTIL YOU CAN
HATE ME AND LIVE LIKE THE COWARD YOU ARE

NO!!


HEH HEH... IT APPEARS THAT THE BLOOD OF HIS ANCESTORS IS RISING UP IN THIS ONE, DEMANDING ACTION.


SASUKE!!


SWIPE
WE'LL TAKE OUR TIME SO YOU CAN SHOW ME ALL YOUR MOVES.


ONNNG


RUSTLE RUSTLE

I'VE BEEN LIVING WITH THE HOPE OF ONE DAY KILLING MY OLDER BROTHER. I THOUGHT IT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.

BUT MAYBE I'M THE ONE WHO'S BEEN THE DUNCE ALL THIS TIME!

NARUTO... SAKURA...!

FWUP FWUP FWUP

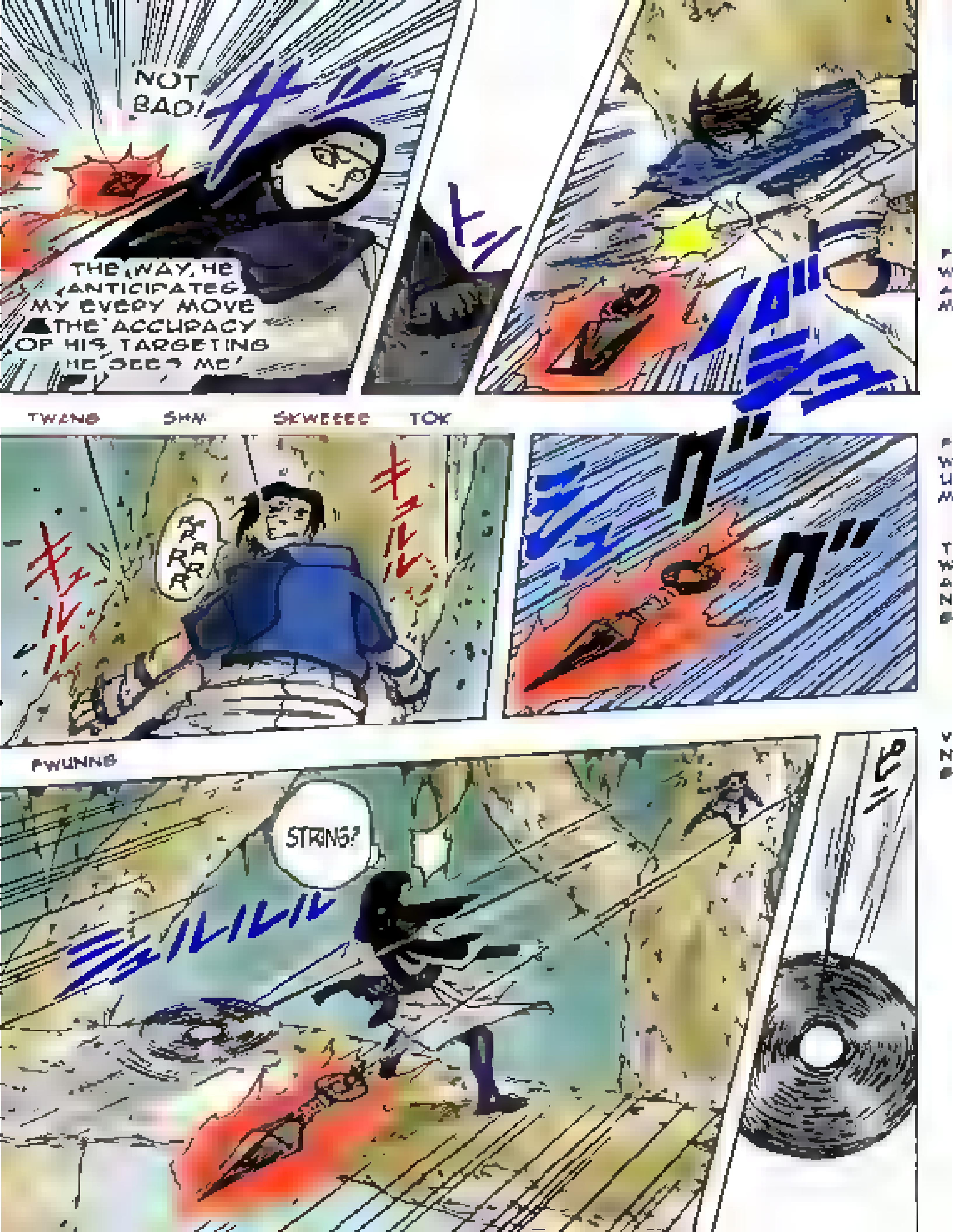
HOP

BECAUSE SOMEONE WHO CAN'T EVEN STAND UP AND DO WHAT HAS TO BE DONE AT A TIME LIKE THIS WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE IN A FIGHT AGAINST HIM!

KLAT

THUNK

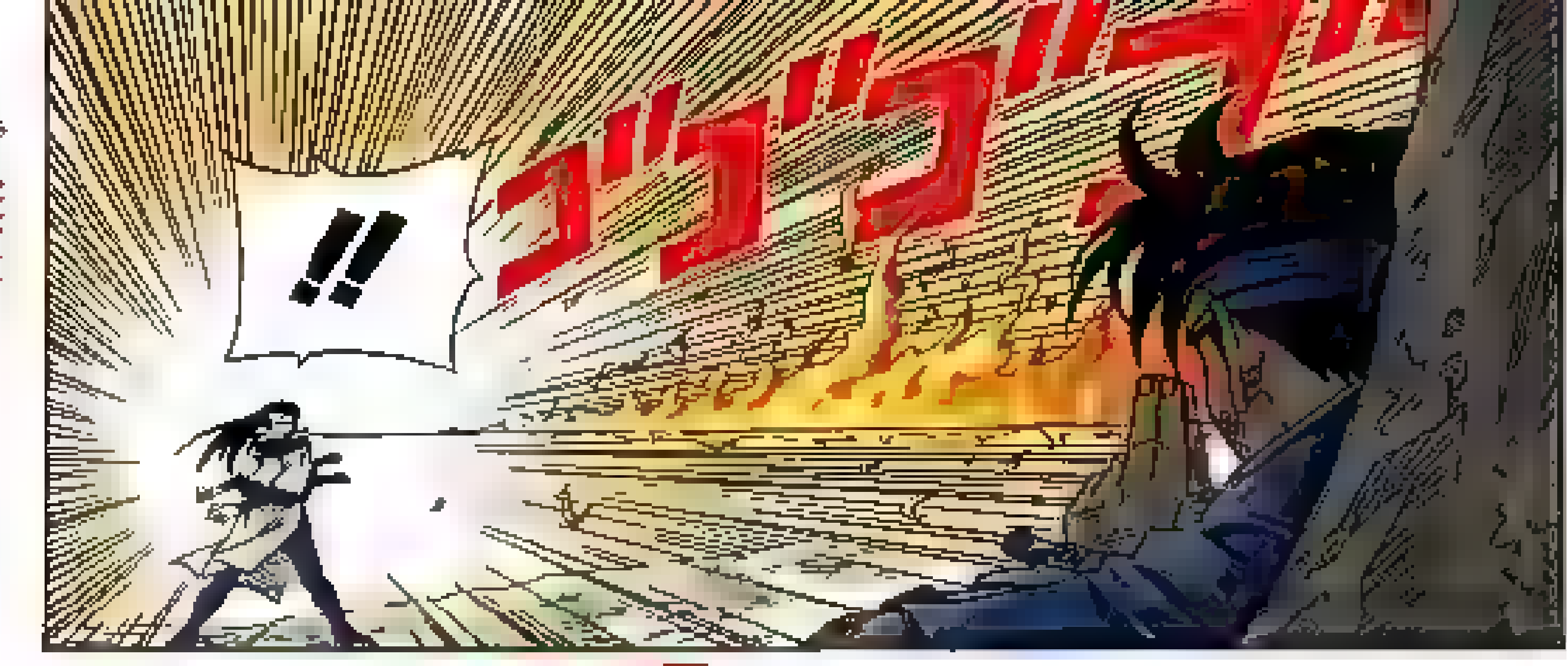

I SEE HIM!!
!!...



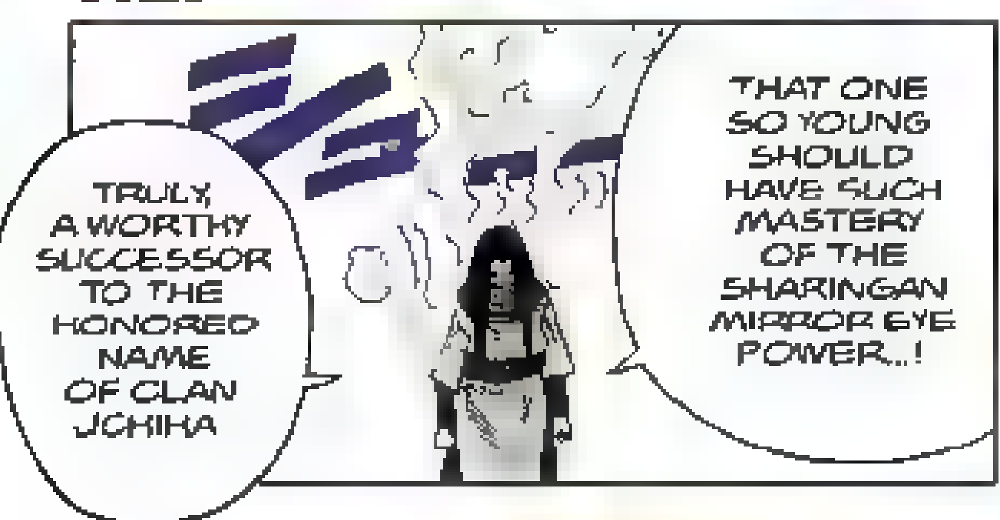
NOT BAD!
THE WAY HE ANTICIPATES MY EVERY MOVE THE ACCURACY OF HIS TARGETING HE SEES ME!
TWANG
SHN
SKWEEEE
TOK
RRRRRR
FWUNNG
STRING?



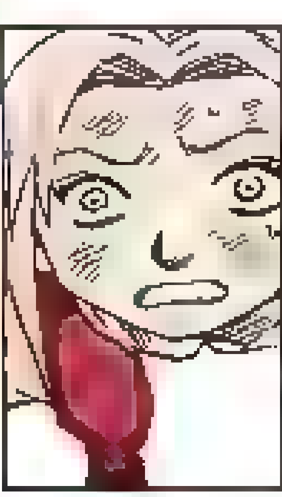
A SHARINGAN "WINDMILL"-- A THREE-PRONGED ATTACK!
SMAT
GOINNNG
!
......
HE DID IT!!
FWUP
HE MEANS TO USE THE ART OF FIRE-DRAGON-FLAME TECHNIQUE
HAH!
HEH.. SUCH A SHAME
HE FLAWLESSLY PERCEIVED MY ESCAPE ROUTE AND STRUCK ALONG A PATH I DON'T SEE MYSELF


SIZZLE
!!

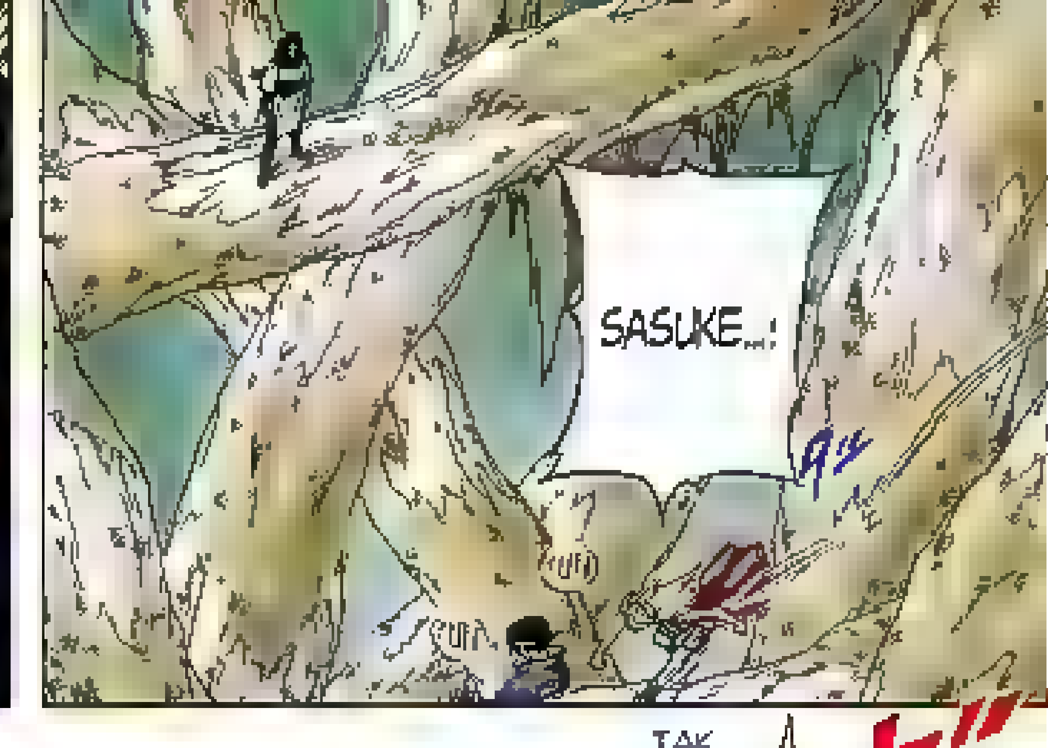

FLASH
SIZZLE


THAT ONE SO YOUNG SHOULD HAVE SUCH MASTERY OF THE SHARINGAN MIRROR EYE POWER...!
TRULY, A WORTHY SUCCESSOR TO THE HONORED NAME OF CLAN UCHIHA

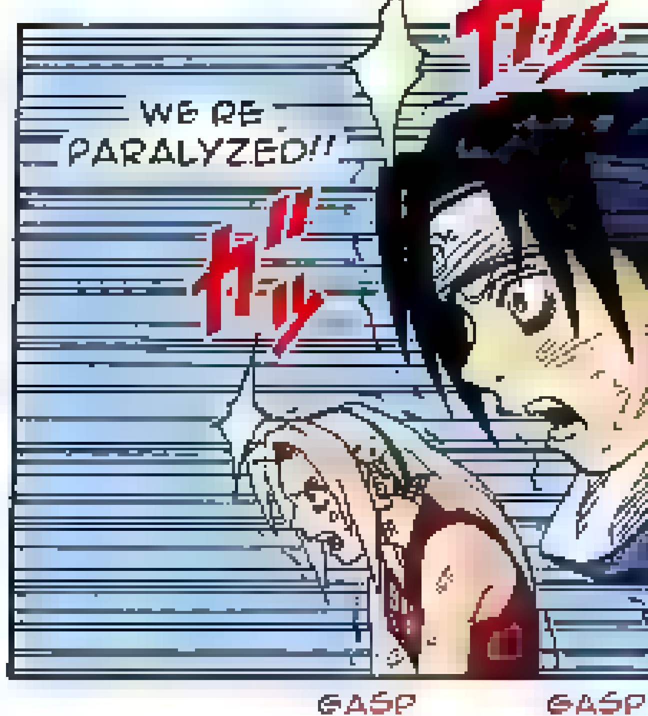

HUFF
HUFF

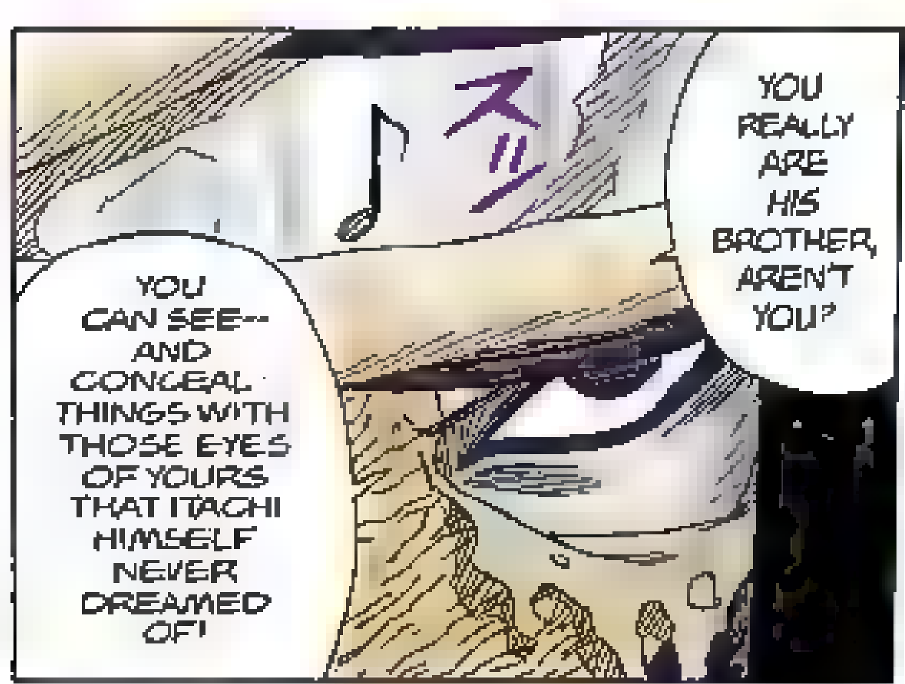


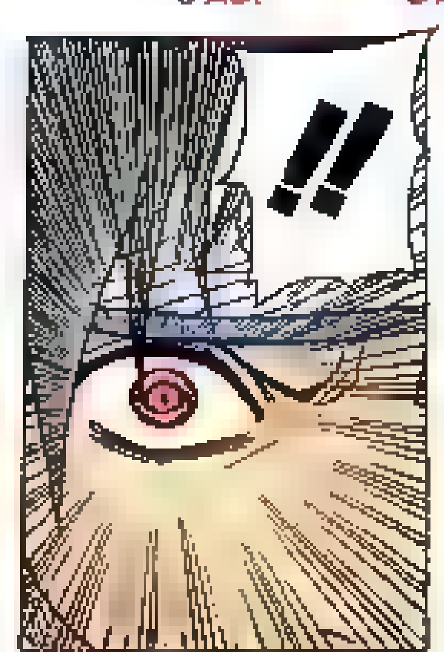

IN FACT... BELIEVE...
FLAKE
...I WANT YOU, AFTER ALL...!



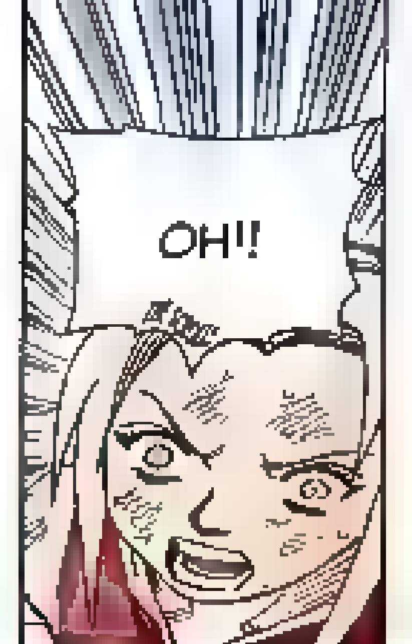
IT'S MARVELOUS FUN, HAVING YOU SHOW ME ALL YOUR TRICKS!





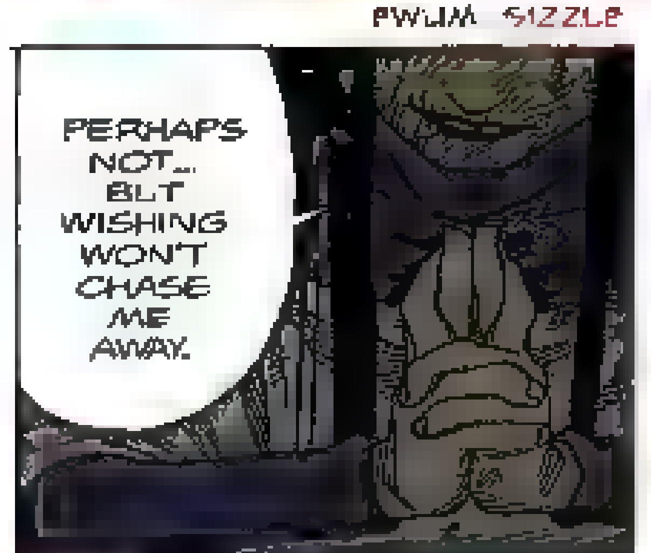


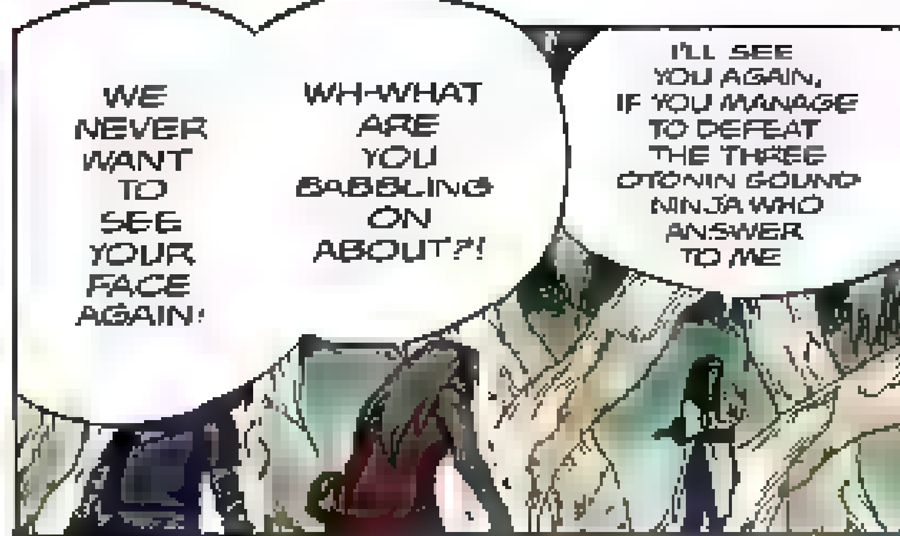






FWUM SIZZLE





CHOMP

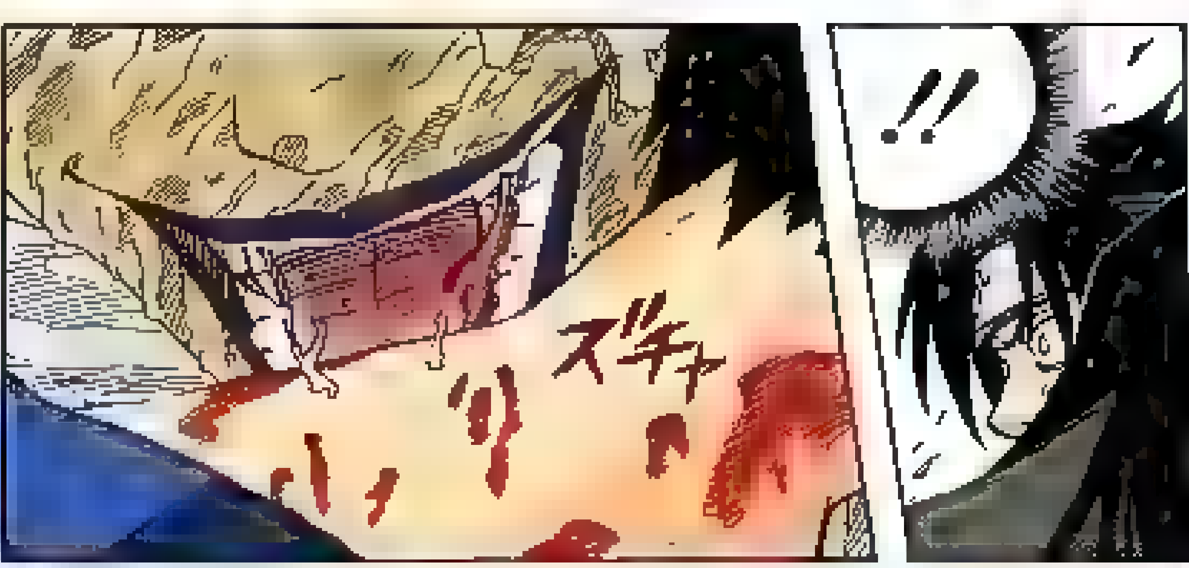
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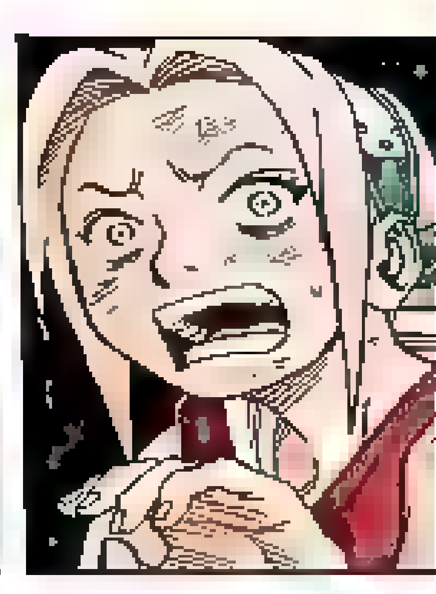
!!

ZUNG

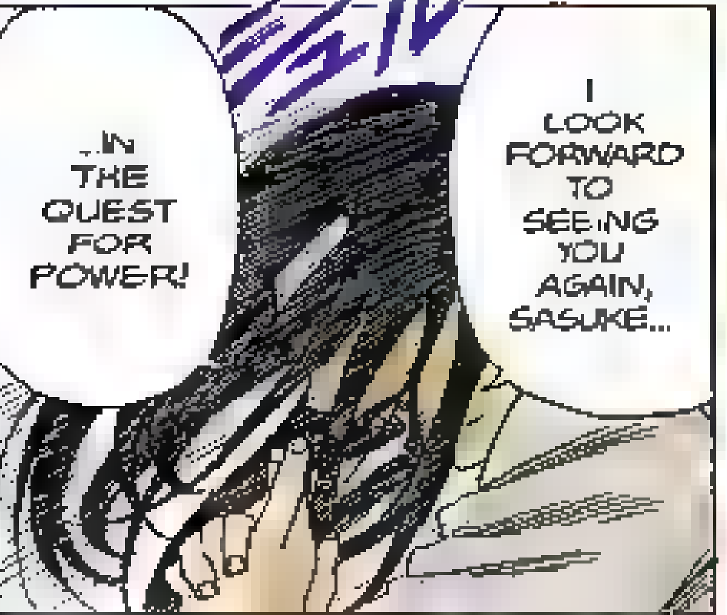
!!!

SHLUK

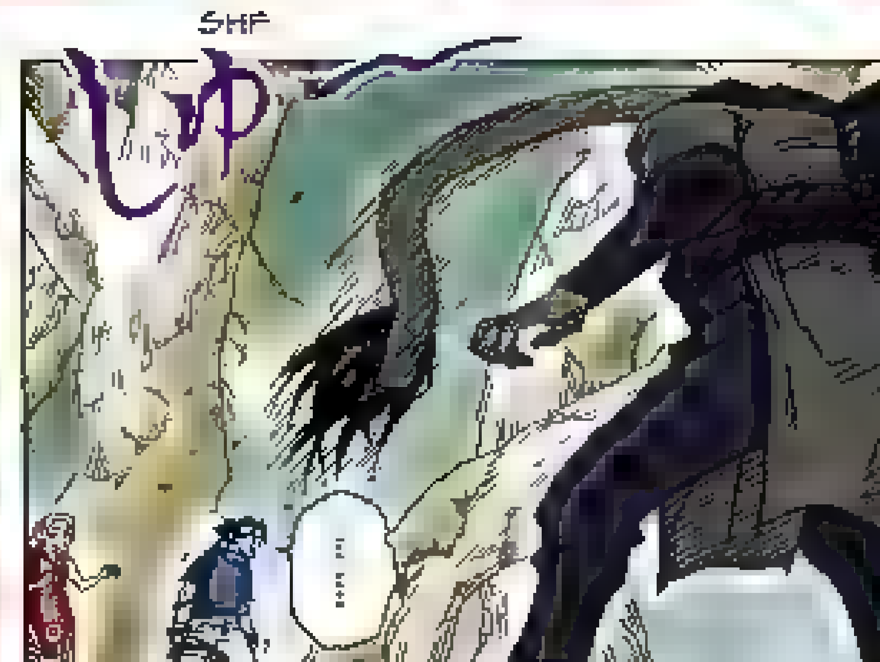




SHHM



SHF

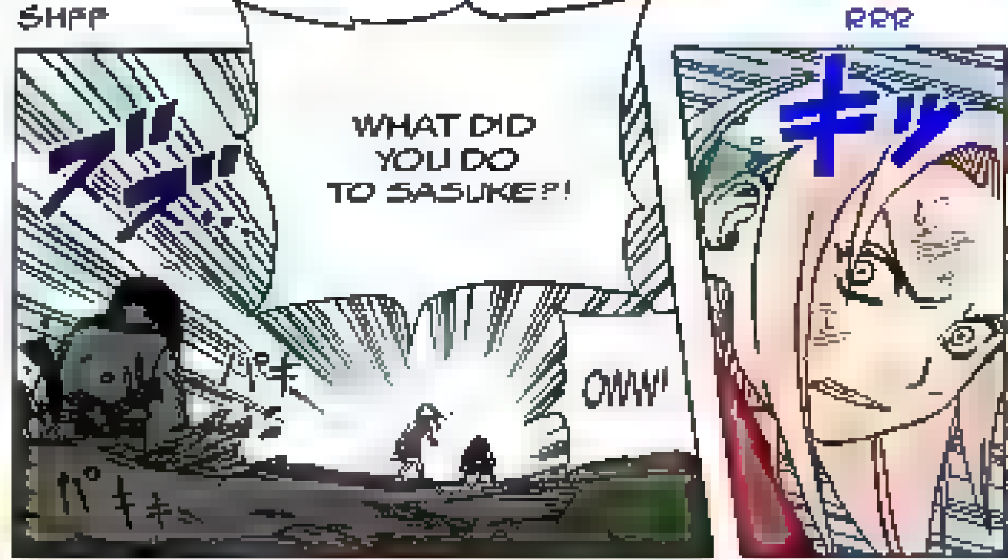








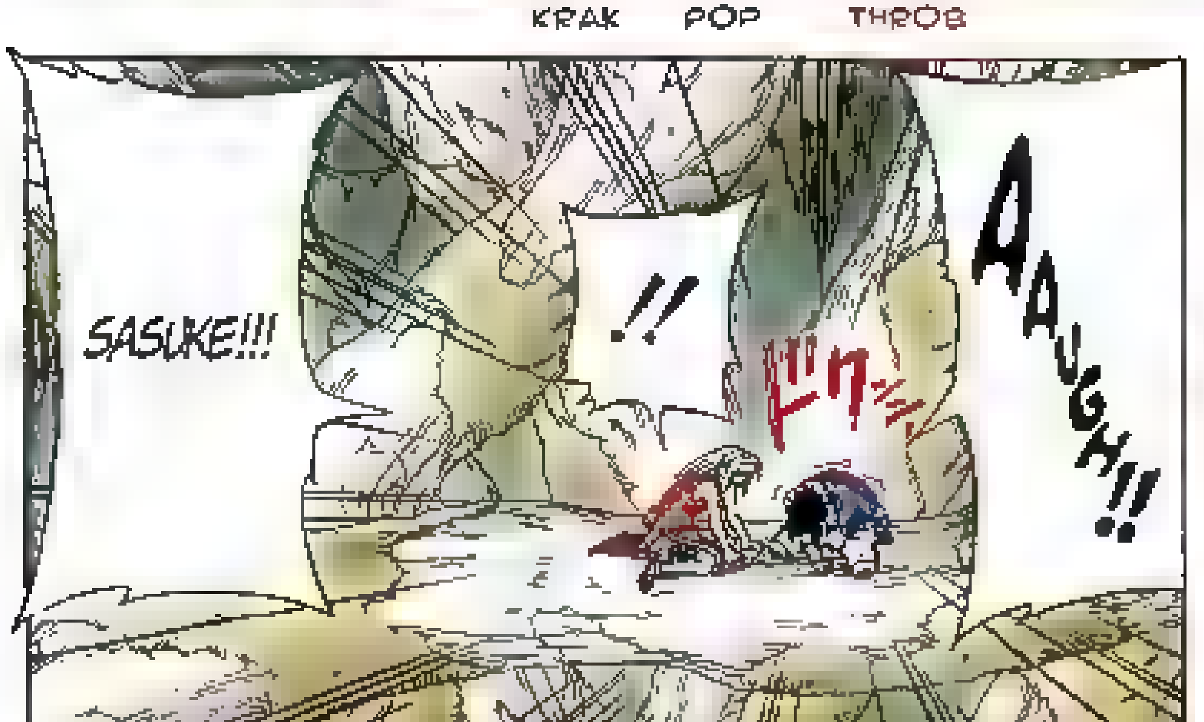
KRAK SSHH POP SHFF RRR

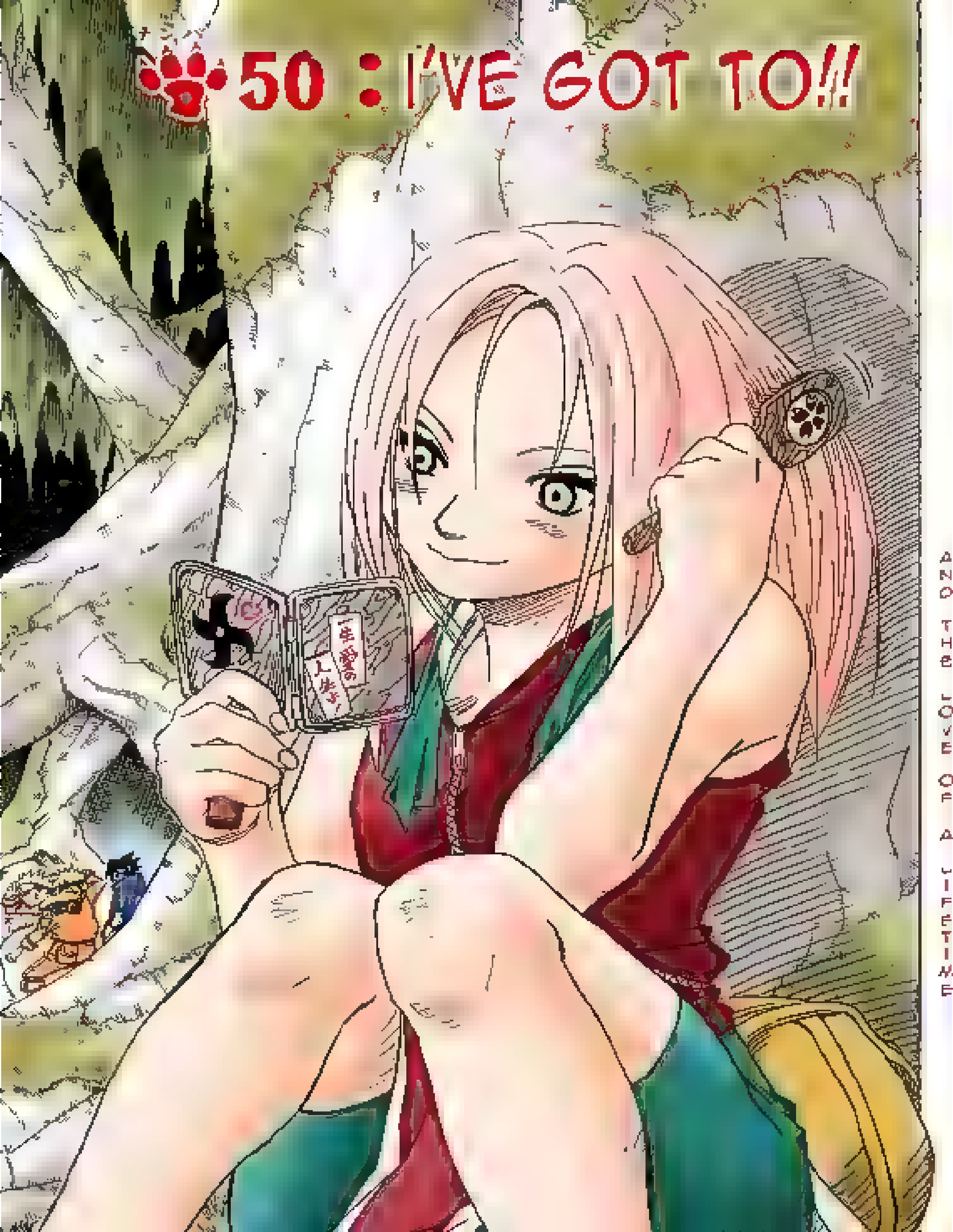




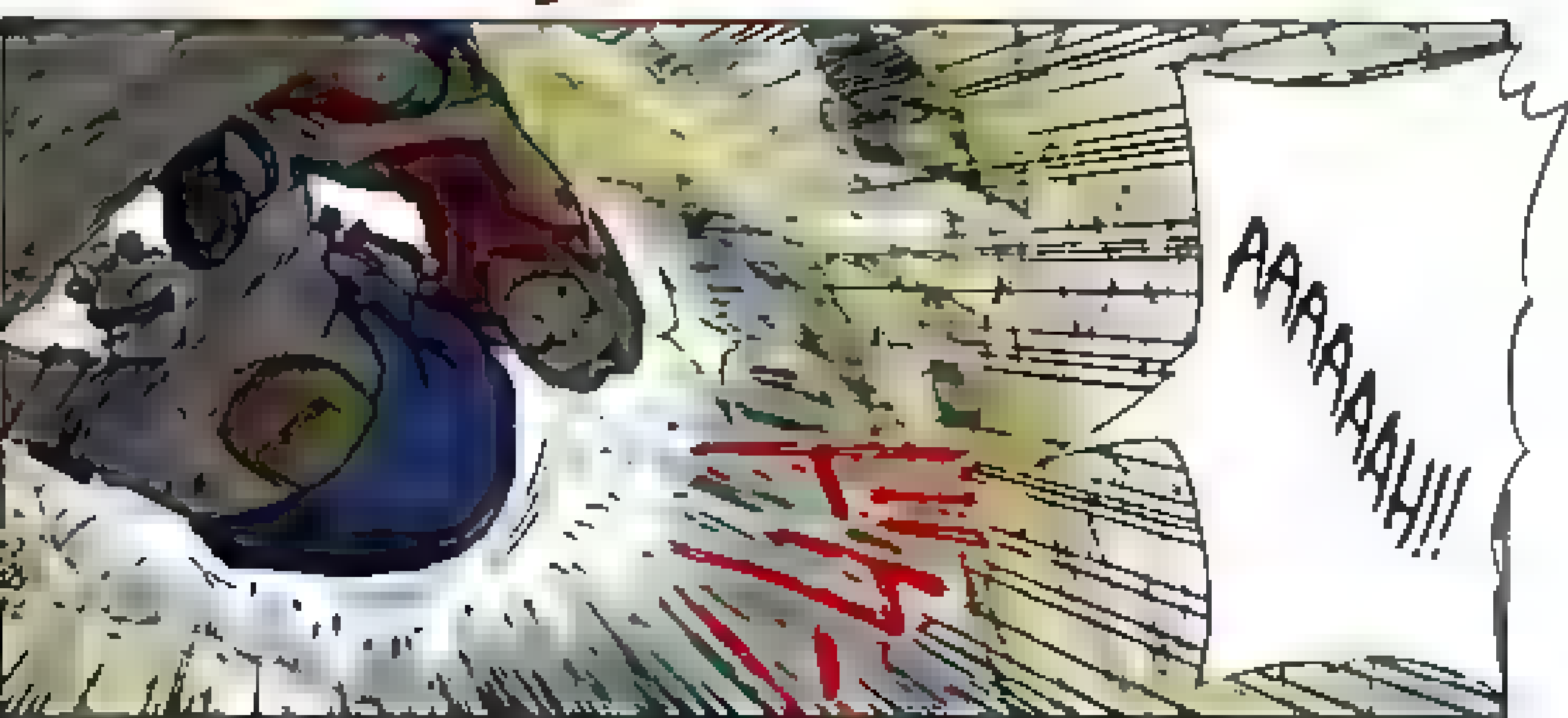
KRAK POP THROB



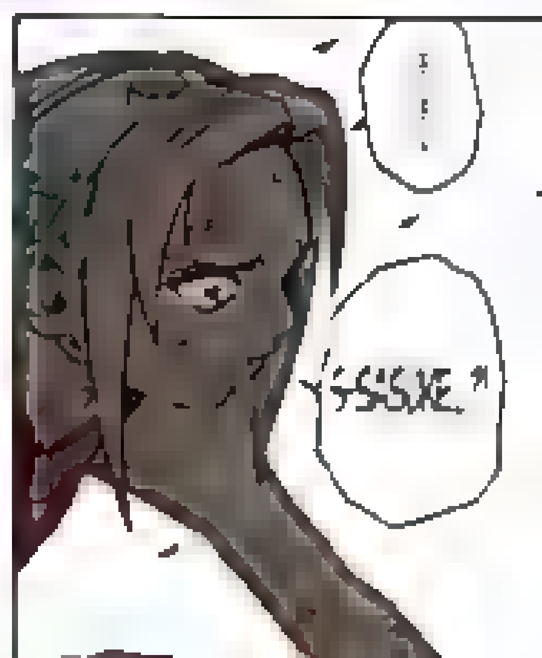



50 : I'VE GOT TO!!
AND THE LOVE OF A LIFETIME


UNH...!


AAAAAAH!!


HANG ON, SASUKE!!
UHH
YOU HEAR ME?!


SASUKE

AGH!!

UNH.

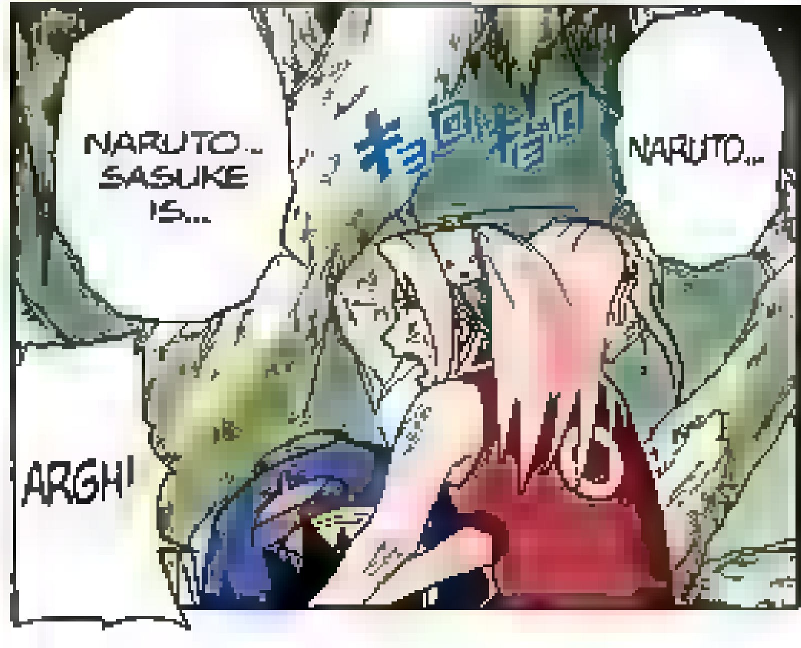
ギュウウウ

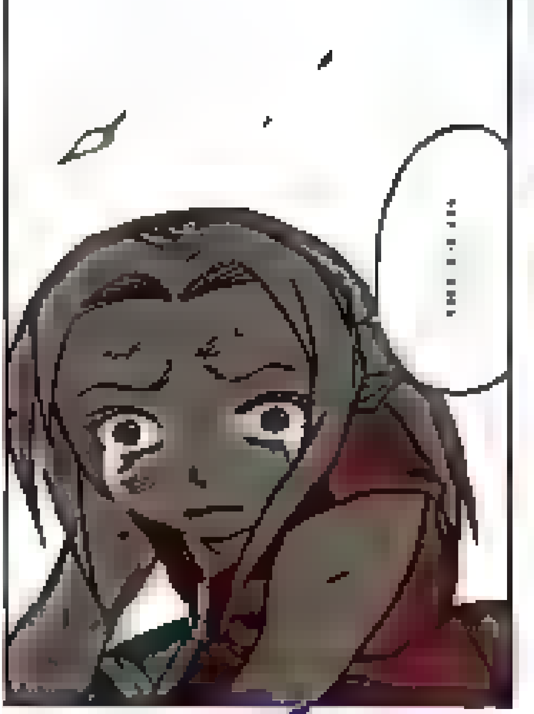
AIIIEEE!!

SOB

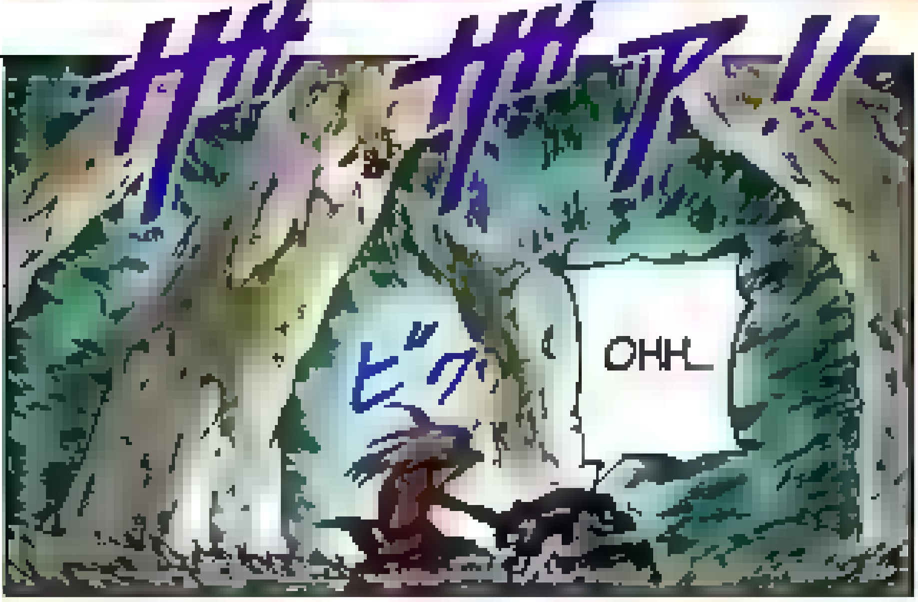
ガッカッガッ



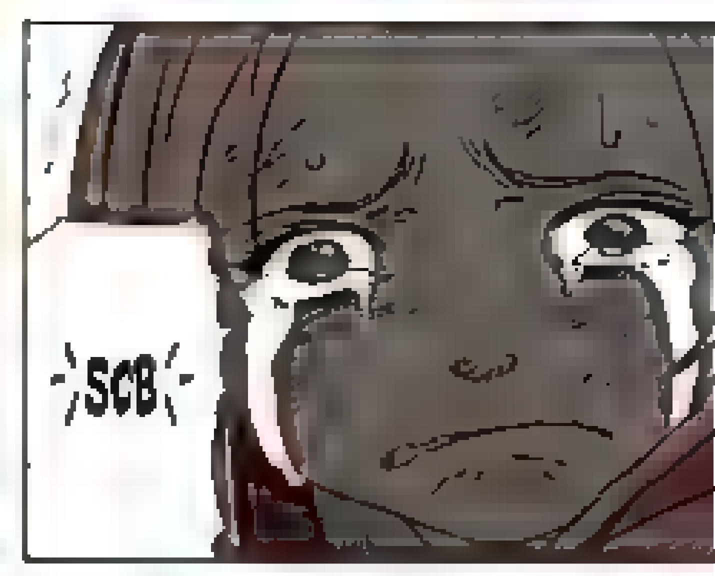






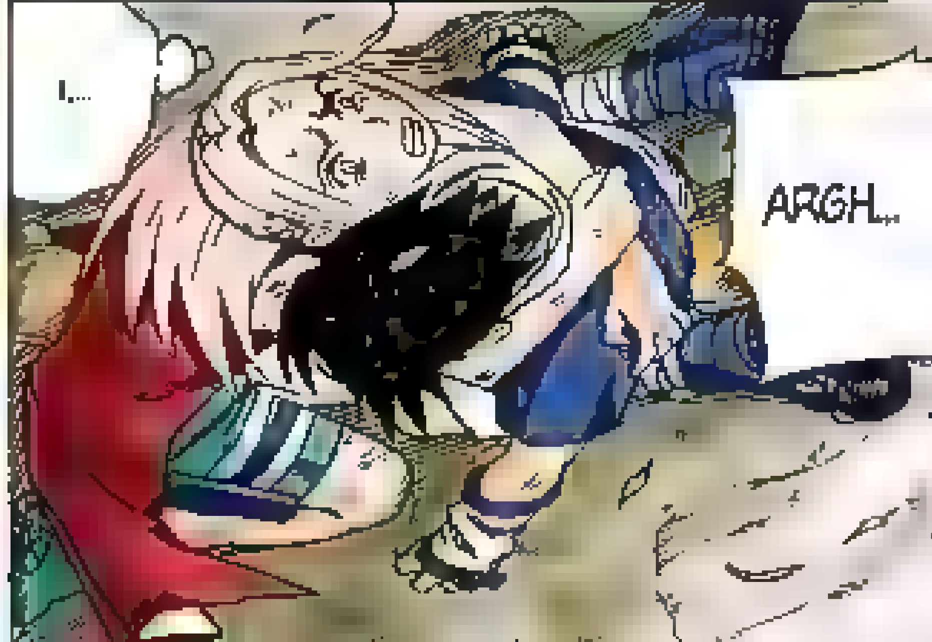


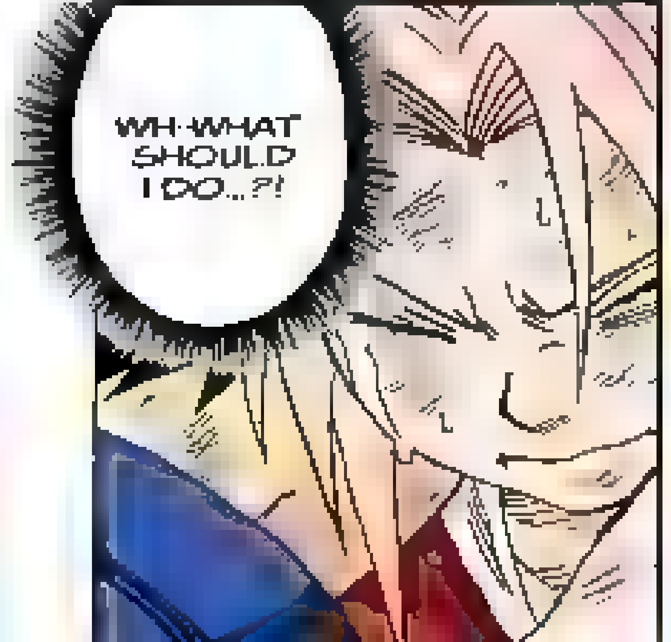
OHH...

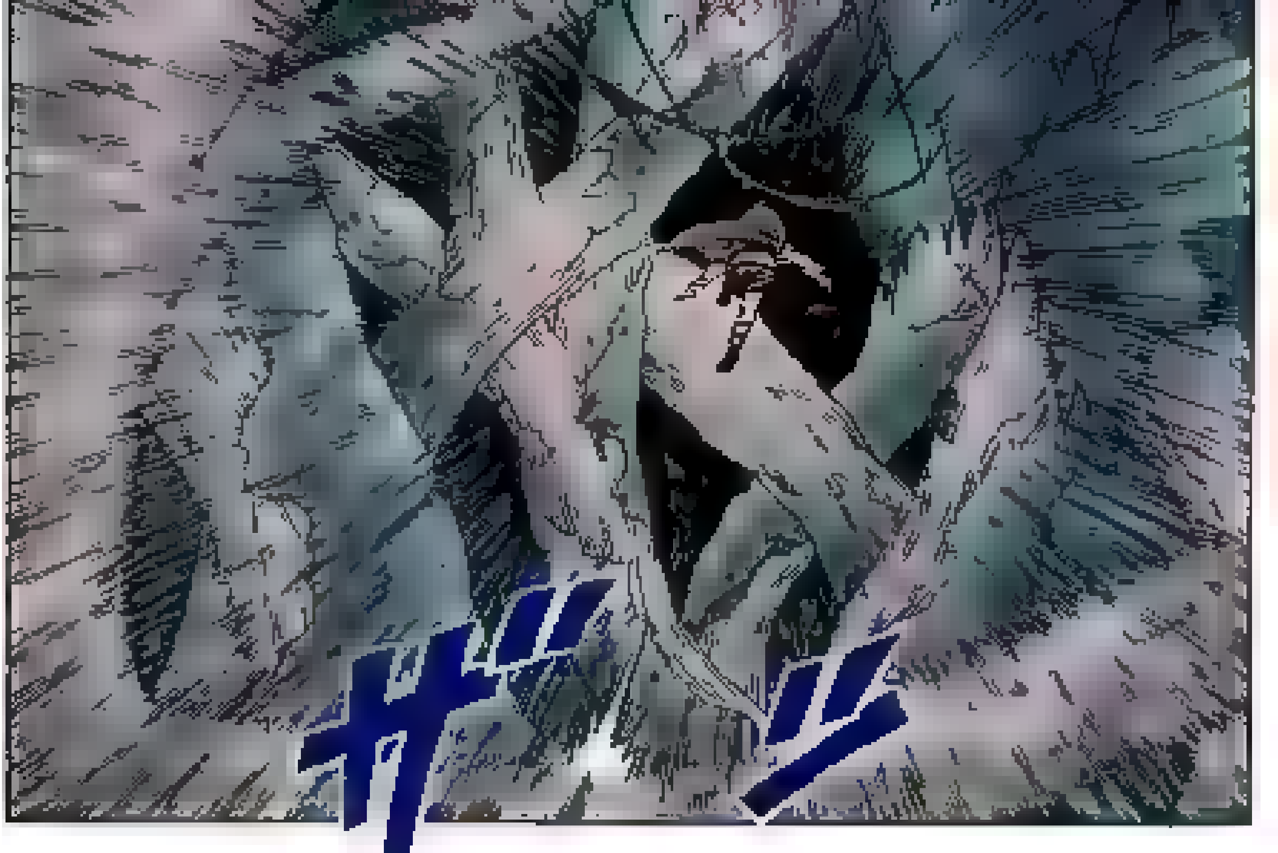


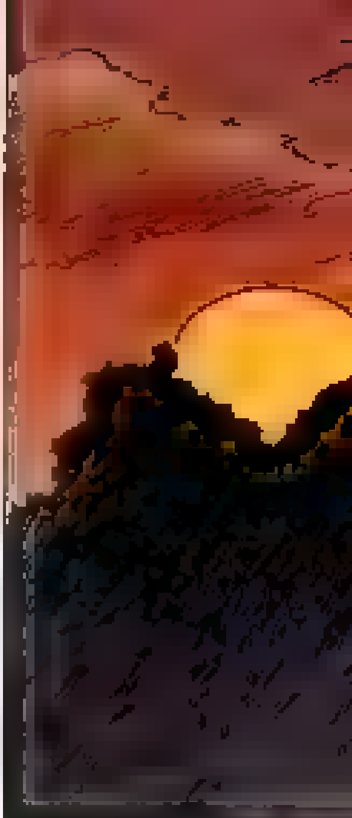
SOB
AIEEE
UNH
OHH...
AIEEE
EEE

!!
UNNH...

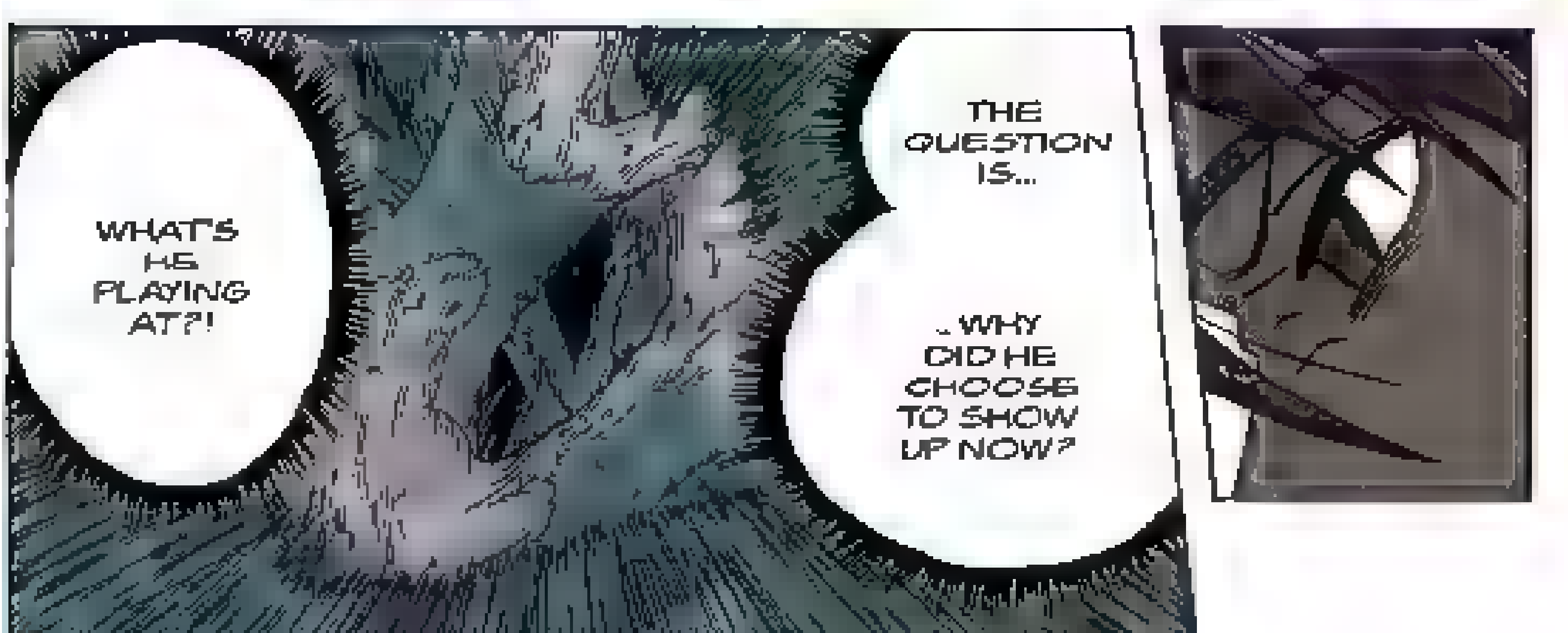

ARGH...
I...

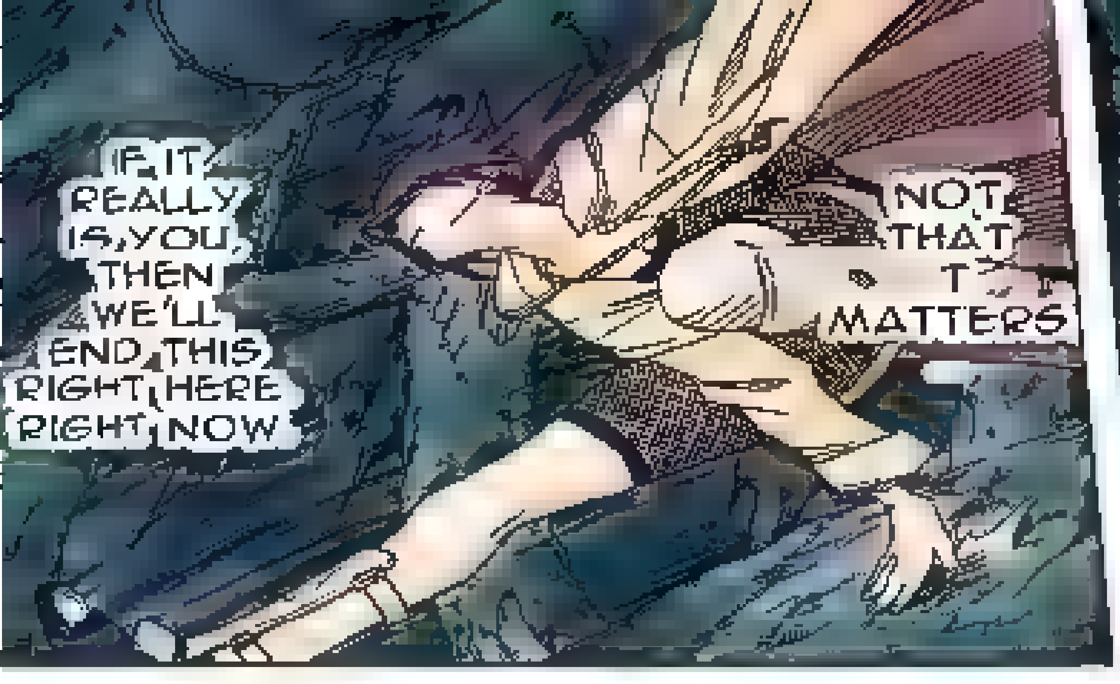

WH-WHAT SHOULD I DO...?!



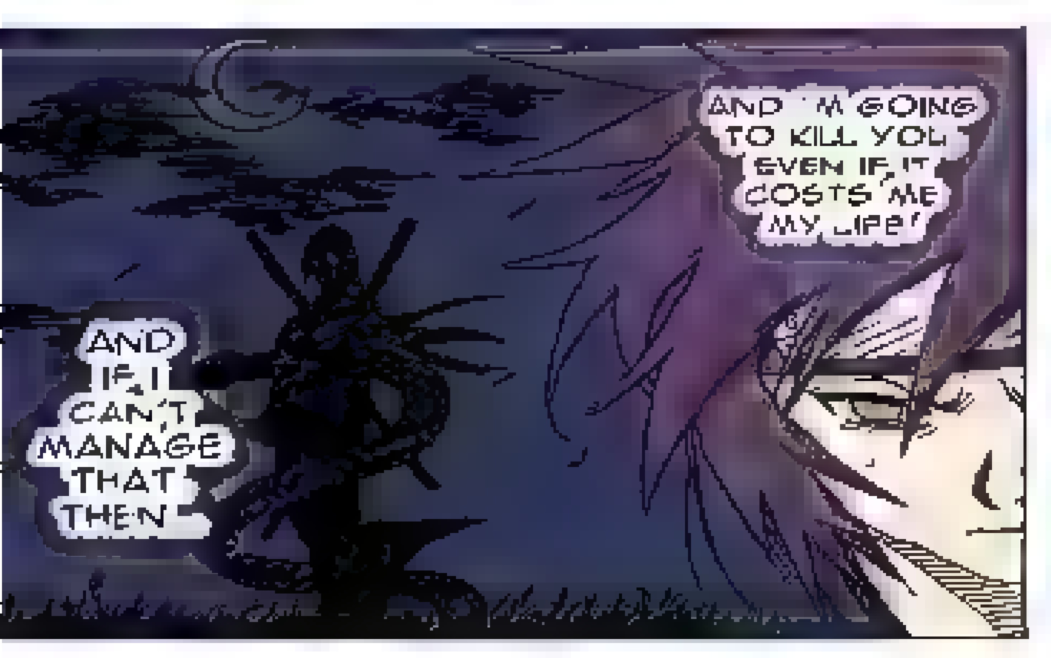



IT'S AREADY DUSK!!
I HAVE TO FIND HIM SOON! THE DARKER IT GETS..
THE WORSE THIS SITUATION WILL GET!

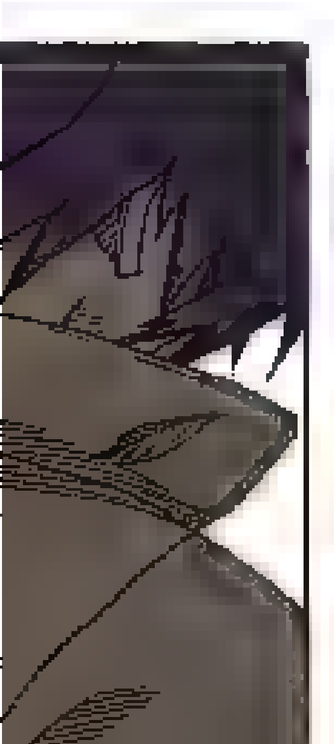

THE QUESTION IS...
..WHY DID HE CHOOSE TO SHOW UP NOW?
WHAT'S HE PLAYING AT?!


IF IT REALLY IS YOU, THEN WE'LL END THIS RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW
NOT THAT IT MATTERS

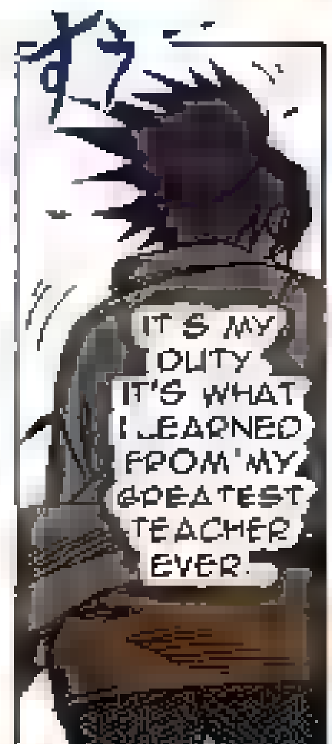



AND I'M GOING TO KILL YOU EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY LIFE!
AND IF I CAN'T MANAGE THAT THEN...


BECAUSE YOU'VE BECOME A BINGO BOOK, LEVEL S THREAT -- THE WORST KIND OF SECURITY RISK




WHAT I LEARNED FROM YOU!

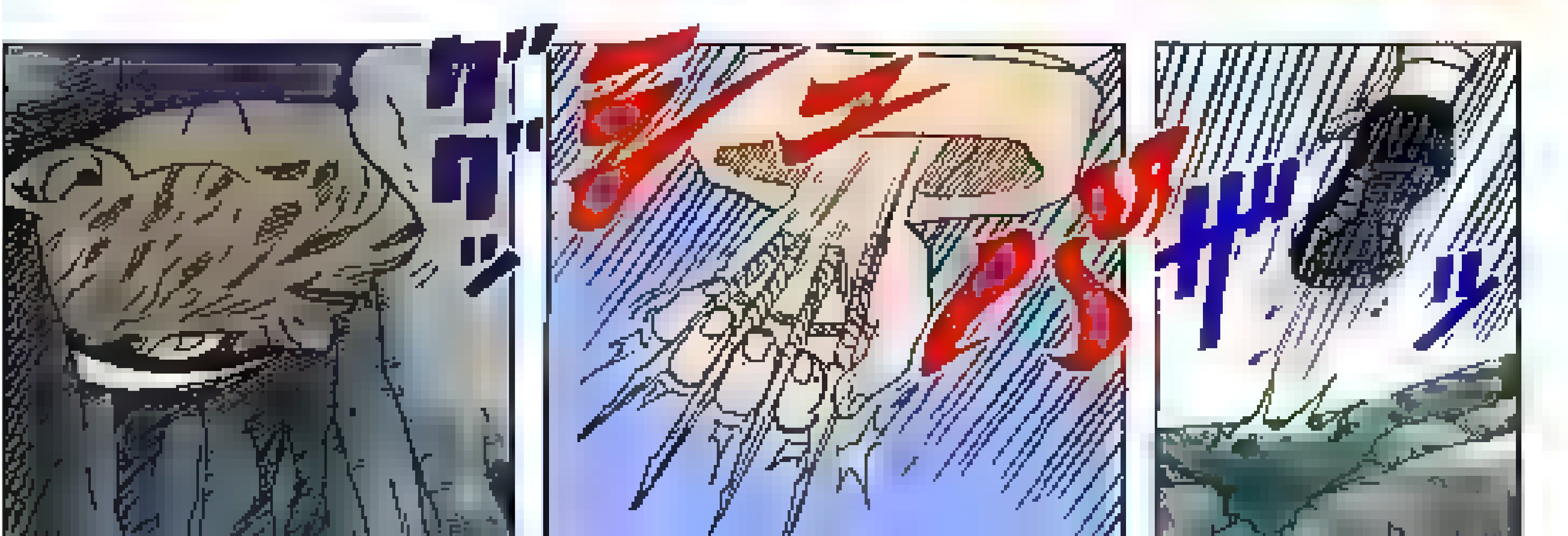

IT'S MY DUTY. IT'S WHAT I LEARNED FROM MY GREATEST TEACHER EVER.

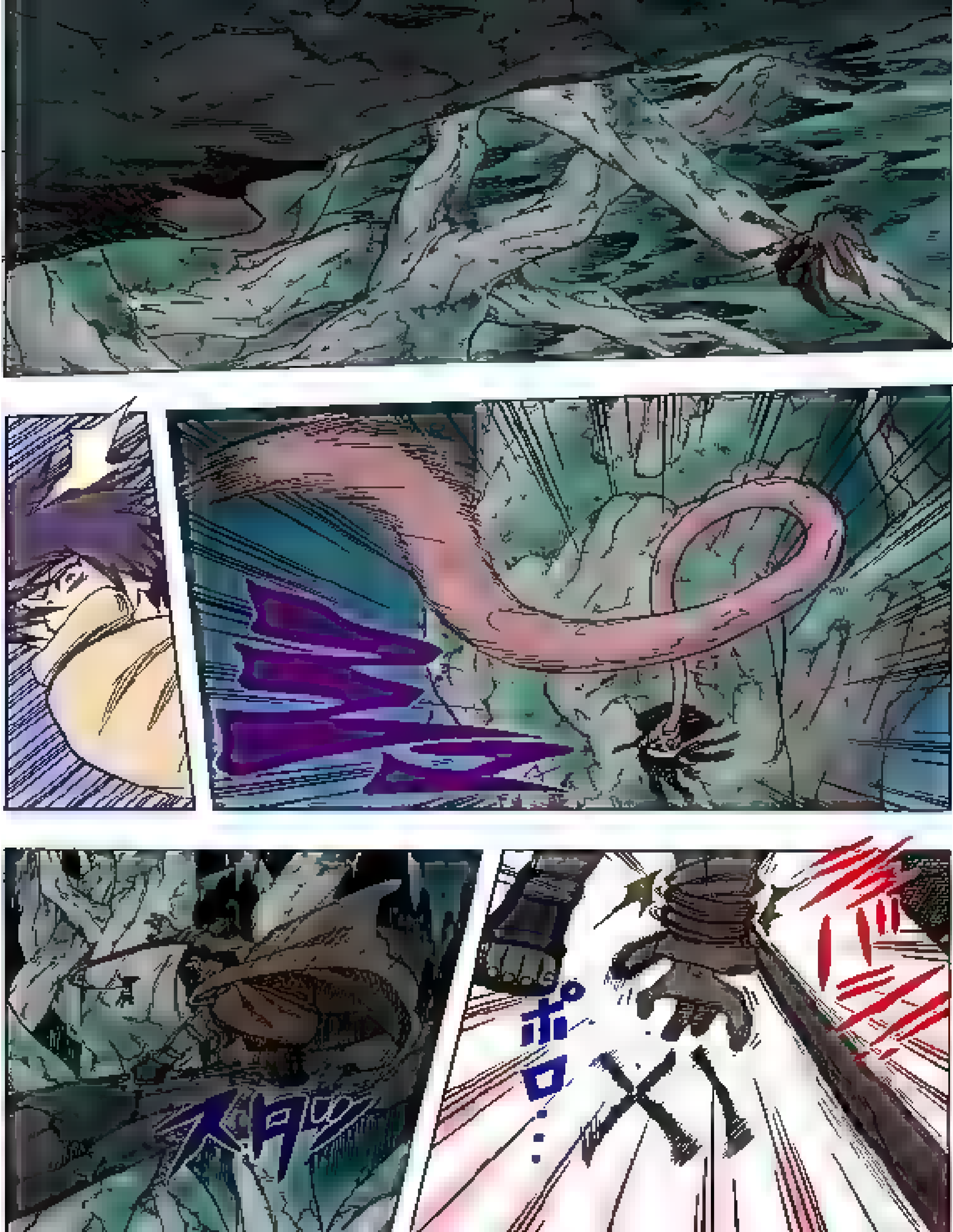

AT LEAST I'LL SLOW YOU DOWN UNTIL THE BLACK OPS TEAMS CAN GET HERE

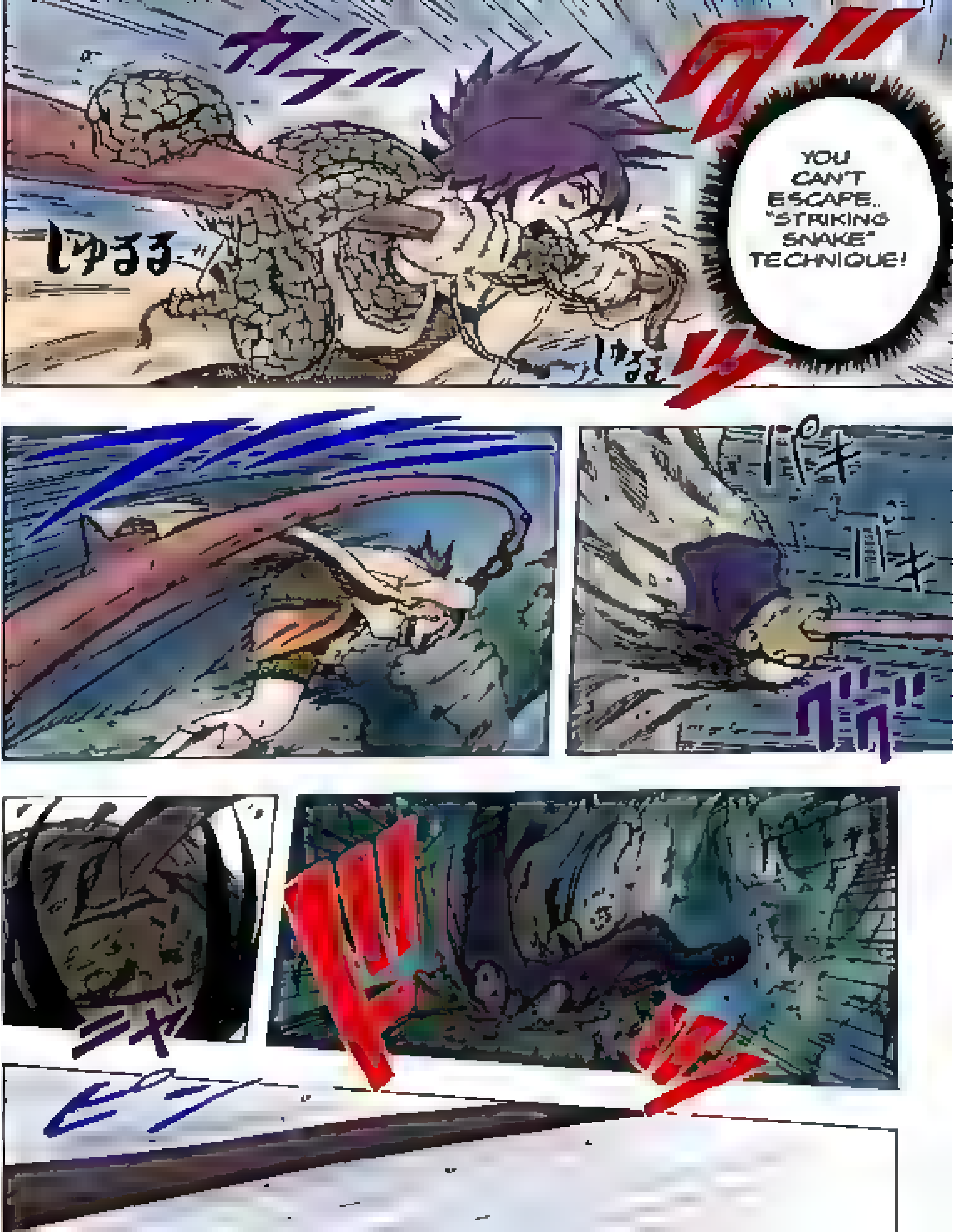
...ISN'T IT, OROCHIMARU?

IMPOSSIBLE...






ポロ…
スタッ


YOU CAN'T ESCAPE.. "STRIKING SNAKE" TECHNIQUE!
じゅるる
じゅるる
パキ
パキ

しゅるるる

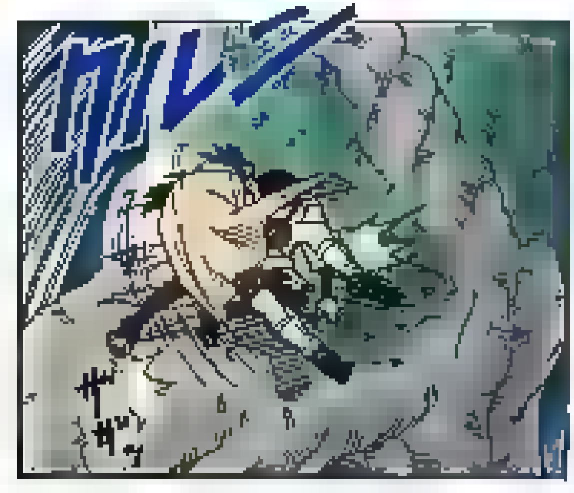
OHH!

ド

!!

AGH!

AHH!!

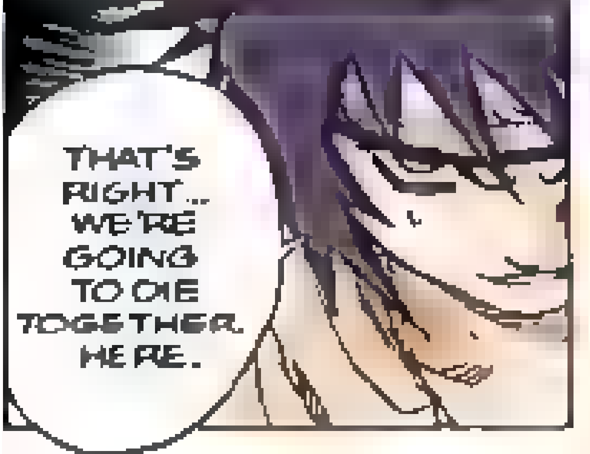






OROCHIMARU, COULD YOU LEND ME A HAND? THE LEFT ONE?

GOT YOU!



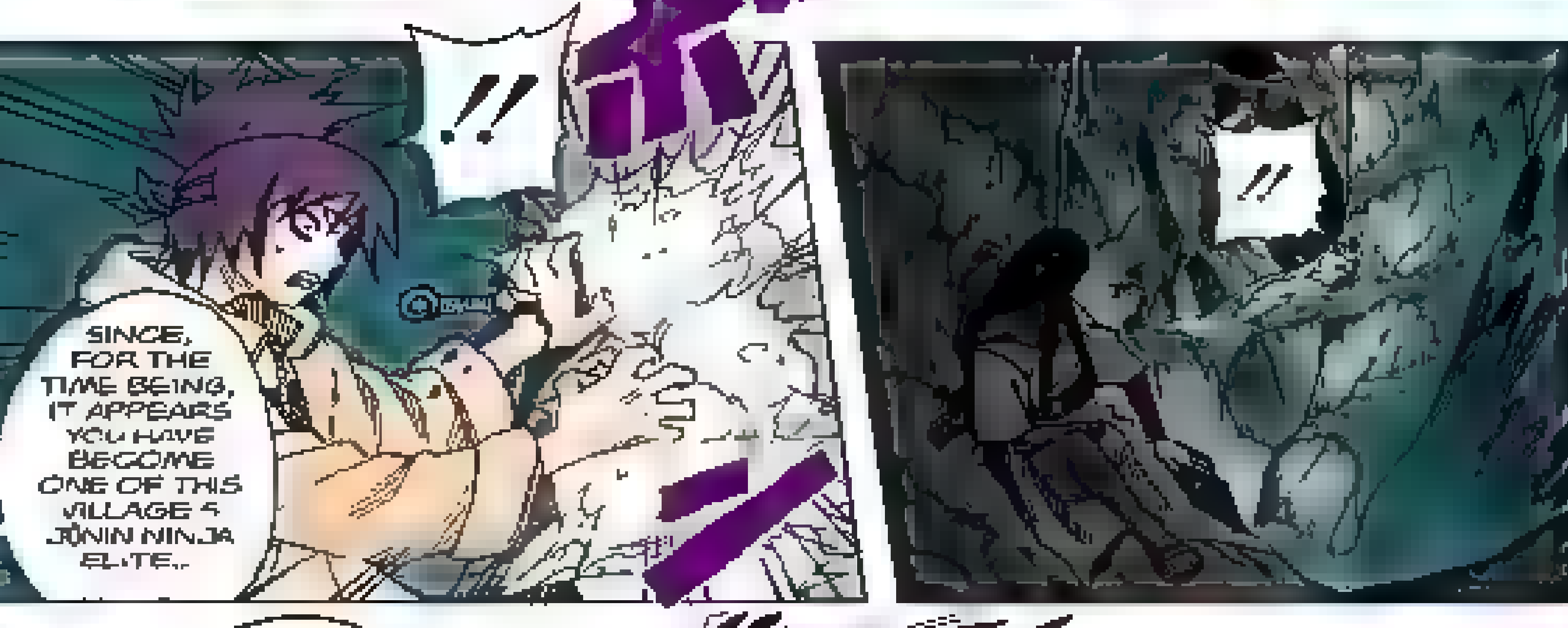





!!


NINJA TECHNIQUE--"TWIN SNAKES KILL EACH OTHER"!
YOU MEAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE? HOW PRECIOUS!


BUT THAT'S A DOPPEL-GANGER...

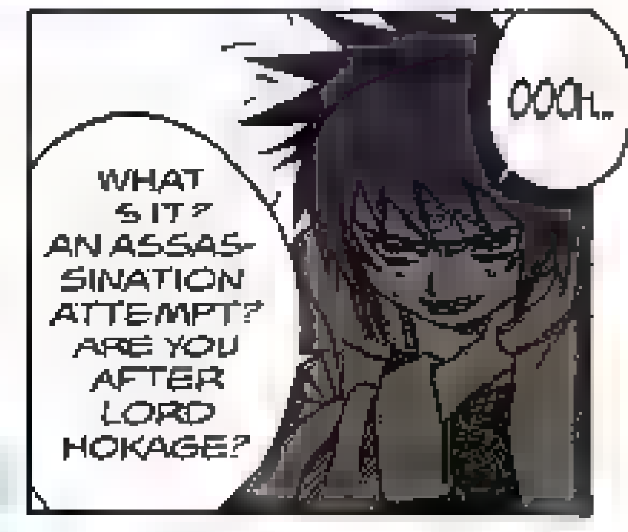

!!
!!
SINCE, FOR THE TIME BEING, IT APPEARS YOU HAVE BECOME ONE OF THIS VILLAGE'S JONIN NINJA ELITE...

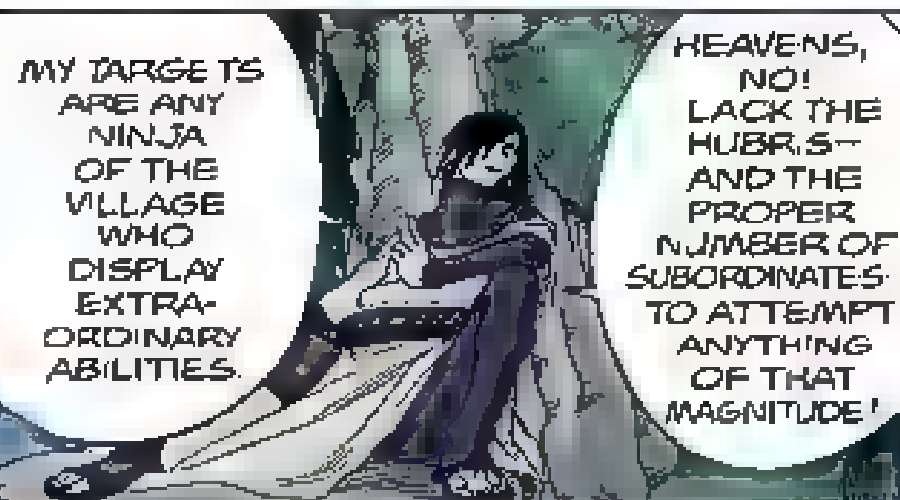

YOU MUSTN'T JUST ..
..SQUANDER EVERY SECRET I TAUGHT YOU.

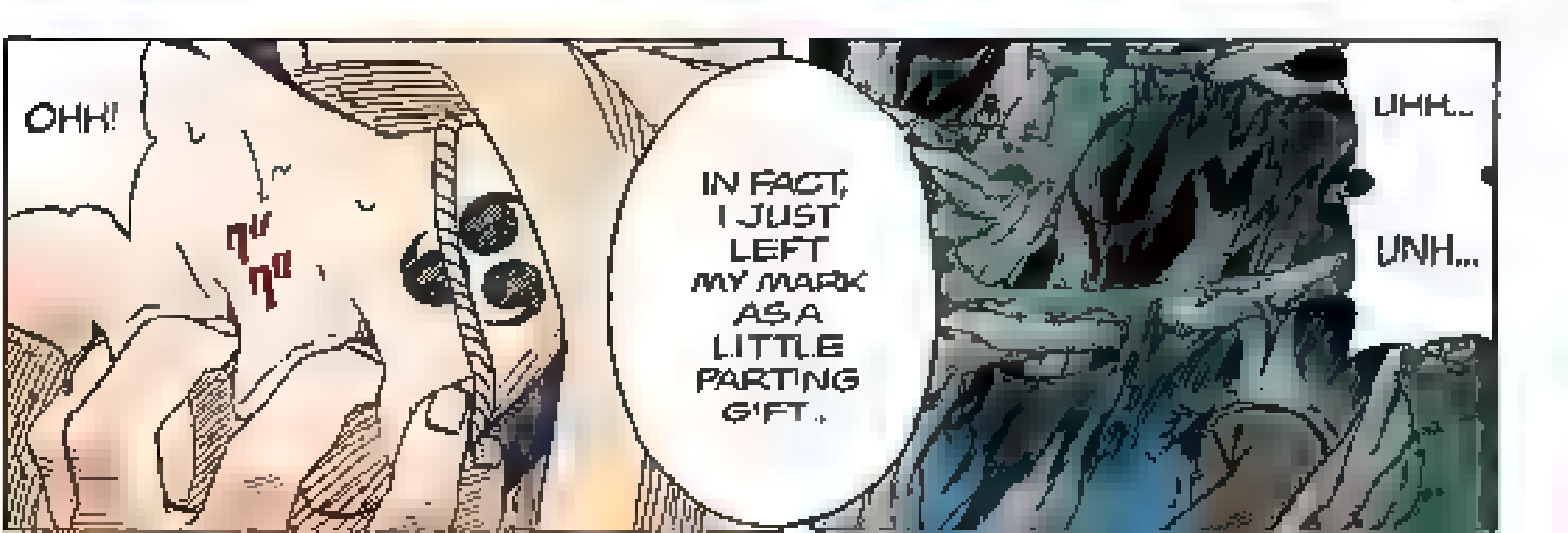



WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHY NOW?!
WHY?

FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE, OF COURSE, MY DEAREST ANKO! BUT FROM YOUR COLD REACTION...
...ONE MIGHT ALMOST SUSPECT YOU'RE NOT GLAD TO SEE ME!

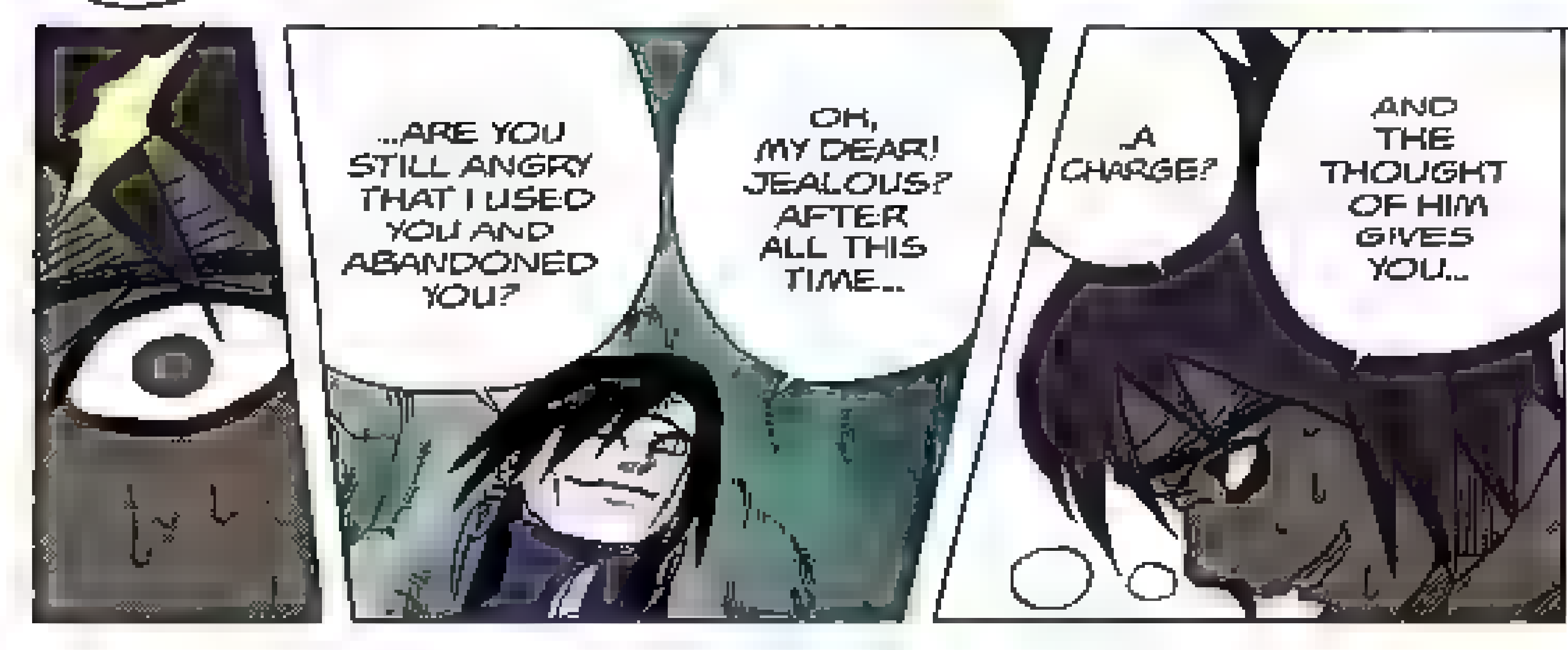
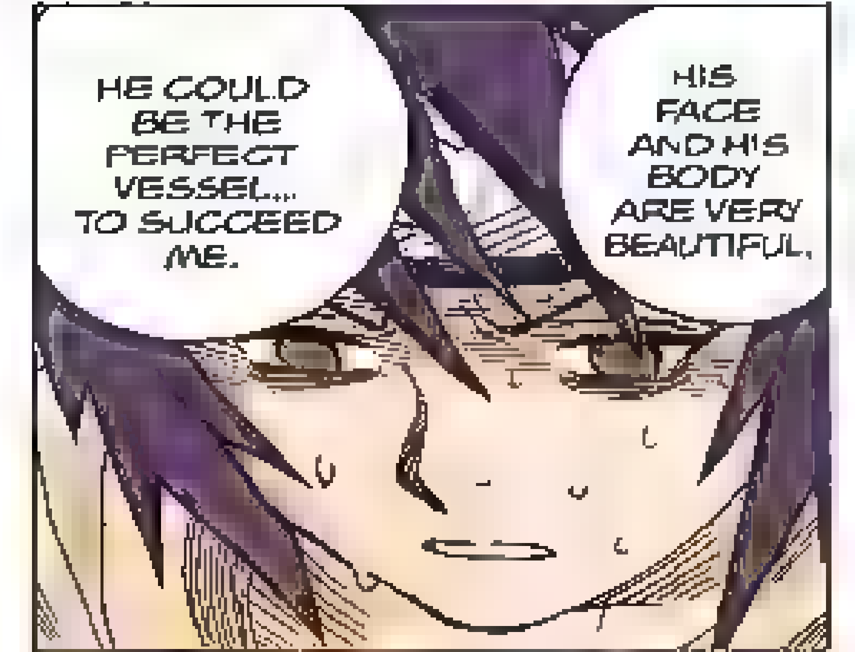
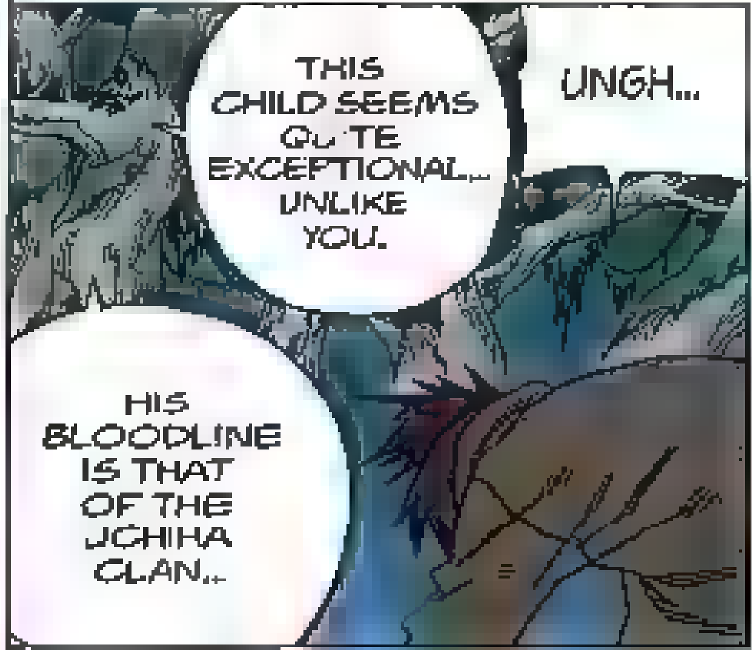


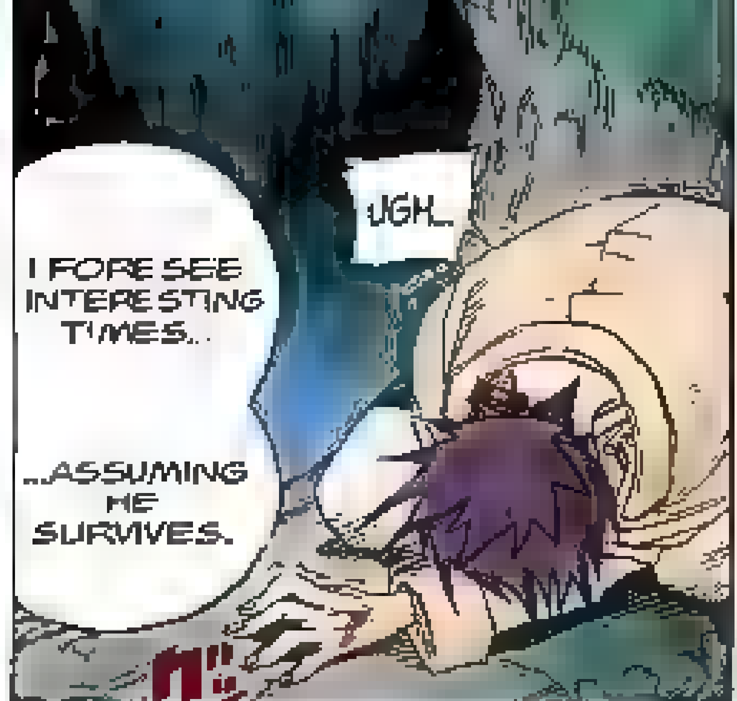


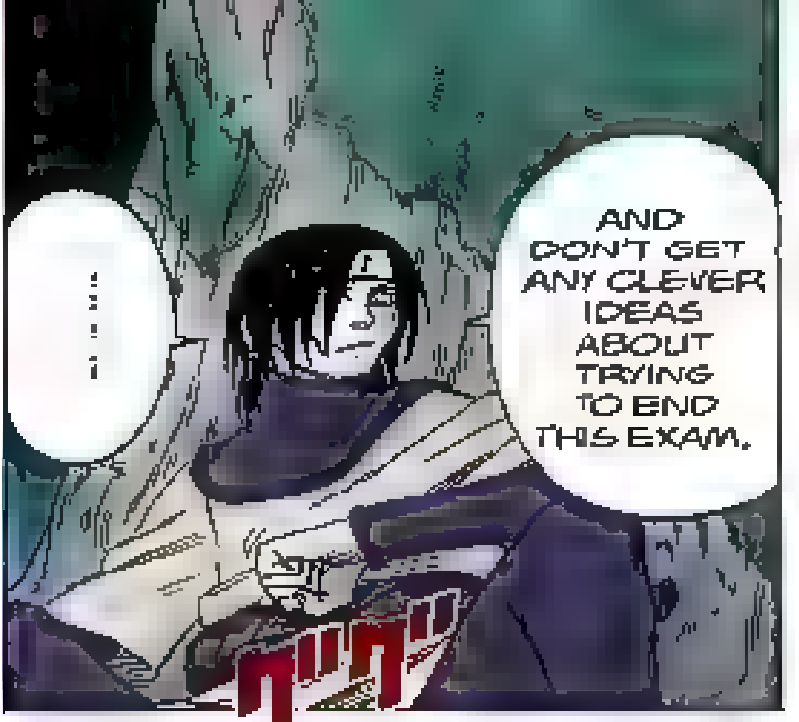



THERE'S A NINE OUT OF 10 CHANCE THAT YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE ..
BUT JUST THE SAME...
HE MAY SURVIVE... AS YOU DID.

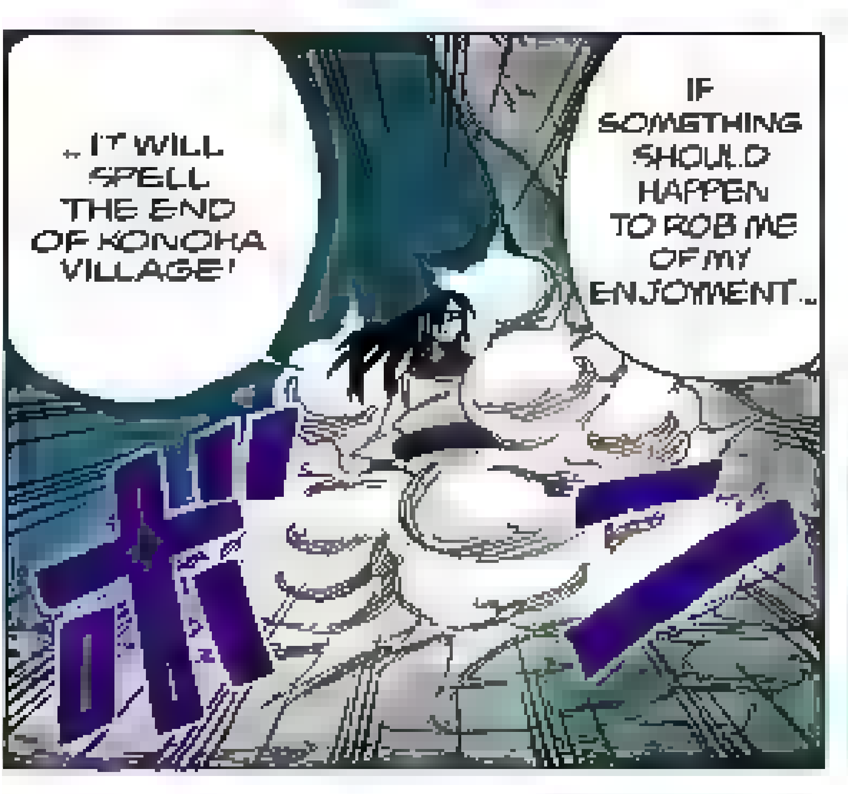
UHH...!
YOU MONSTER!
IT'S A TIME BOMB... HE'LL BE DEAD IN NO TIME!
HUF
HUF
HUF

.ON ONE OF THE BOYS.

AND THE THOUGHT OF HIM GIVES YOU...
.A CHARGE?
OH, MY DEAR! JEALOUS? AFTER ALL THIS TIME...
...ARE YOU STILL ANGRY THAT I USED YOU AND ABANDONED YOU?

HIS FACE AND HIS BODY ARE VERY BEAUTIFUL.
HE COULD BE THE PERFECT VESSEL... TO SUCCEED ME.

UNGH...
THIS CHILD SEEMS QUITE EXCEPTIONAL... UNLIKE YOU.
HIS BLOODLINE IS THAT OF THE UCHIHA CLAN...


I FORESEE INTERESTING TIMES...
...ASSUMING HE SURVIVES.
UGH..

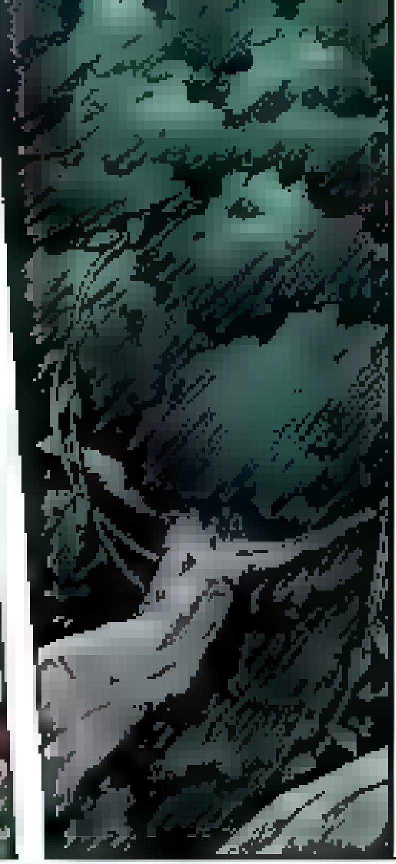

AND DON'T GET ANY CLEVER IDEAS ABOUT TRYING TO END THIS EXAM.
......


I PLAN TO SAVOR THIS.
THREE OF MY PROTÉGÉS HAVE TAKEN THE PLACES OF THREE OF YOUR OWN.

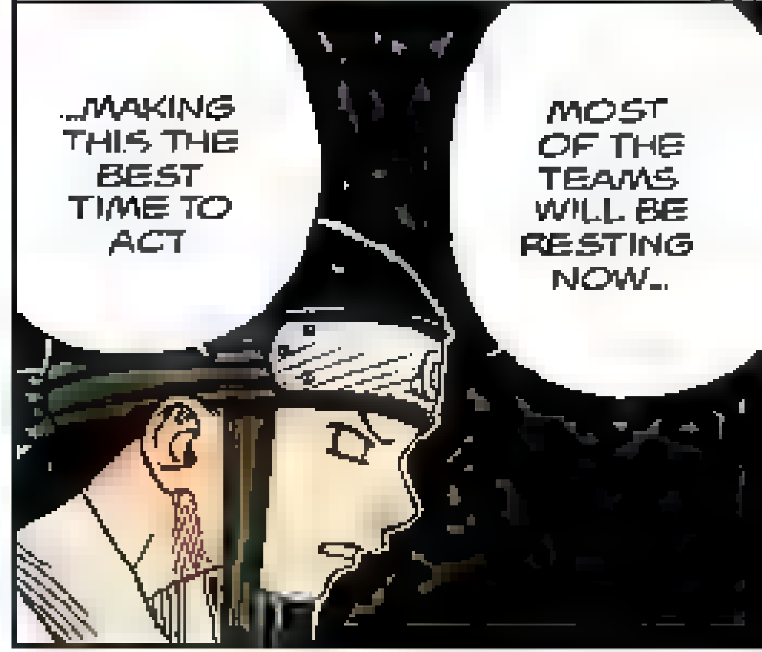

IF SOMETHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO ROB ME OF MY ENJOYMENT...
...IT WILL SPELL THE END OF KONOHA VILLAGE!




HUF
HUF



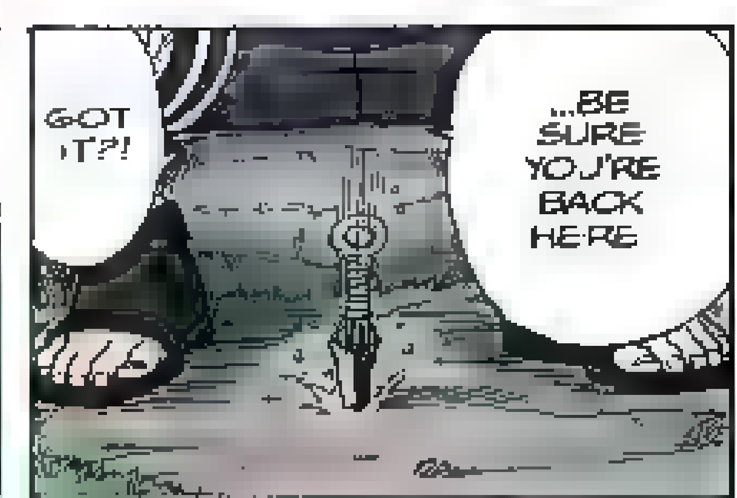
IT'LL PROBABLY START TO GET LIGHT IN THE NEXT HOUR OR SO.
WE WERE ABLE TO USE OUR FIRST DAY TO SECURE FOOD AND WATER.



MOST OF THE TEAMS WILL BE RESTING NOW...
...MAKING THIS THE BEST TIME TO ACT



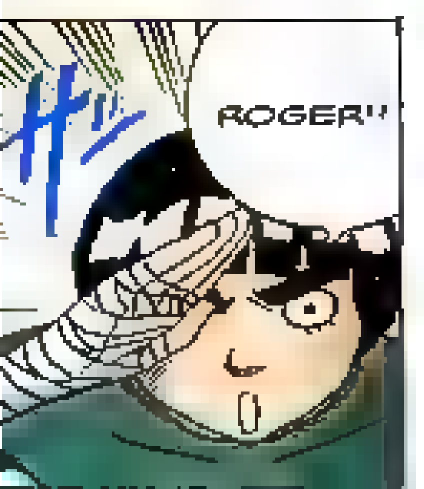
LET'S SPLIT UP...
...AND RECONNOITER FOR THE NEXT HALF HOUR.
BUT WHATEVER YOU FIND, WHEN THE TIME IS UP...



...BE SURE YOU'RE BACK HERE
GOT IT?!



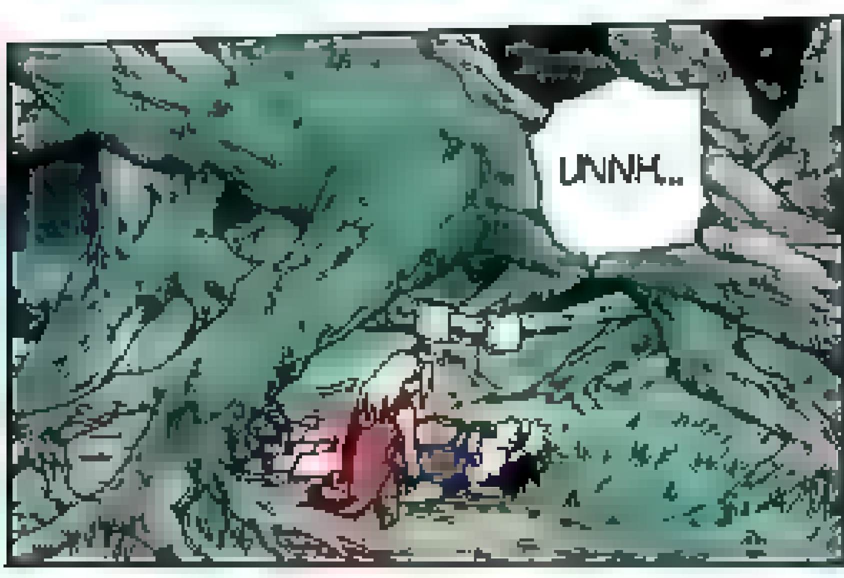
OKAY!

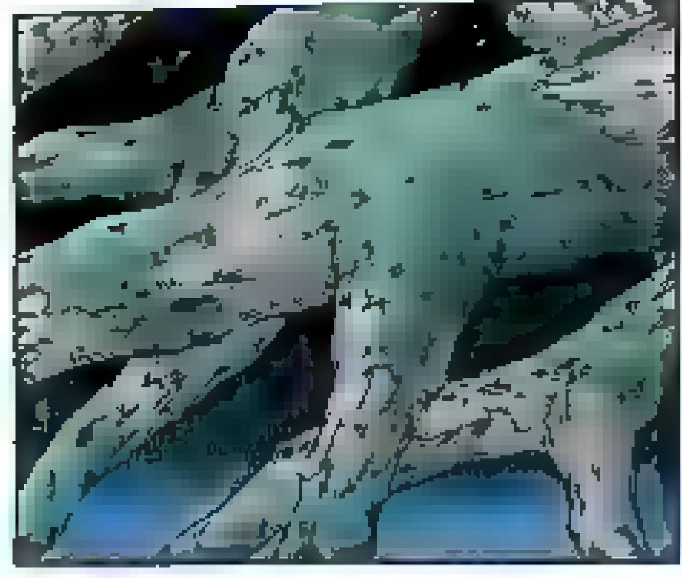


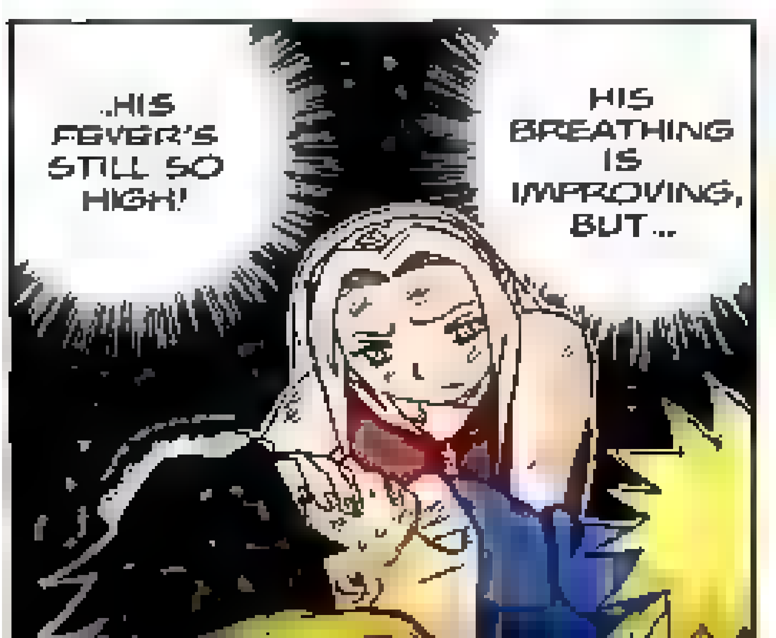
ROGER!!

GOOD..!

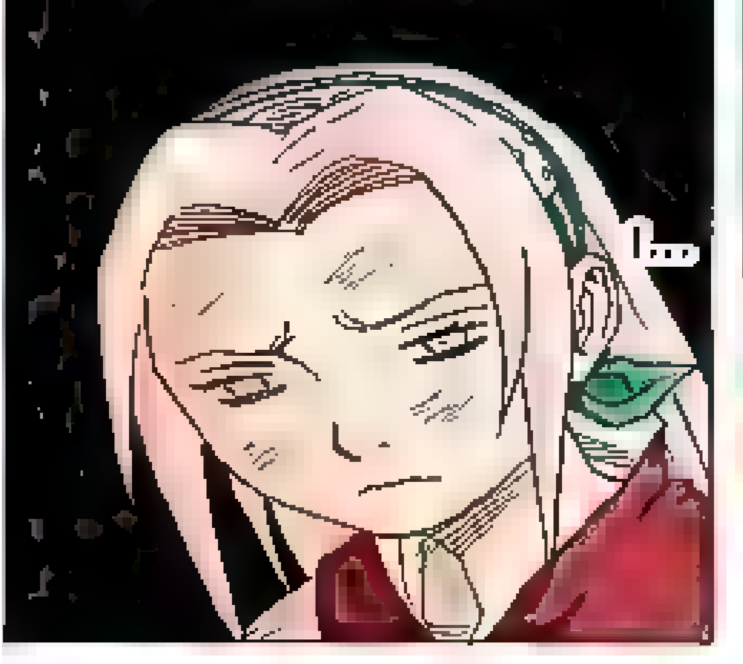
LET'S GO!!

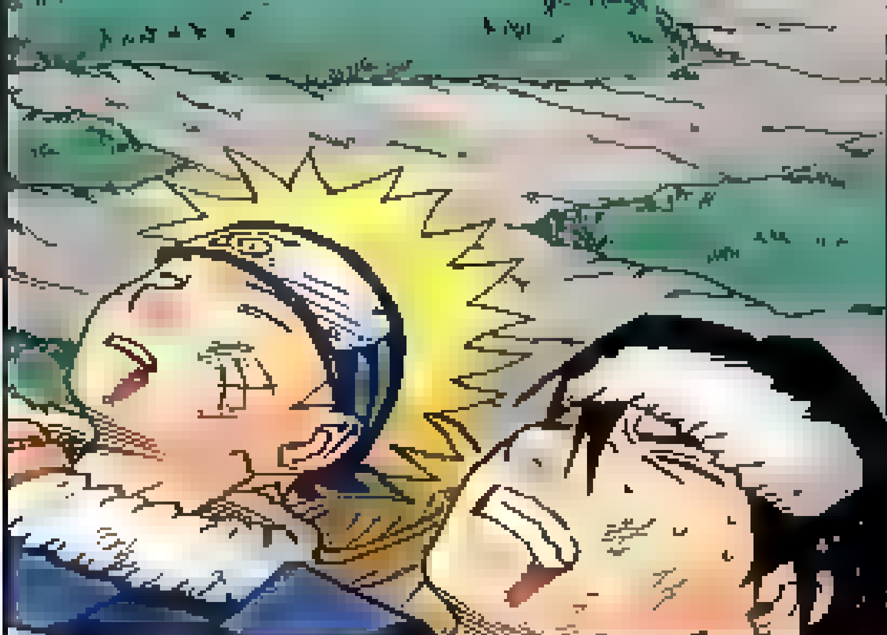

UNNH..

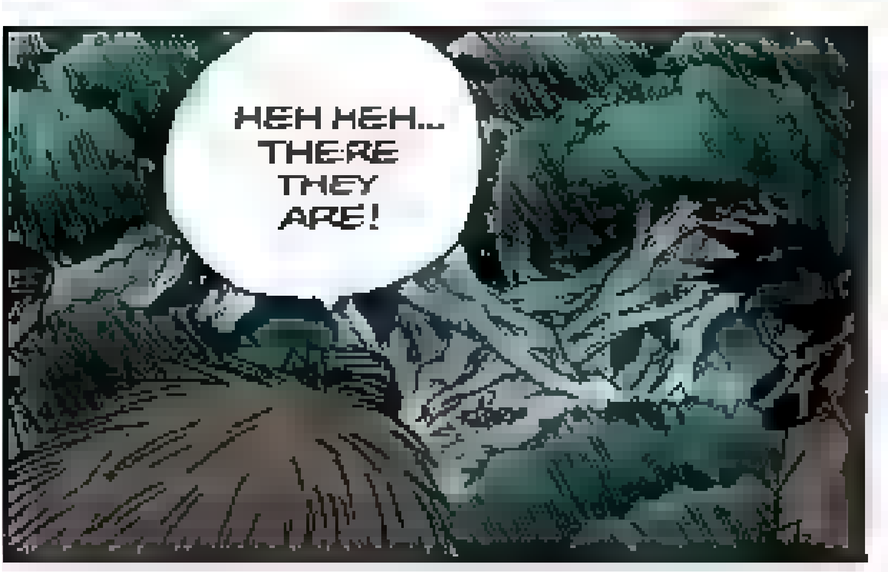



HIS BREATHING IS IMPROVING, BUT...
..HIS FEVER'S STILL SO HIGH!


UH...


I...




HEH HEH... THERE THEY ARE!


I'VE ...
'VE GOT TO PROTECT THEM BOTH!
キッ

AS LORD OROCHIMARU COMMANDED, WE'LL STRIKE AT DAWN!
AND OUR TARGET IS UCHIHA SASUKE!
IF THE OTHER TWO GET IN OUR WAY, WE CAN TAKE 'EM OUT, RIGHT?
OF COURSE!



ナンバー

51 :

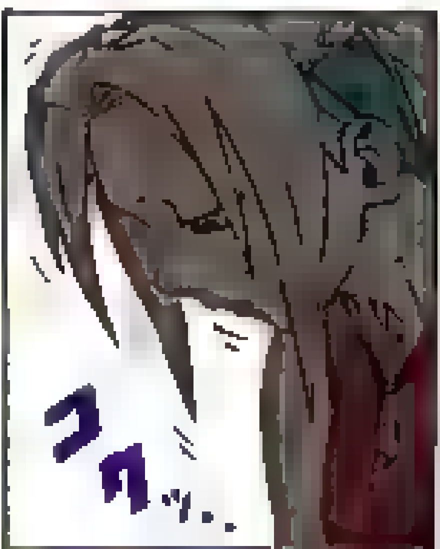
BEAUTY IS THE BEAST!!


トン…


グッ


じょろ
じょろ


フリ
フリ


コク…




CAN'T LET MYSELF SLEEP!


OH!
IT'S ALREADY DAWN?!



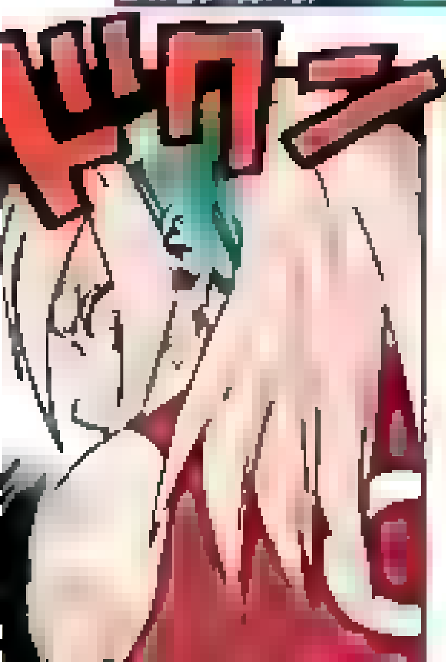

!!
ビクッ!


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カタ
カタ


ドクン

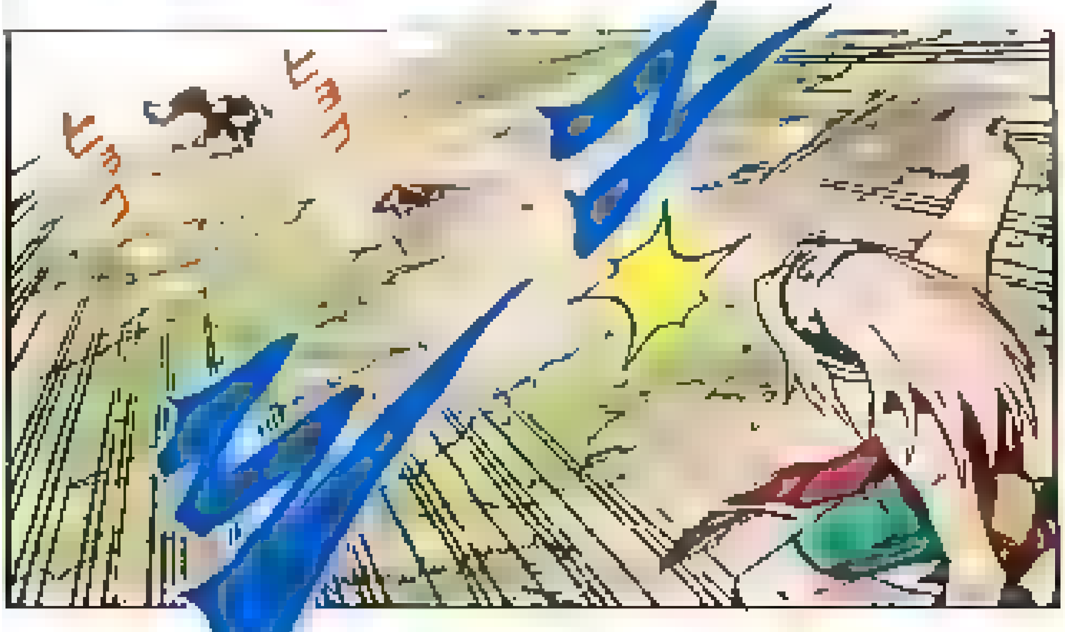

ドクン


チョコン…

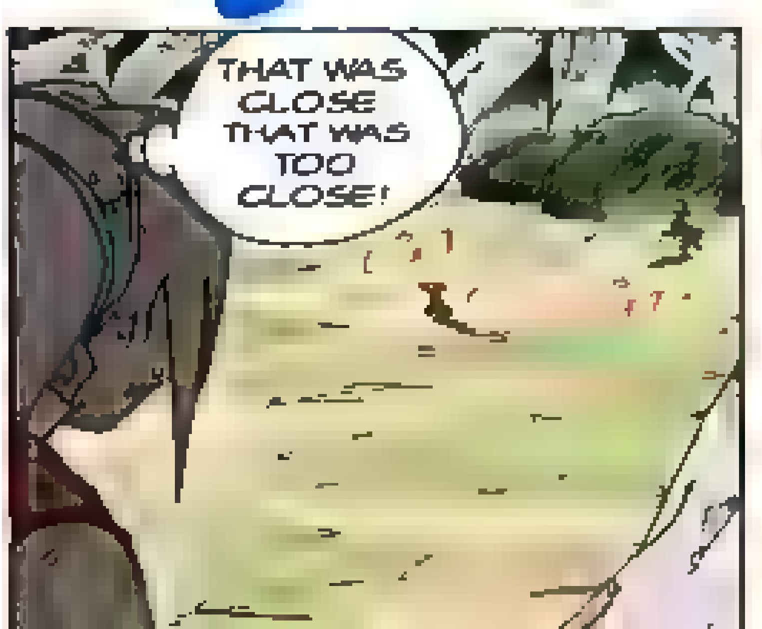

A SQUIRREL ...?
!


WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, SCARING ME LIKE THAT?!

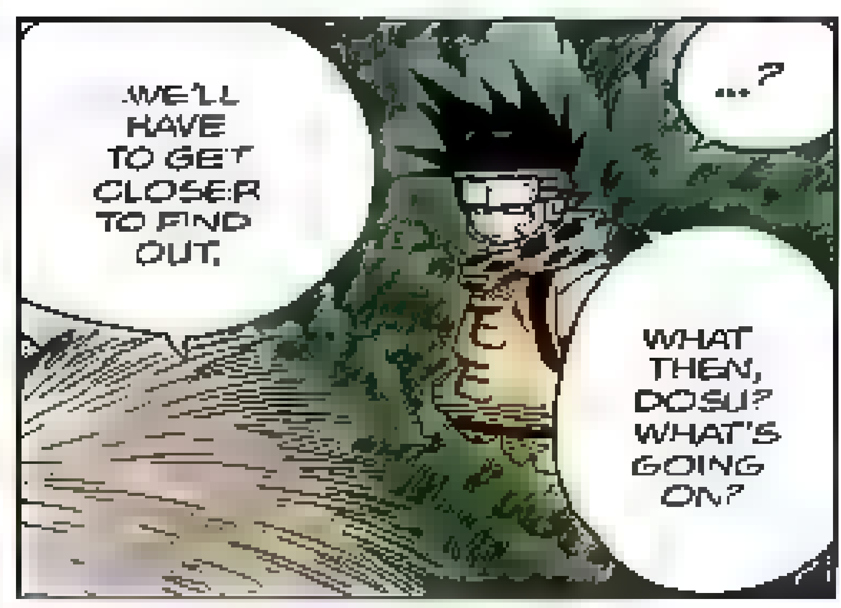

HEY!
カチ

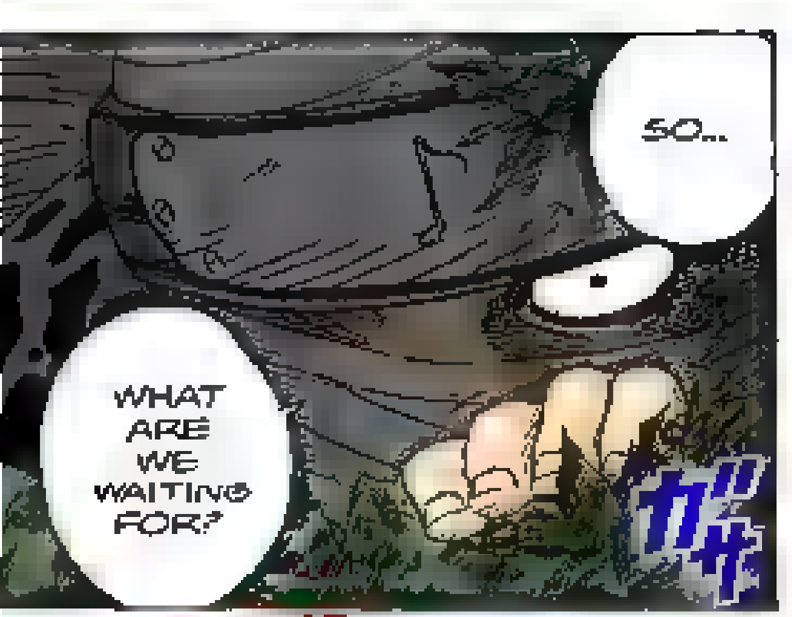

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ヒョコ

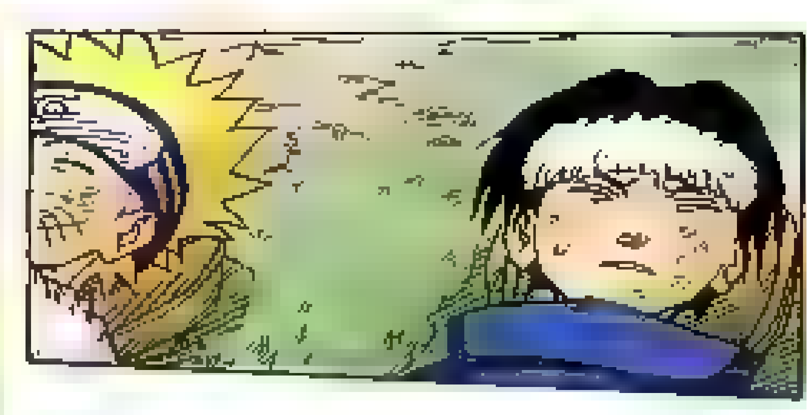

!!


THAT WAS CLOSE THAT WAS TOO CLOSE!

SHE'S PRETTY TIGHTLY WOUND.
I WONDER IF SHE NOTICED THE LETTER BOMB WE STUCK ON THE SQUIRREL!
NO...
THAT'S NOT IT..

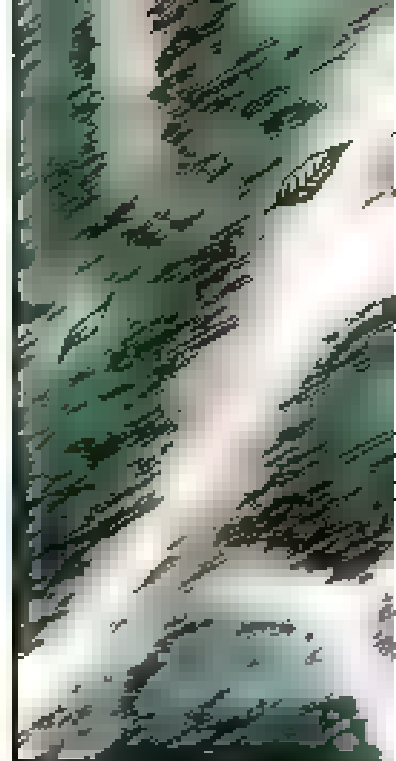






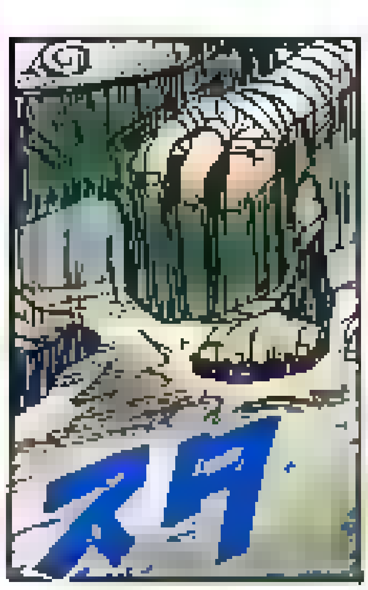







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クルン
パシ

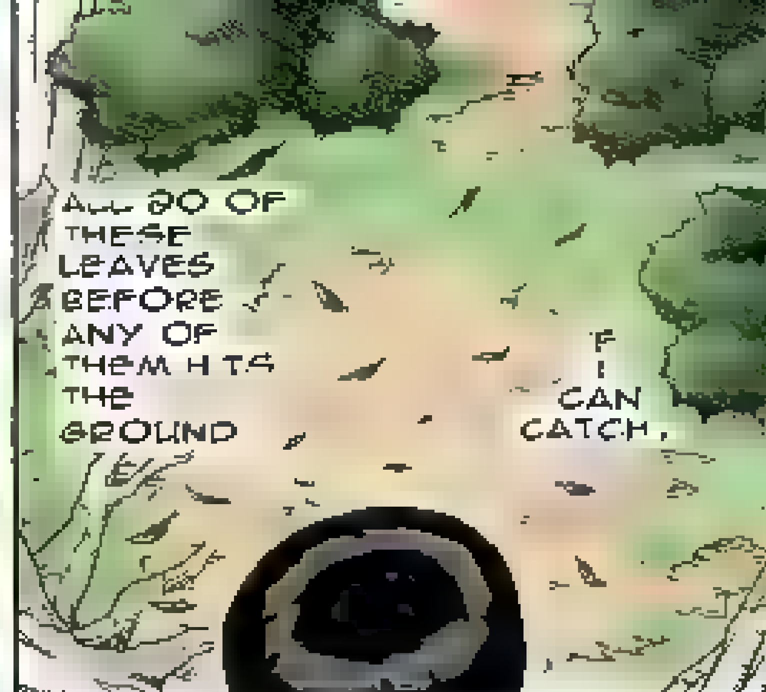

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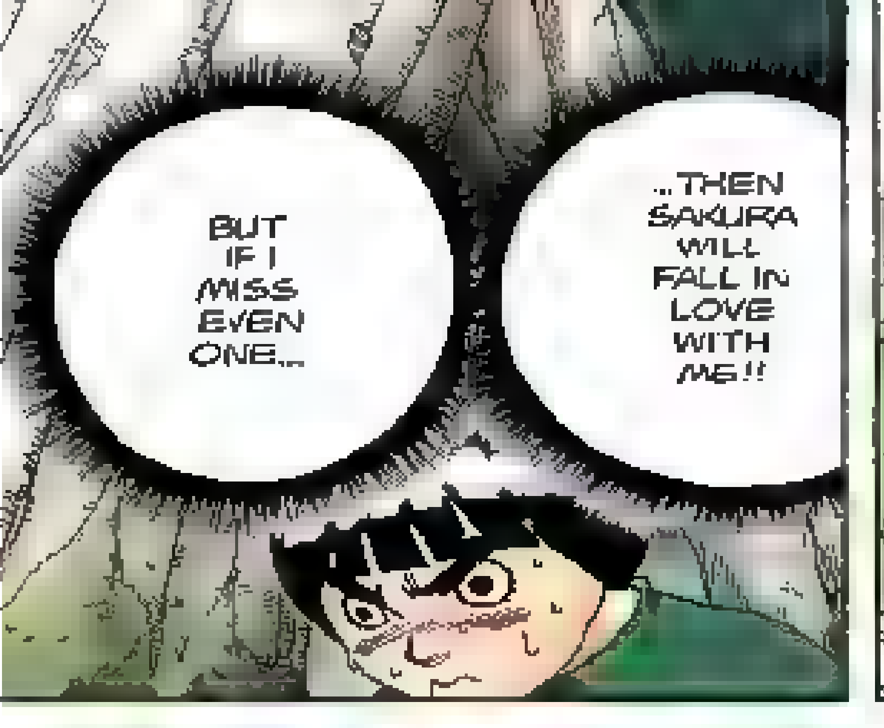



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ヒラ




ピーン
くわっ!!





...THEN MY LOVE FOR HER WILL NEVER BE REQUITTED!

AND SHE'LL PROBABLY MAKE FUN OF MY HAIR!

YAAAH!

LEE CREATES HIS OWN TRAINING EXERCISES, WHEREVER HE MAY BE.

ARGH!

IT'S...!!

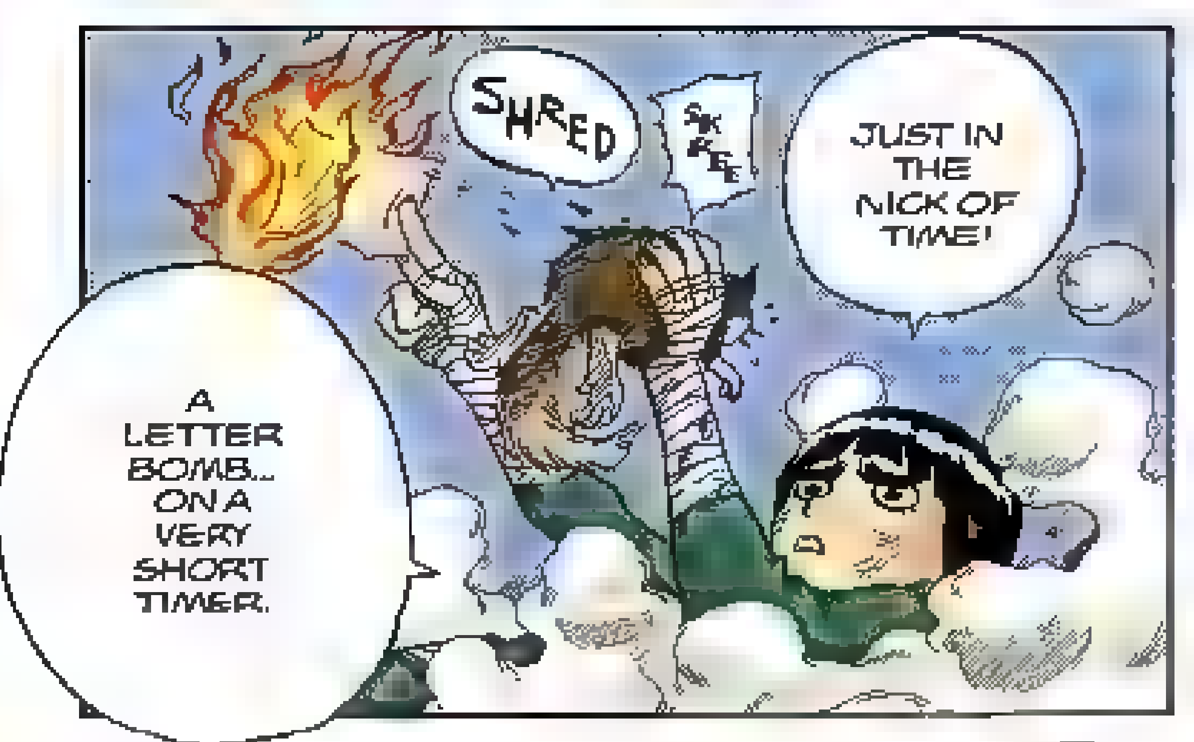
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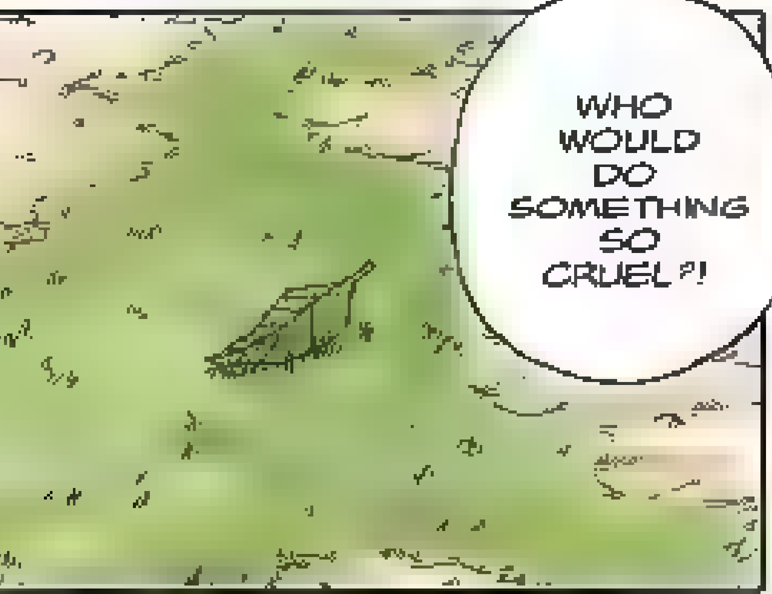
JUST ONE MORE TRY..

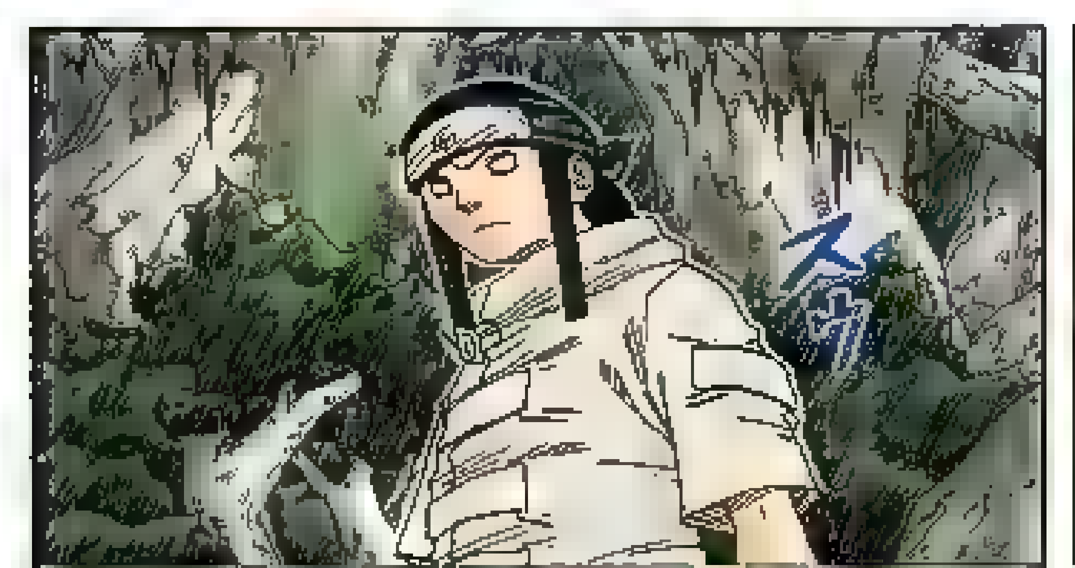
!!

SKREEE

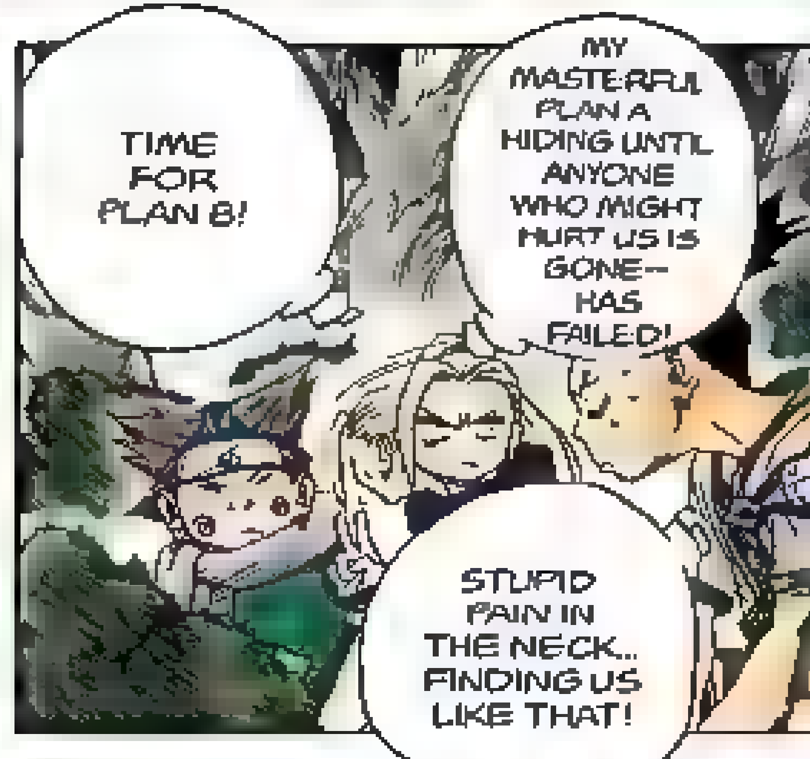
SKREE

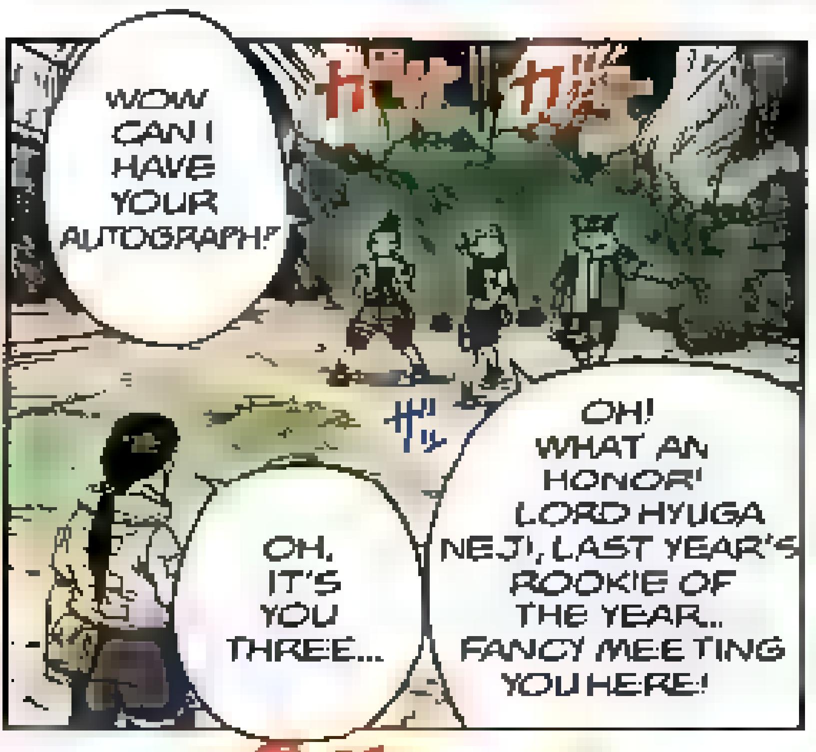

SHRED
SKREE
JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME!
A LETTER BOMB... ON A VERY SHORT TIMER.

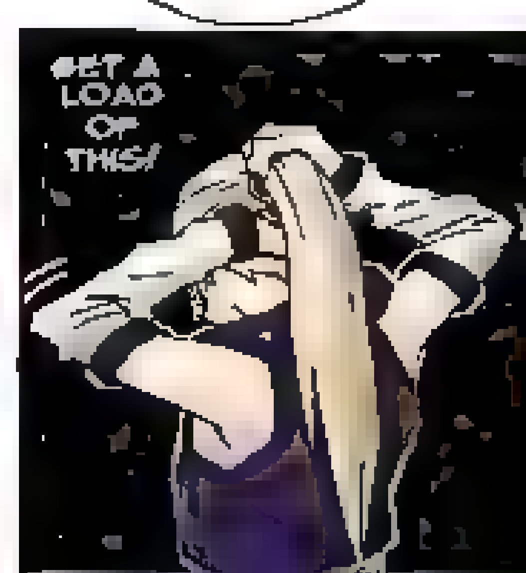
モク
モク

WHO WOULD DO SOMETHING SO CRUEL?!

!
グシャ
グッ


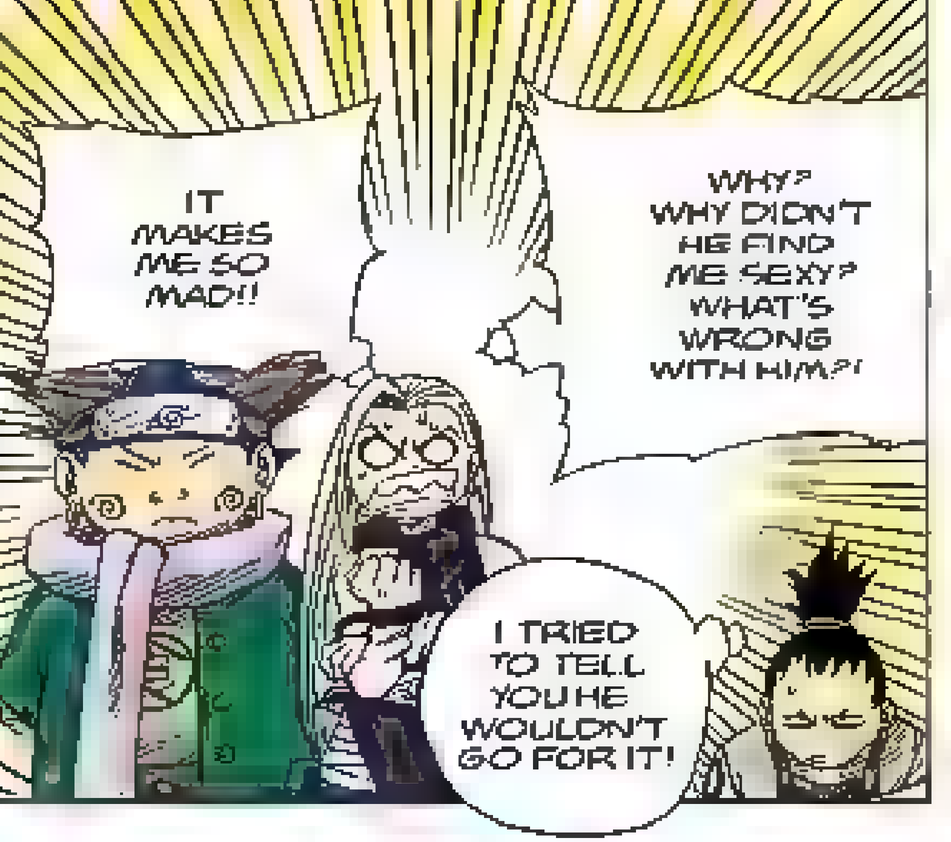

COME OUT OF H DING... UNLESS YOU'RE A COWARD.
HOW'D HE SPOT US WHEN WE HID SO FAST?!

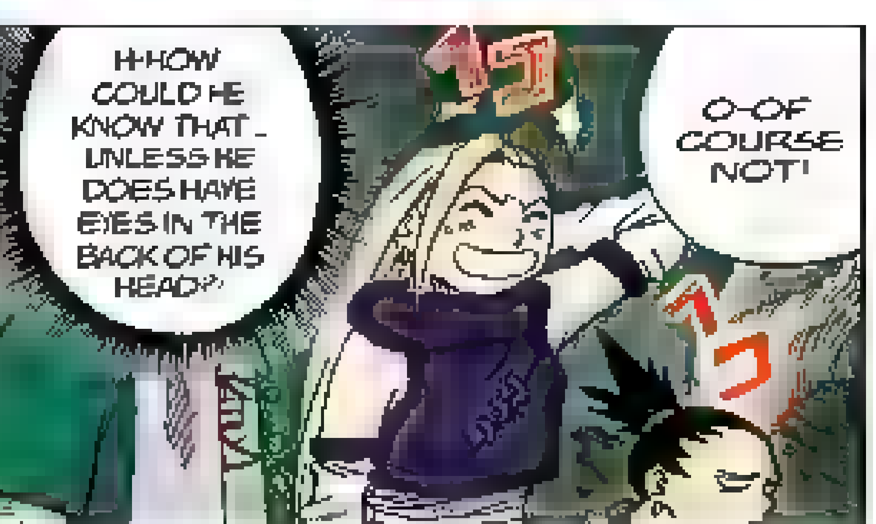
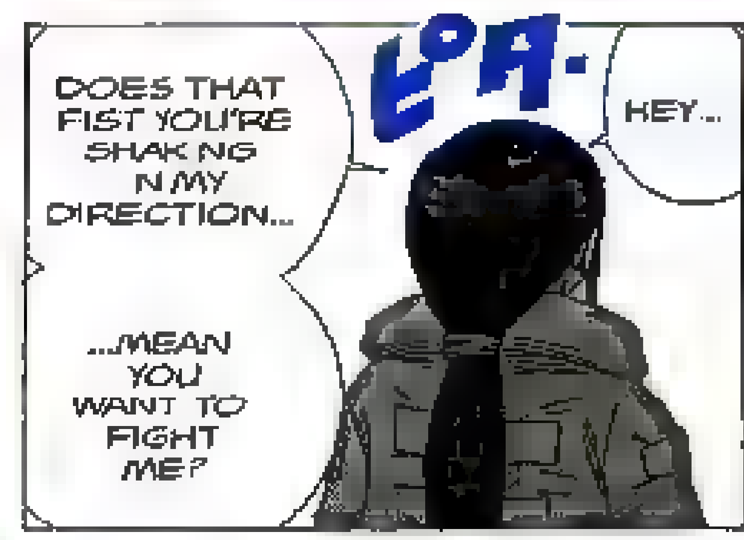
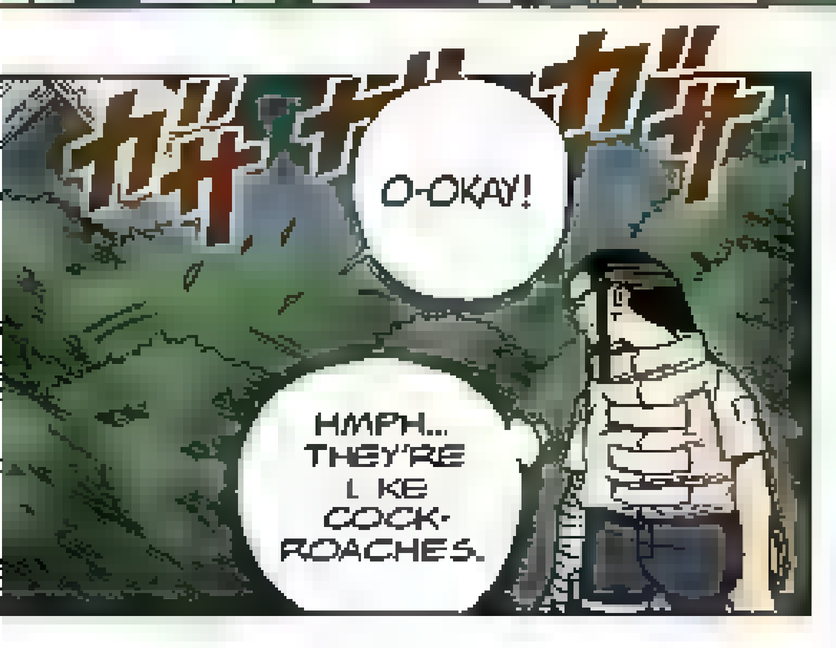






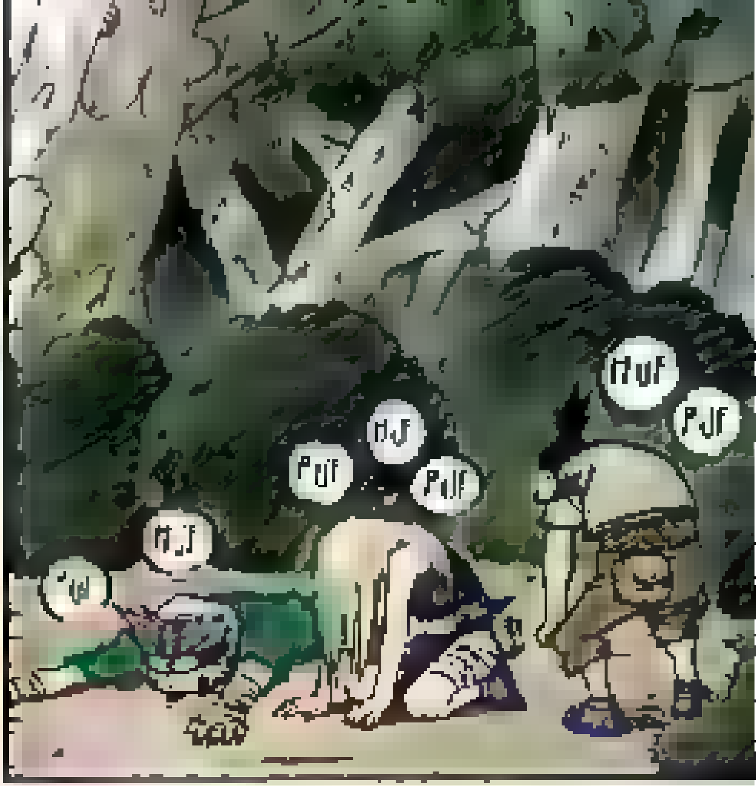



IT MAKES ME SO MAD!!
WHY? WHY DIDN'T HE FIND ME SEXY? WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?!
I TRIED TO TELL YOU HE WOULDN'T GO FOR IT!

GET LOST.
スタ
スタ

H-HOW COULD HE KNOW THAT... UNLESS HE DOES HAVE EYES IN THE BACK OF HIS HEAD?
O-OF COURSE NOT!

ピタ
HEY...
DOES THAT FIST YOU'RE SHAKING IN MY DIRECTION...
...MEAN YOU WANT TO FIGHT ME?

ガサ ガサ
O-OKAY!
HMPH... THEY'RE LIKE COCK-ROACHES.

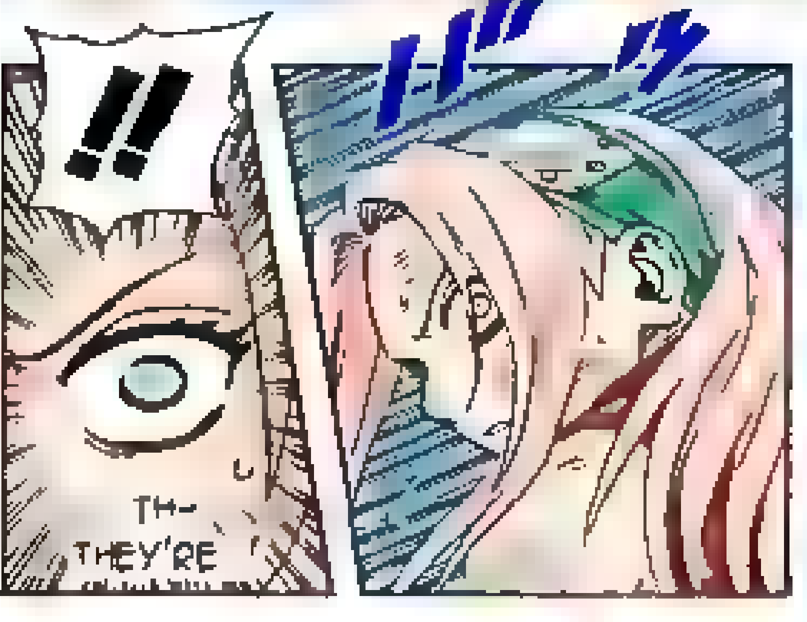
I WOULDN'T DEMEAN MYSELF BY TAKING A SCROLL FROM LOSERS LIKE YOU.
IT WOULD MAKE ME A LAUGHING-STOCK.
THEN GET LOST!
キッ

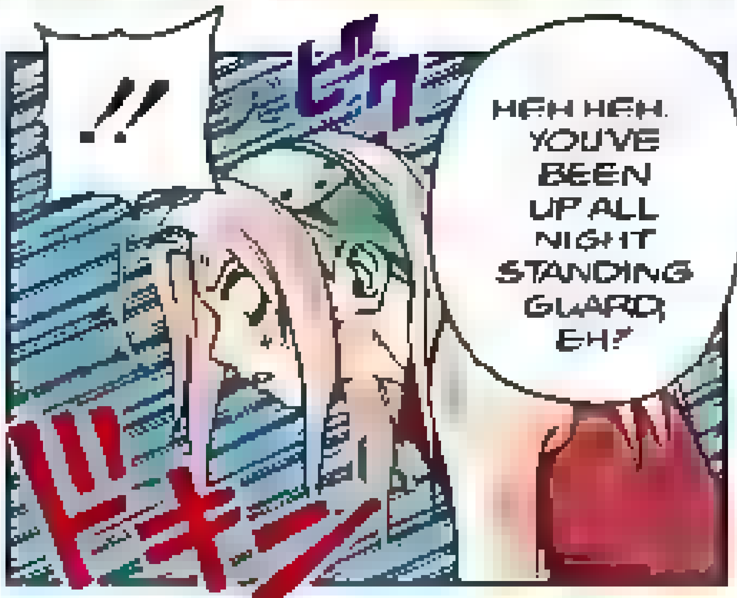

I DOUBT WE'LL FIND ANYONE WEAKER THAN US!
LET'S GO SEE IF WE CAN PICK OFF SOME WEAKLINGS!
YANK








!!
TH- THEY'RE

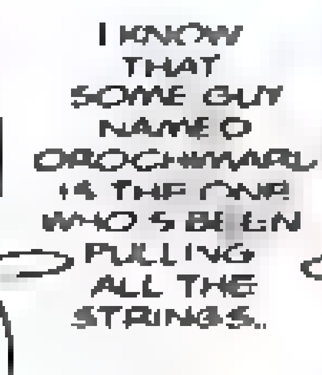

!!
HEH HEH. YOU'VE BEEN UP ALL NIGHT STANDING GUARD, EH?
ドキン

AS OF NOW, YOU'RE OFF DUTY. JUST WAKE SASUKE FOR US.

THE THREE OF US WANT TO TAKE HIM ON.

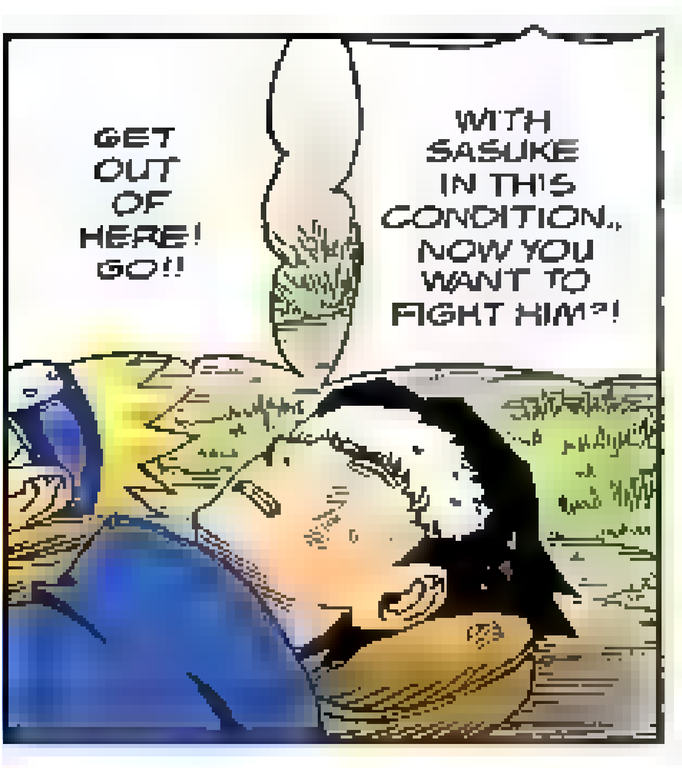




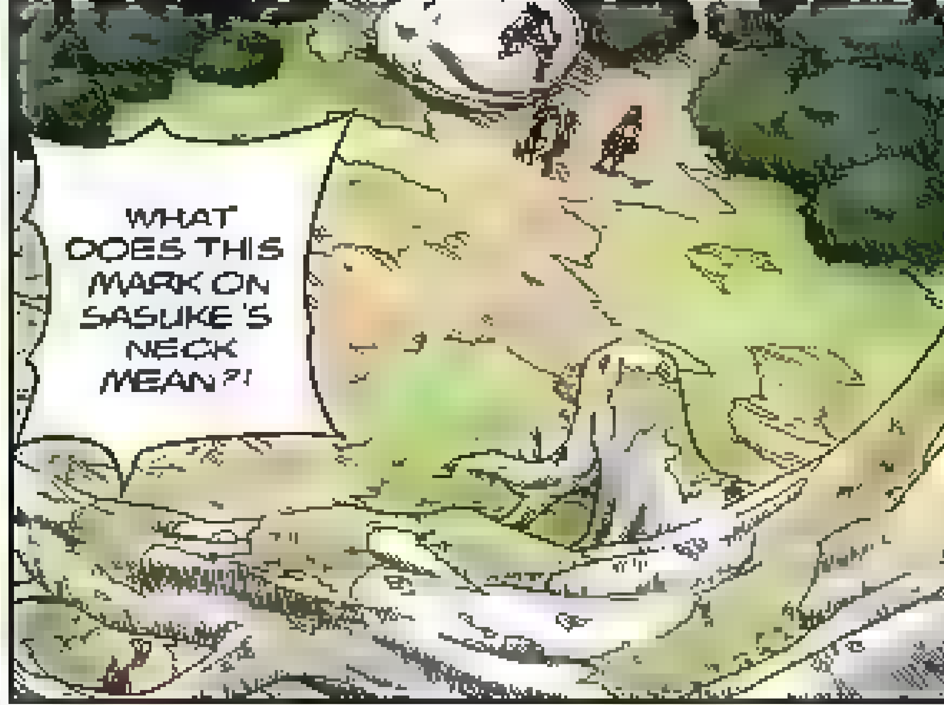




!!?
!!?
!!?



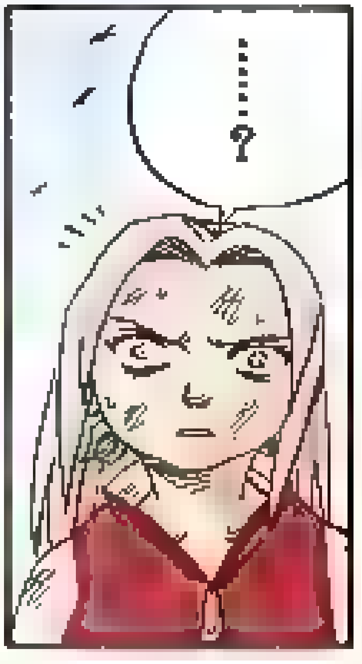
WITH SASUKE IN THIS CONDITION.. NOW YOU WANT TO FIGHT HIM?!
GET OUT OF HERE! GO!!



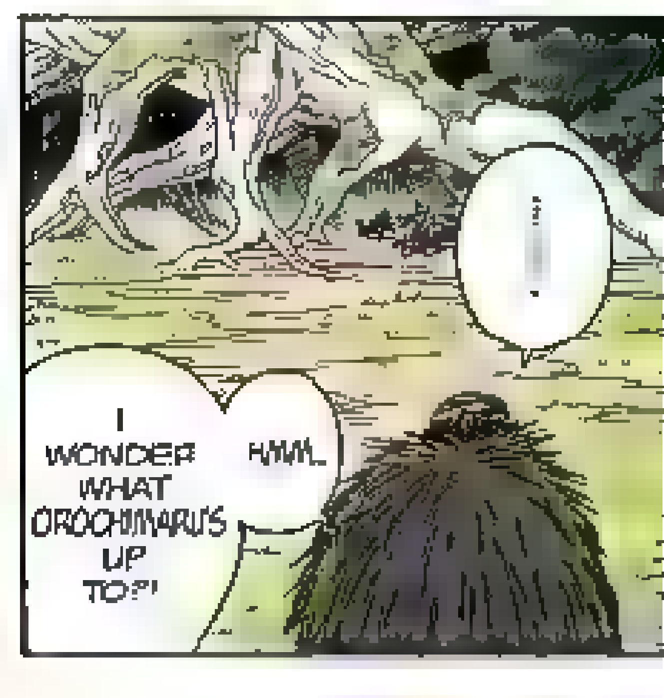
WHAT DOES THIS MARK ON SASUKE'S NECK MEAN?!



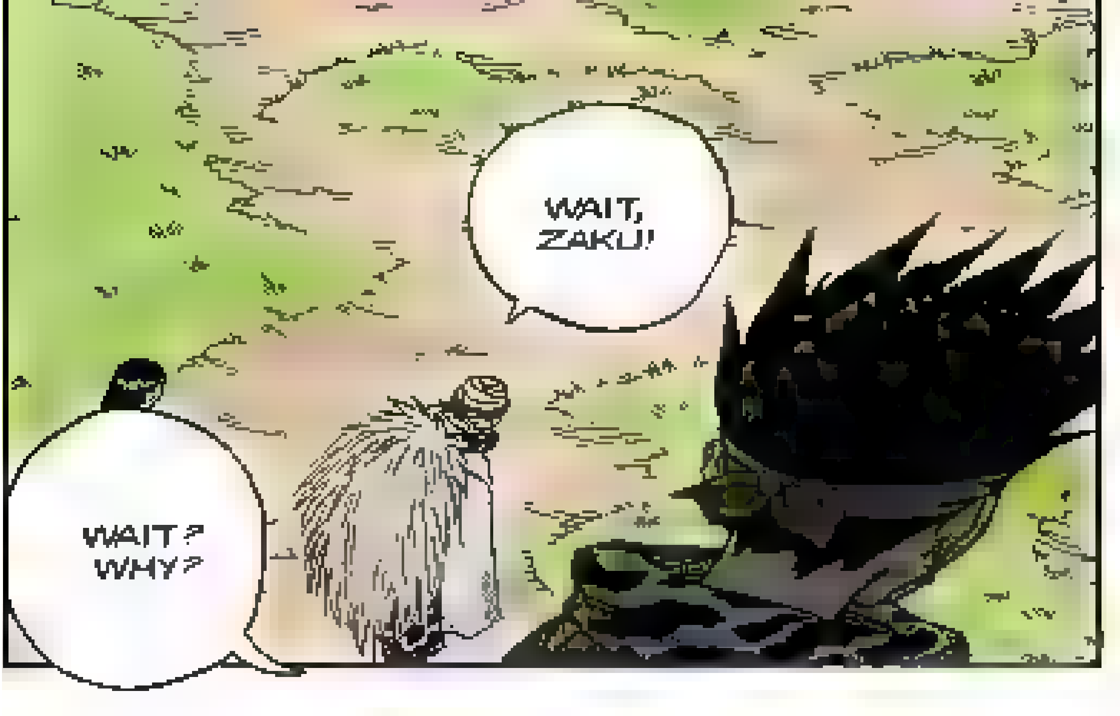
WHATEVER.. I CAN'T WALK AWAY AFTER HEARING THAT!
I'LL DESTROY YOU, GIRL... AND YOUR LITTLE SASUKE, TOO!

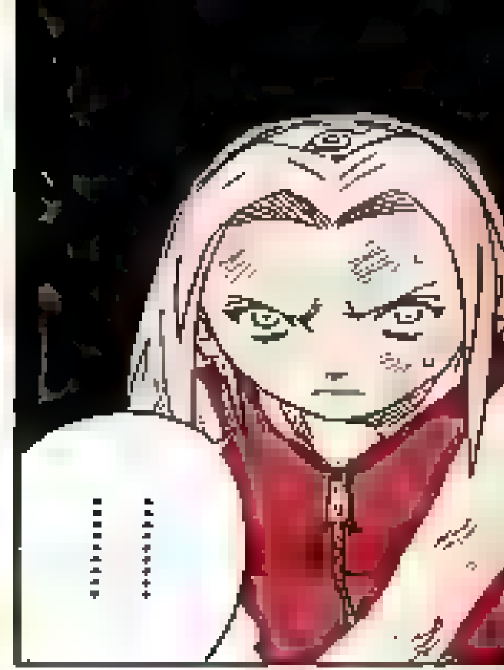


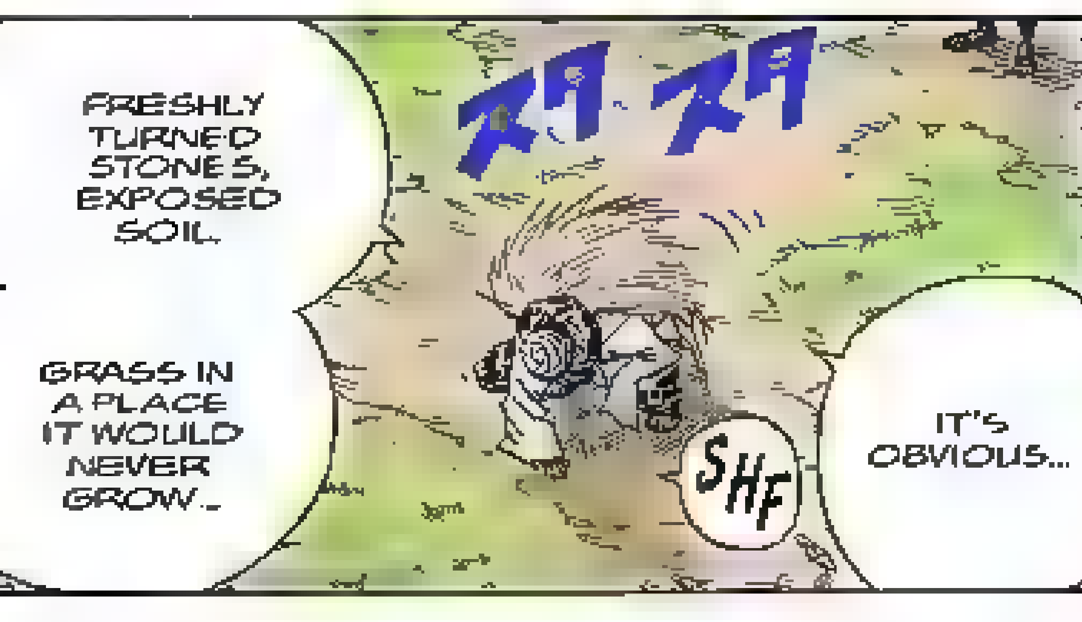
......?



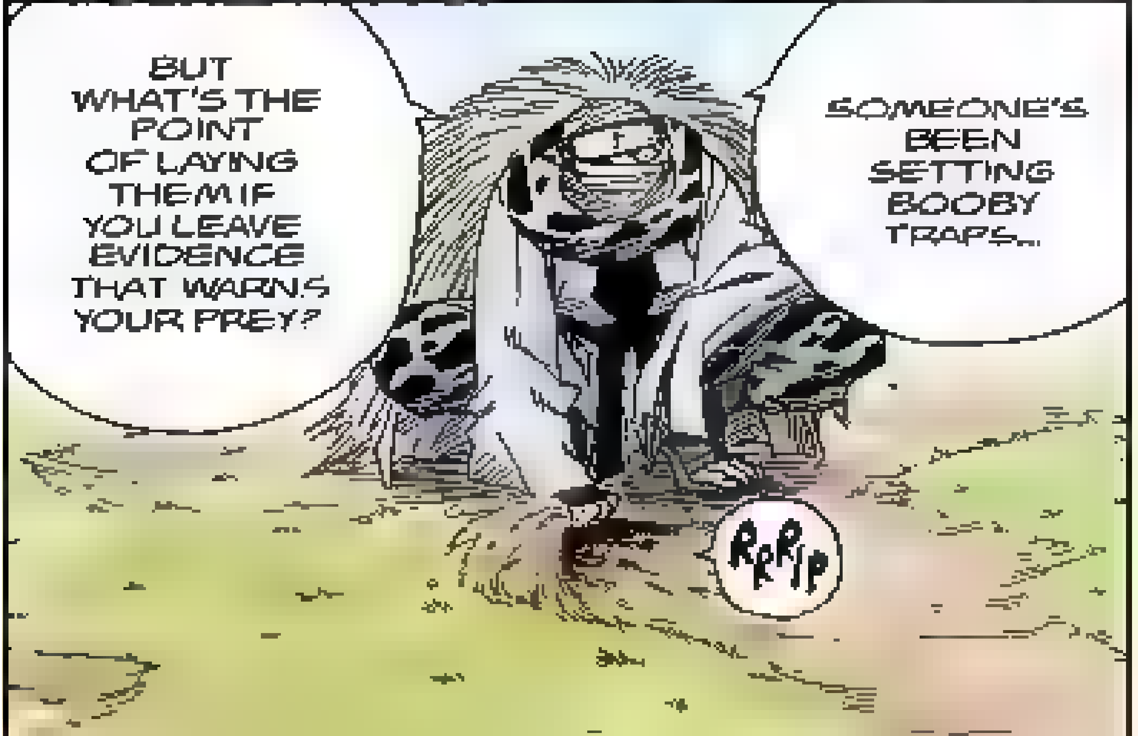
HMM.
I WONDER WHAT OROCHIMARU'S UP TO?!


WAIT, ZAKU!
WAIT? WHY?


......


スタ スタ
IT'S OBVIOUS...
FRESHLY TURNED STONES, EXPOSED SOIL.
GRASS IN A PLACE IT WOULD NEVER GROW...
SHF


GRR...


SOMEONE'S BEEN SETTING BOOBY TRAPS...
BUT WHAT'S THE POINT OF LAYING THEM IF YOU LEAVE EVIDENCE THAT WARNS YOUR PREY?
RRRIP

SO THE PERSON WHO THREW THE KUNAI KNIFE WAS TRYING TO STOP THE SQUIRREL FROM SPRINGING THE TRAP

IT'S AMATEURISH

SO LET'S ELIMINATE HER FIRST

WELL THE GIRL IS NO USE TO US

ズッ

バキ バキ バキ

THE TRAP WAS ABOVE US ALL ALONG!

NOOOO!

A LOG?!

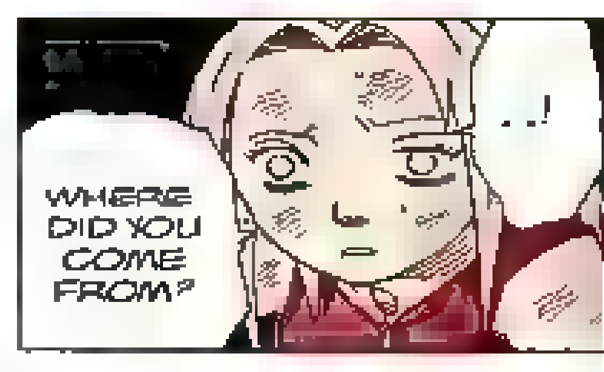

TAP
VERY FUNNY!!
POK
POK
POK
POK
IT'S AN INSULT BEING UNDER-ESTIMATED BY SLACKERS LIKE YOU!
STOP DOGGING IT AND START WORKING AT IT!
TO BE HONEST... YOU KNOW YOU'RE A COMPLETE NO-TALENT, DON'T YOU?
!!
HUH?!


KON-
OHA
HURRI-
CANE
TECHN-
IQUE!!!


!!?
ACK!
!?
LOOK AT WHO'S TALKING...!
TRY TAKING YOUR OWN ADVICE!!
......
WHOA... IS THAT THE GUY WHO...?
WH- WHO ARE YOU...?!
KONOHA'S HANDSOME BLUE BEAST...
...ROCK LEE!

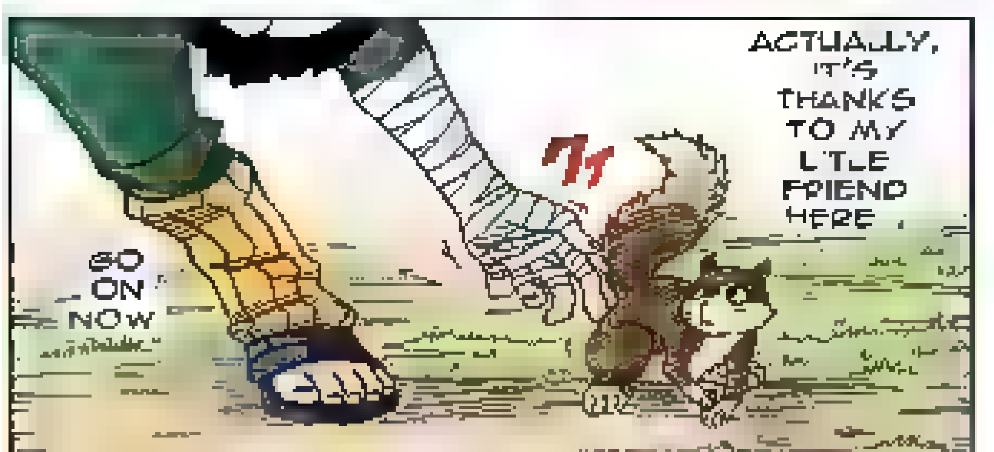


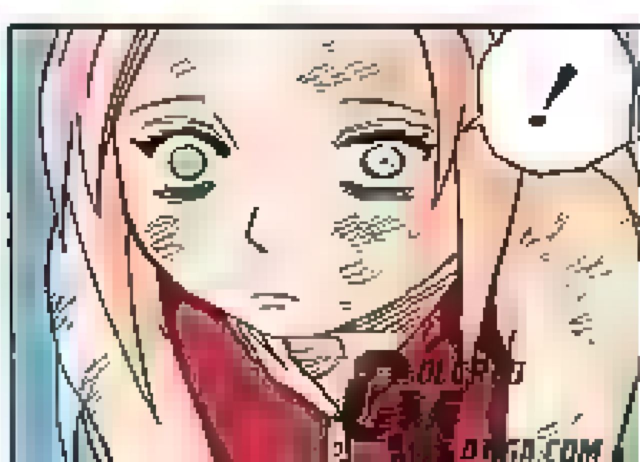
THE PRINCIPLES OF USE!!


...!
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?


I CAME...


BECAUSE YOU NEEDED ME AND I ALWAYS WILL!

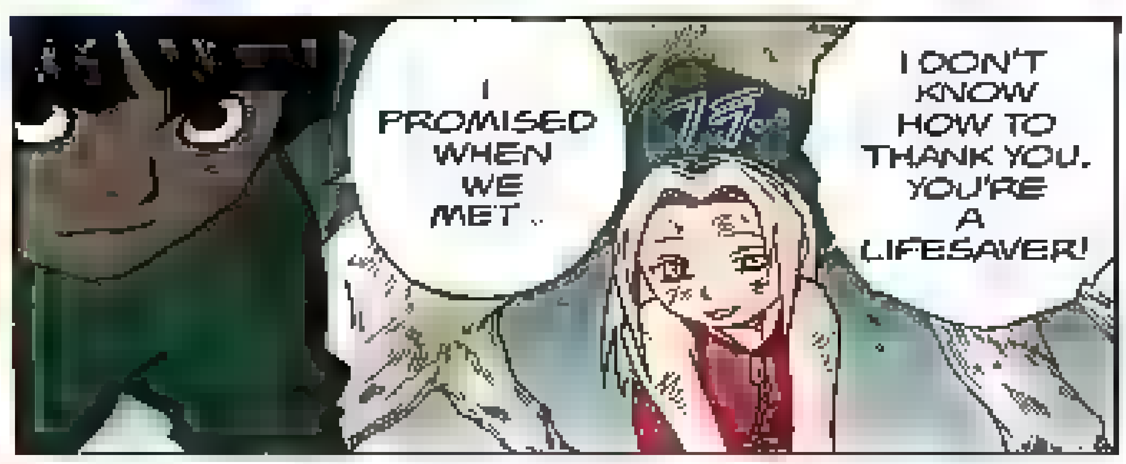

ACTUALLY, IT'S THANKS TO MY L'TLE FRIEND HERE.
GO ON NOW

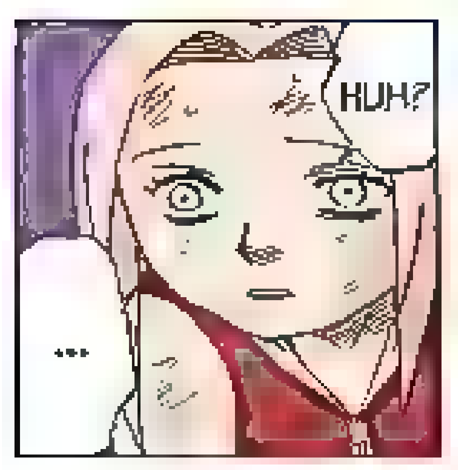

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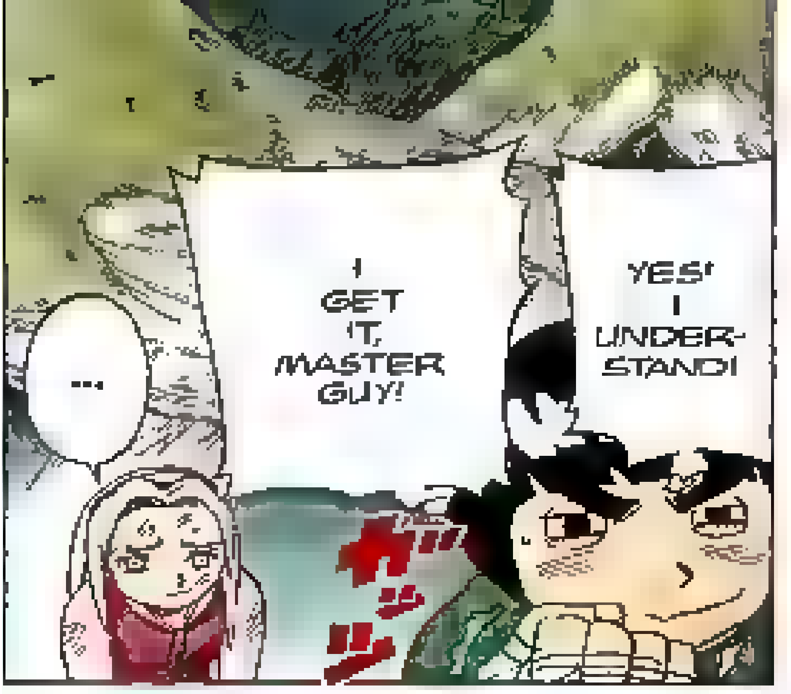

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU. YOU'RE A LIFESAVER!
I PROMISED WHEN WE MET..


HUH?
...

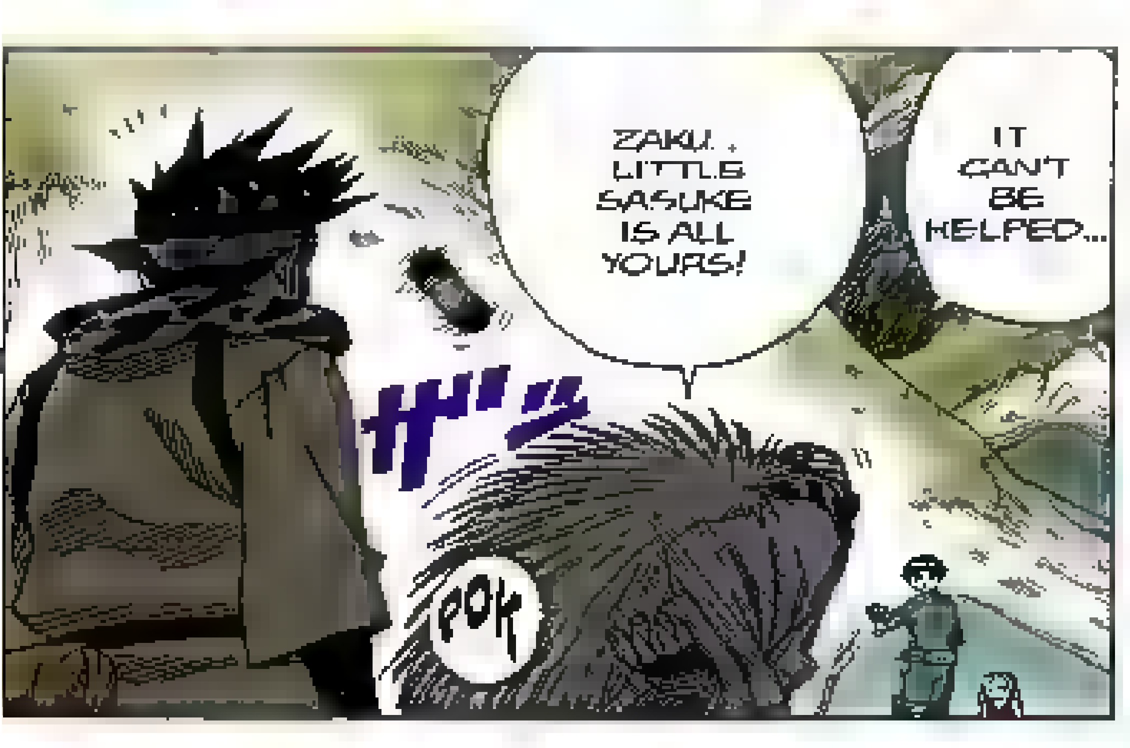

..TO PROTECT YOU... UNTIL DEATH DO US PART!

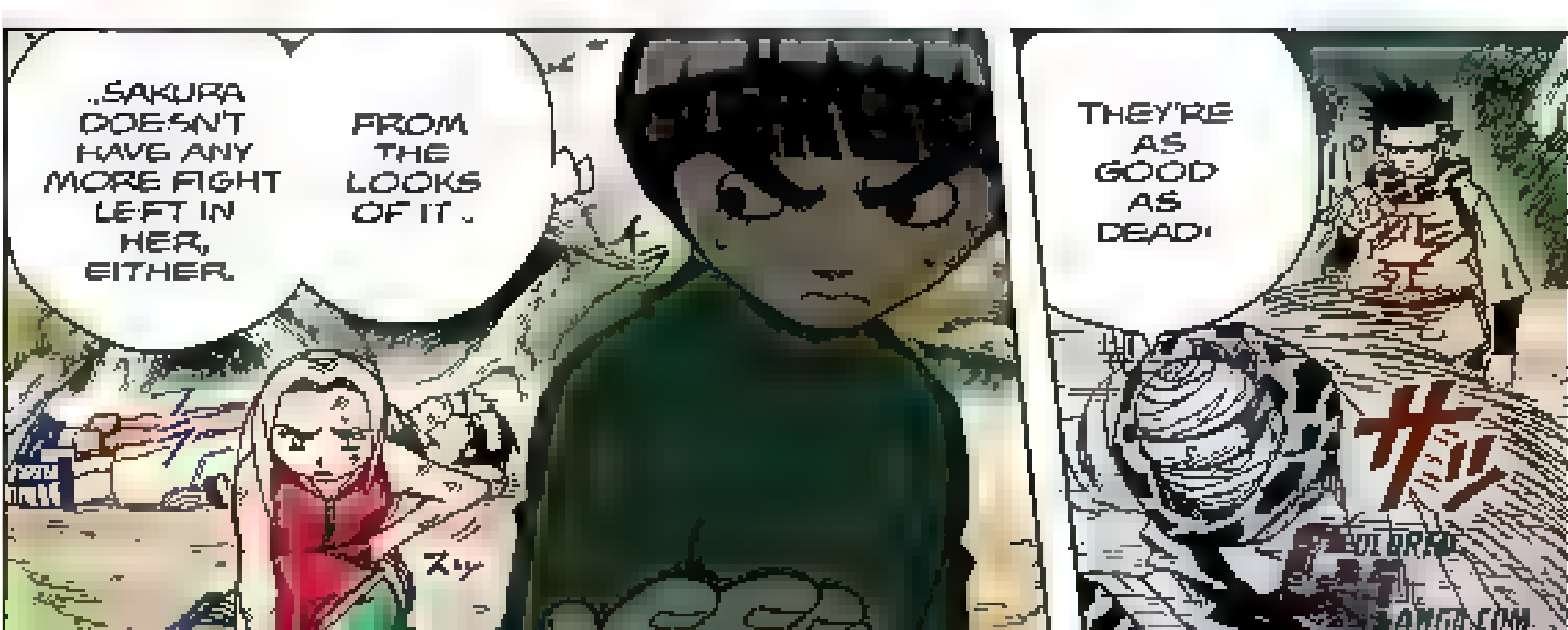


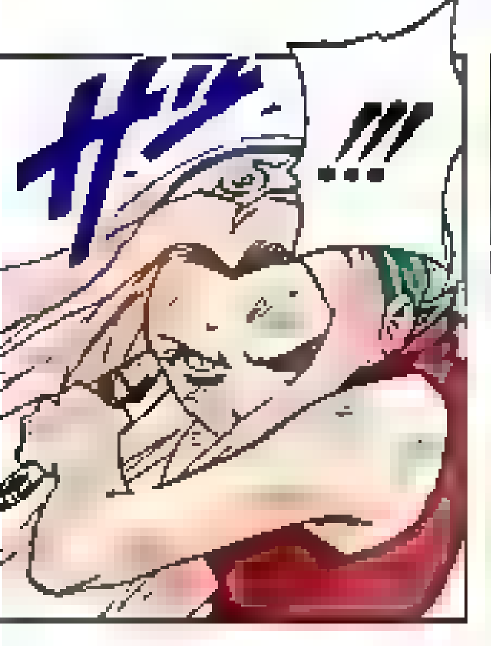

I'LL PROTECT YOU WITH MY LIFE
...!


YES! I UNDERSTAND!
I GET IT, MASTER GUY!
...




IT CAN'T BE HELPED...
ZAKU... LITTLE SASUKE IS ALL YOURS!
POK


THEY'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD!
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT...
...SAKURA DOESN'T HAVE ANY MORE FIGHT LEFT IN HER, EITHER.

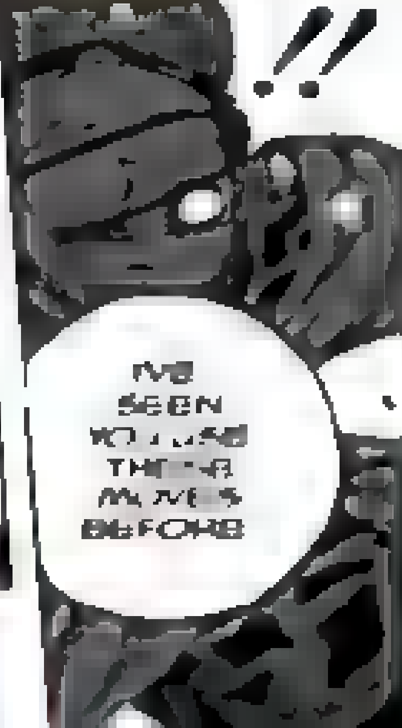

...!!!


THIS UNIBROW KID IS OBVIOUSLY A VIRTUOSO OF THE TAIJUTSU PHYSICAL ARTS.
HE'LL MAKE AN EXCELLENT PLAYTHING

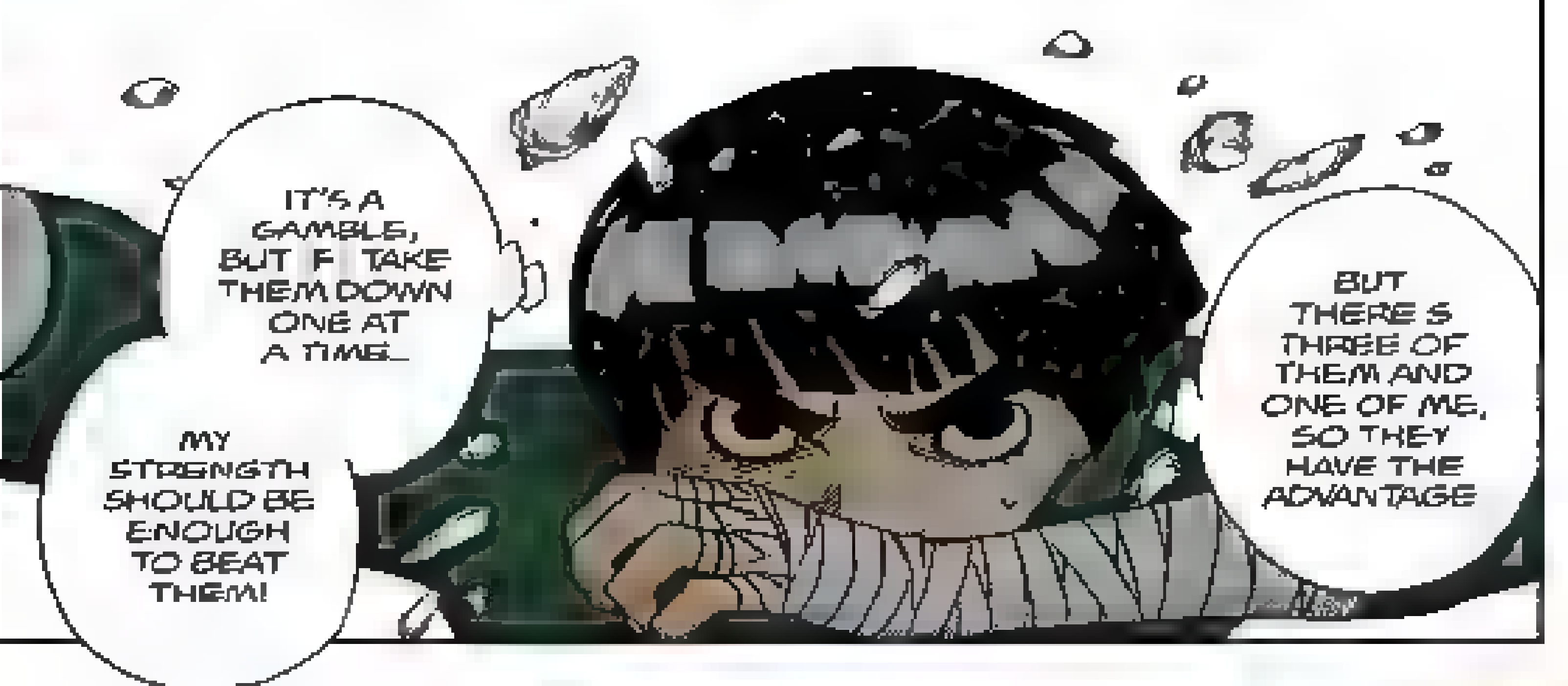
!!

!!?


HMF!
HE'S...
...SO STRONG!!

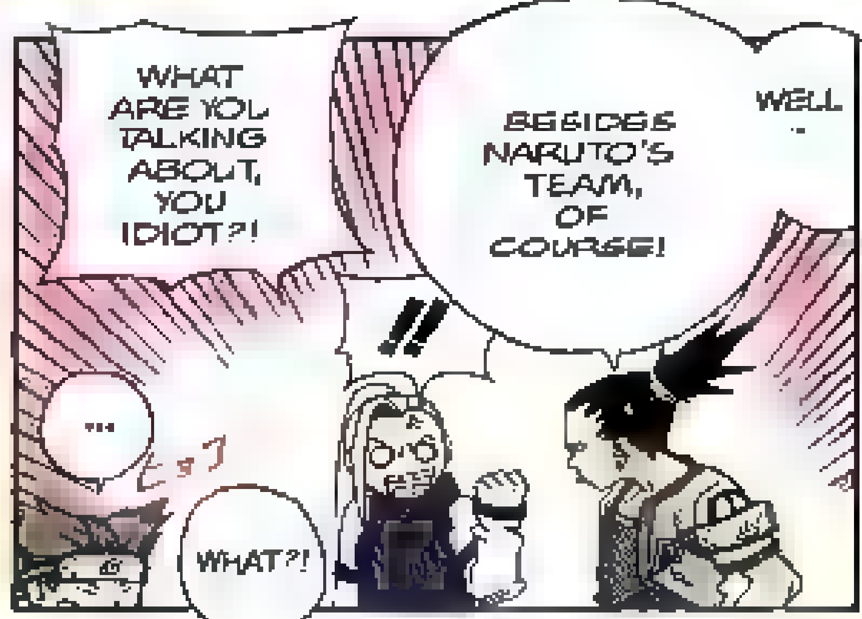

!!
I'VE SEEN YOU USE THESE MOVES BEFORE

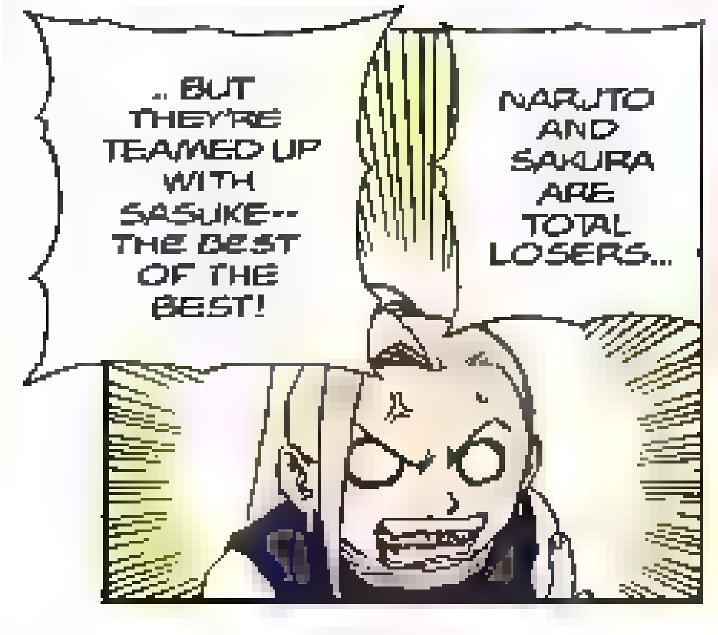

THIS IS SOME KIND OF ILLUSION, RIGHT?!
SO I'D BE WASTING MY TIME DUCKING AS THOUGH YOUR ATTACKS WERE REAL


BUT THERE'S THREE OF THEM AND ONE OF ME, SO THEY HAVE THE ADVANTAGE
IT'S A GAMBLE, BUT IF I TAKE THEM DOWN ONE AT A TIME...
MY STRENGTH SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO BEAT THEM!

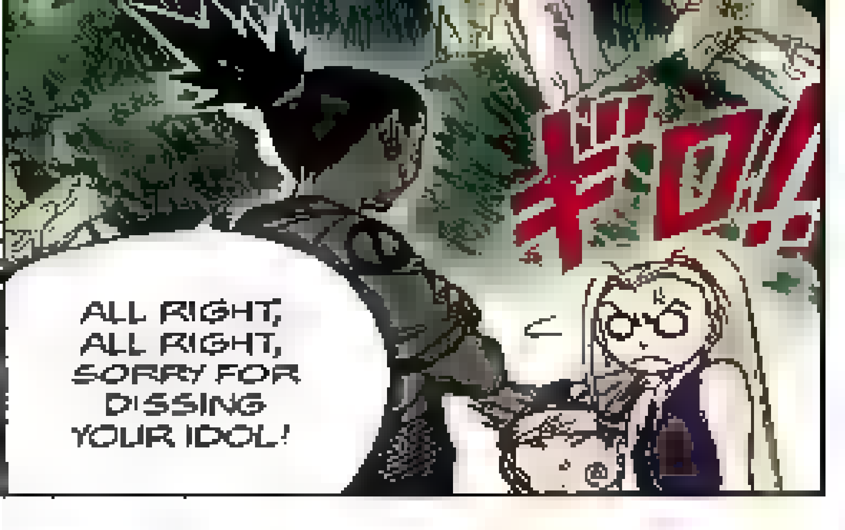



GAAAAAH!
HOW CAN WE PICK OFF THE WEAK WHEN WE CAN'T FIND ANY WEAKLINGS?!

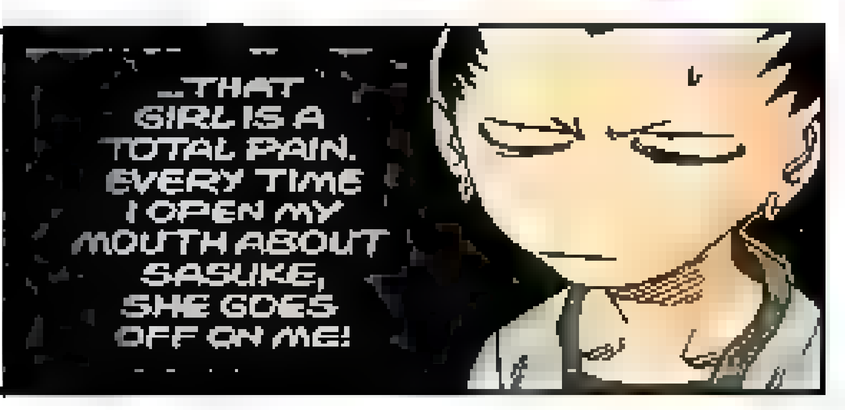

WELL...
BESIDES NARUTO'S TEAM, OF COURSE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, YOU IDIOT?!
!!
...
WHAT?!


NARUTO AND SAKURA ARE TOTAL LOSERS...
...BUT THEY'RE TEAMED UP WITH SASUKE-- THE BEST OF THE BEST!





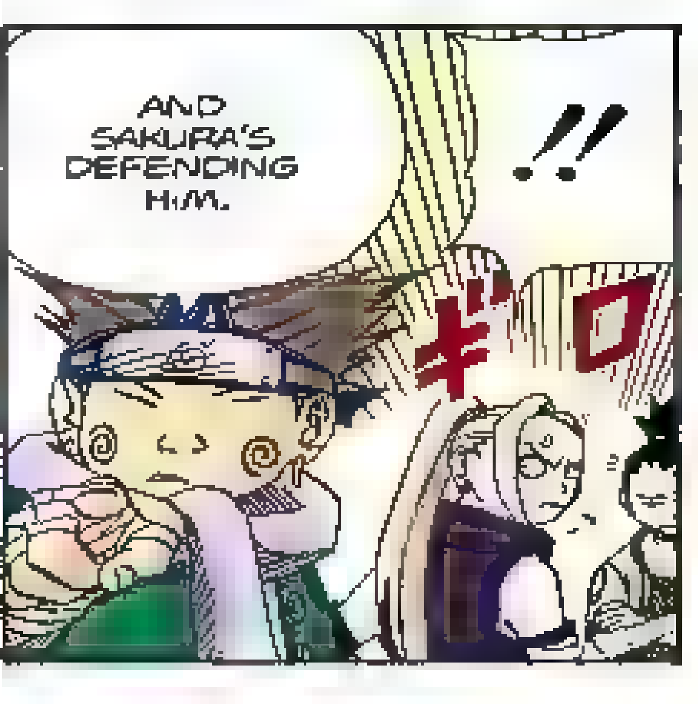
ギロ!!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, SORRY FOR DISSING YOUR IDOL!



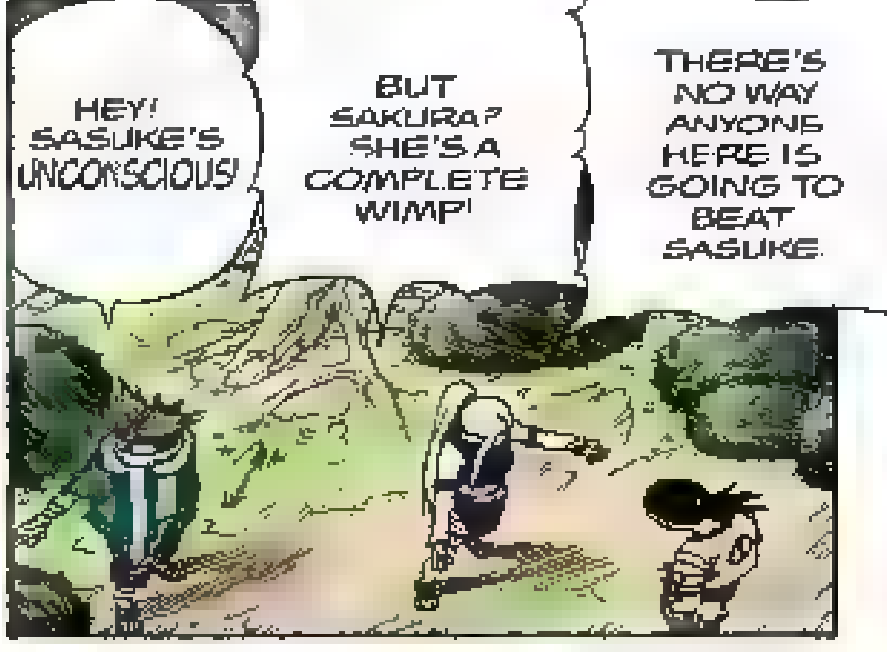
...THAT GIRL IS A TOTAL PAIN. EVERY TIME I OPEN MY MOUTH ABOUT SASUKE, SHE GOES OFF ON ME!



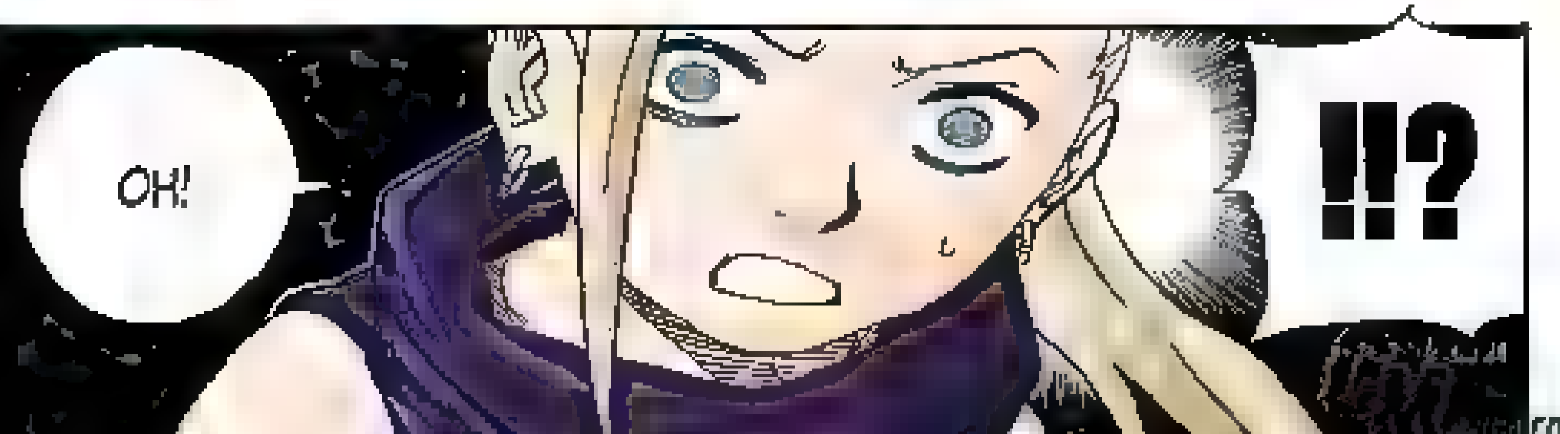
NOW, WHY IS THAT?
MAYBE YOUR PRECIOUS SASUKE IS BETTER IN THEORY THAN HE IS IN PRACTICE!



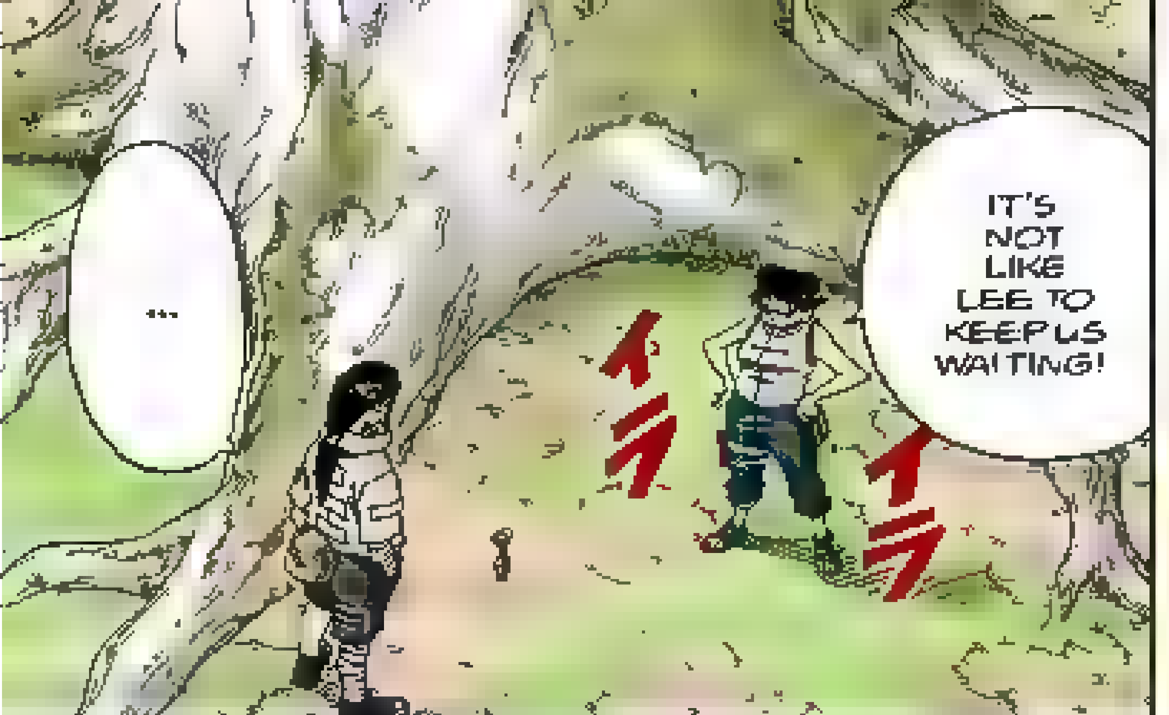
AND SAKURA'S DEFENDING HIM.
!!
ギロ

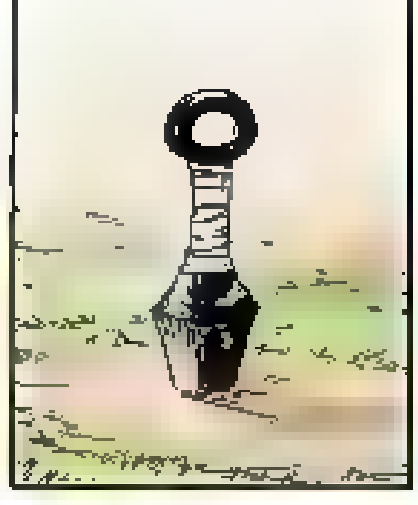


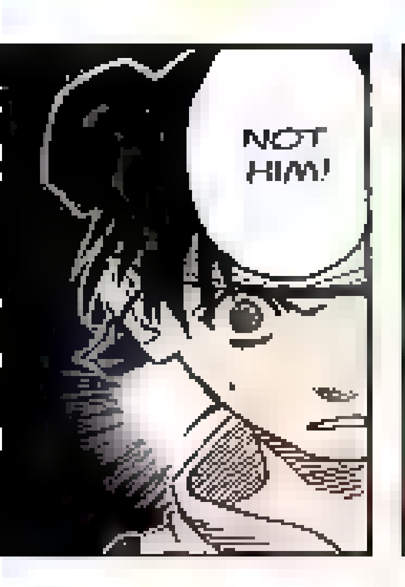
HEY! SASUKE'S UNCONSCIOUS!
BUT SAKURA? SHE'S A COMPLETE WIMP!
THERE'S NO WAY ANYONE HERE IS GOING TO BEAT SASUKE.

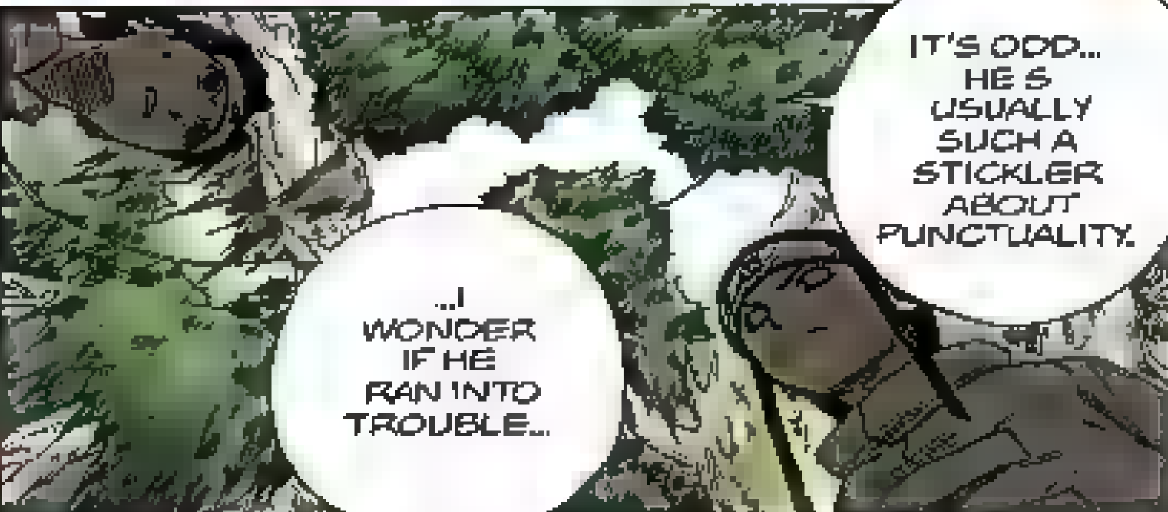


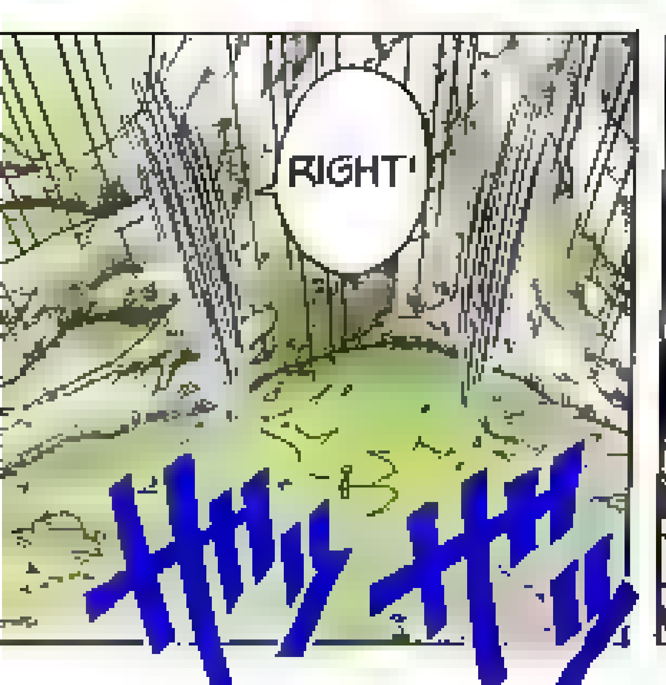
OH!
!!?


IT'S NOT LIKE LEE TO KEEP US WAITING!
イラ イラ
...




NOT HIM!

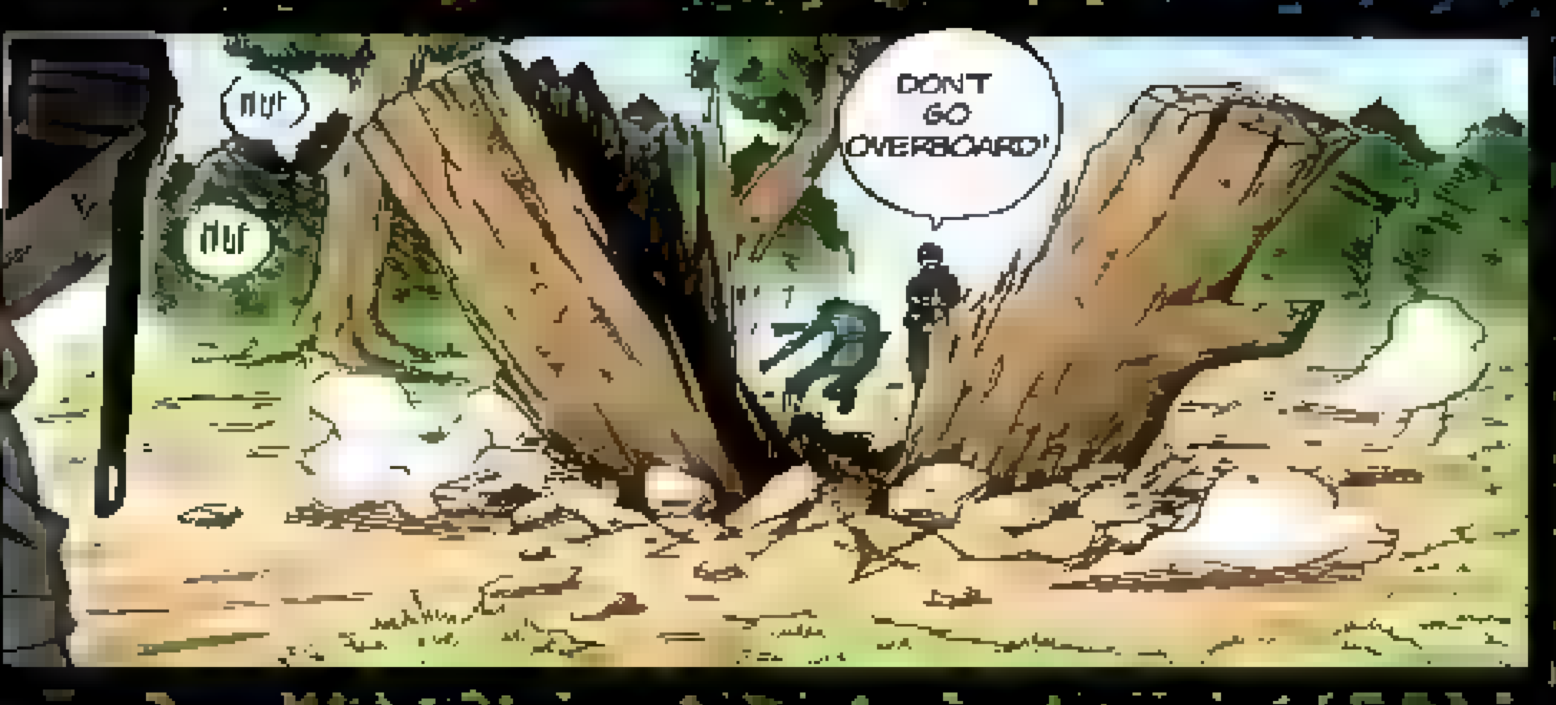

IT'S ODD... HE'S USUALLY SUCH A STICKLER ABOUT PUNCTUALITY.
...I WONDER IF HE RAN INTO TROUBLE...


RIGHT!

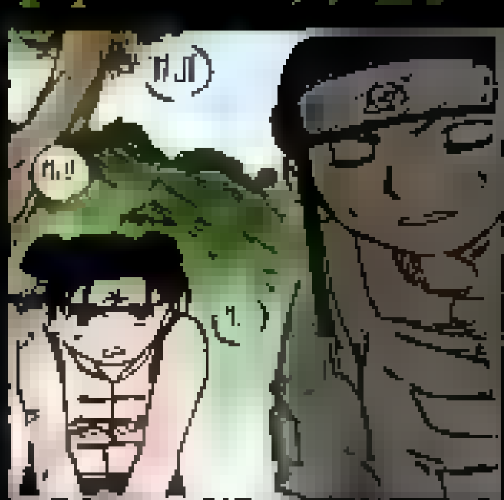

BUT WE SHOULD STILL GO LOOK FOR HIM.


NO WAY.


I FINALLY...
...GOT THE HANG OF IT!!
HUF
HUF
HUF
I DID IT!


HUF
HUF
DON'T GO OVERBOARD!

ULTIMATELY..
...ONLY LEE WAS ABLE TO MASTER THIS TECHNIQUE, EH?

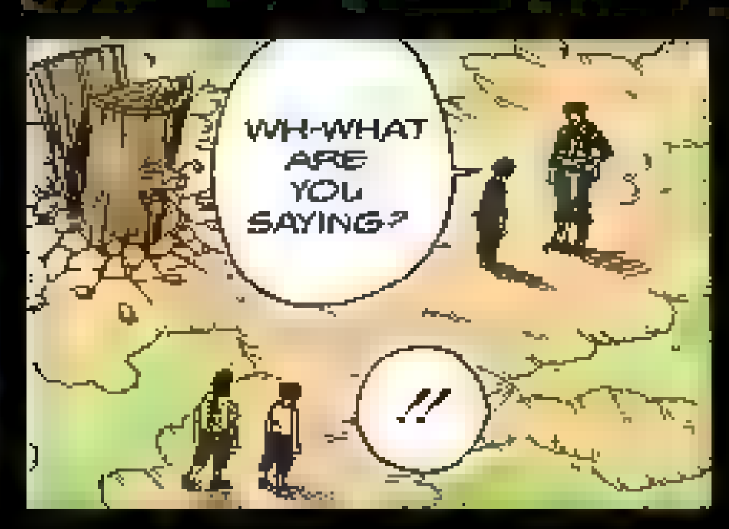
YIKES...




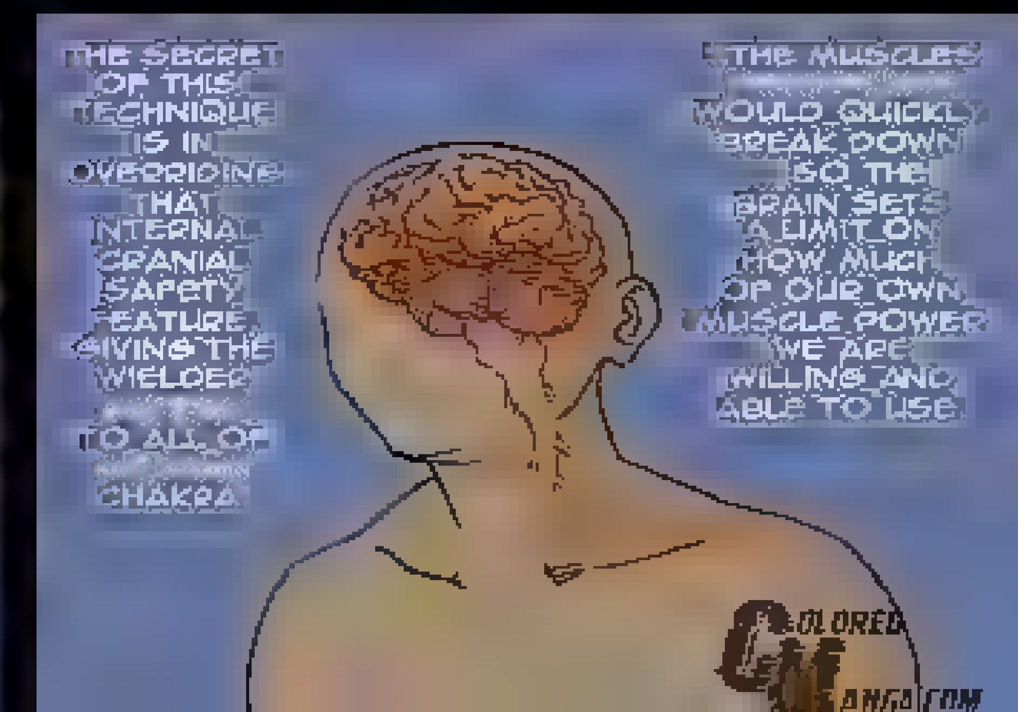
I REALLY, TRULY DID IT!!
I DID IT! ME!!
I DID IT!!
WOO-HOO!!!
ALL RIGHT, LEE...
HEY...
PLEASE SHARE YOUR WISDOM!
YES, SIR WHAT IS IT?!
NOW THAT I'VE GOT YOUR ATTENTION, LEARN THIS WELL!
HUF
HUF
...
NOW THAT YOU'VE MASTERED THE *LOTUS* TECHNIQUE
...IT WILL BE CLASSIFIED AS ONE OF THE FORBIDDEN ARTS!
...
..

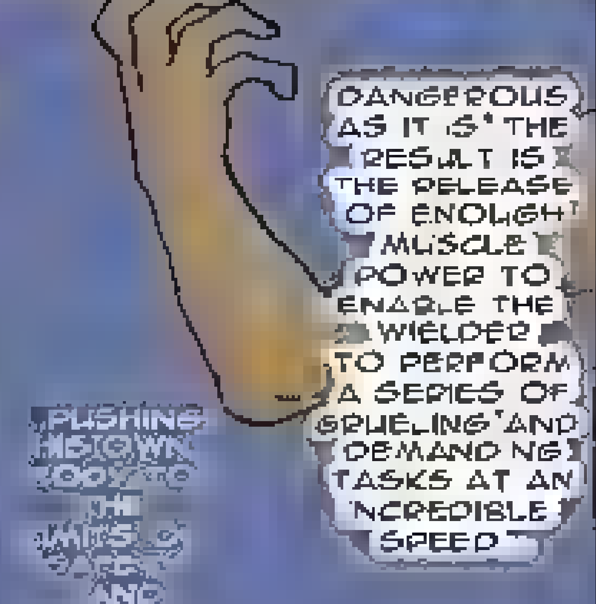

HUH?!
!!?

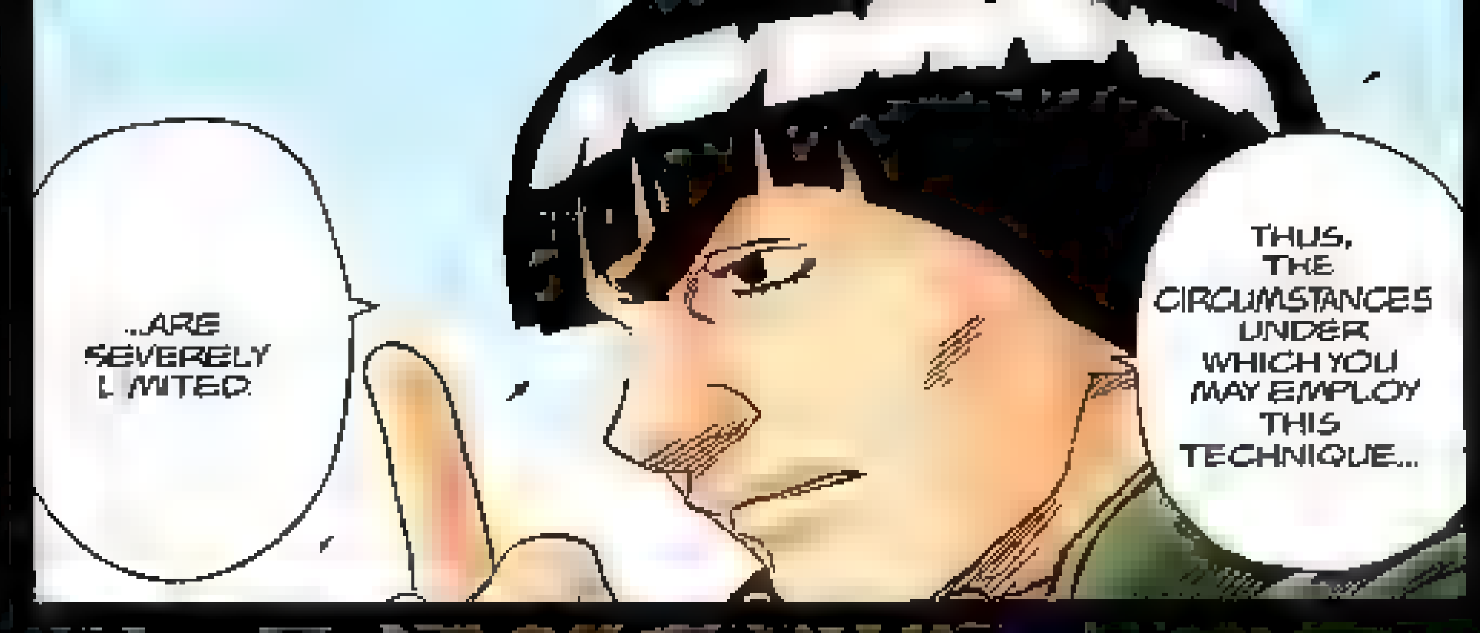

IT'S AN ART THAT DRAWS ITS POWER DIRECTLY FROM THE ENERGIES LOCKED WITHIN THE WIELDER'S CELLULAR STRUCTURE..
...SO WHEN YOU CALL UPON IT YOU'RE SACRIFICING A PART OF YOURSELF!

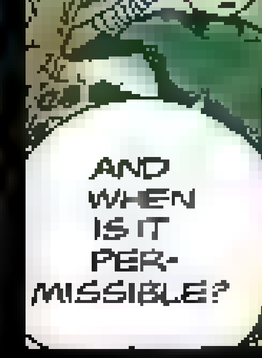

WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
!!


NORMALLY, HUMAN BEINGS UTILIZE A MERE 20% OF THEIR OWN MUSCULAR ENERGY.
IF ANYONE WERE TO EMPLOY ANYTHING EVEN CLOSE TO 100% OF THE STRENGTH IN HIS MUSCLES...


THE MUSCLES
WOULD QUICKLY BREAK DOWN SO THE BRAIN SETS A LIMIT ON HOW MUCH OF OUR OWN MUSCLE POWER WE ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO USE.
THE SECRET OF THIS TECHNIQUE IS IN OVERRIDING THAT INTERNAL CRANIAL SAFETY FEATURE GIVING THE WIELDER
TO ALL OF
CHAKRA


DANGEROUS AS IT IS THE RESULT IS THE RELEASE OF ENOUGH MUSCLE POWER TO ENABLE THE WIELDER TO PERFORM A SERIES OF GRUELING AND DEMANDING TASKS AT AN INCREDIBLE SPEED

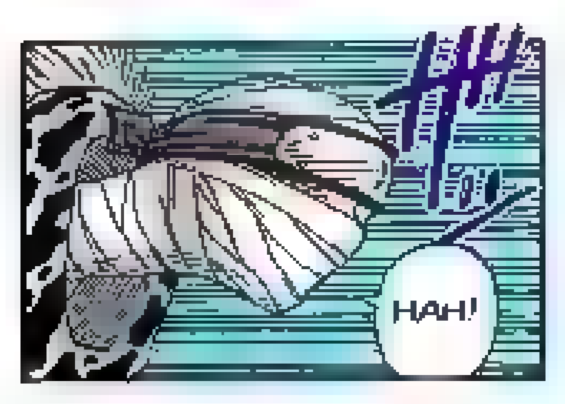

THUS, THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH YOU MAY EMPLOY THIS TECHNIQUE...
...ARE SEVERELY LIMITED.


......
AND WHEN IS IT PER-MISSIBLE?
HY

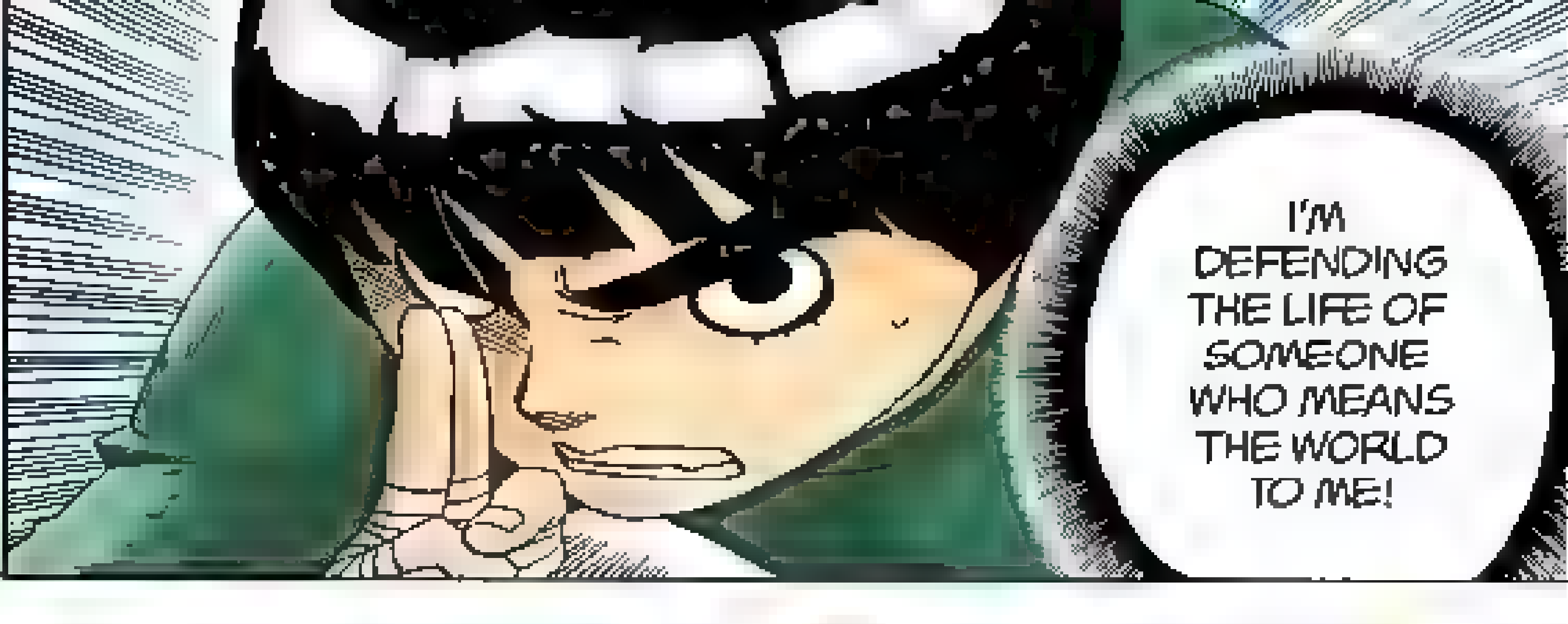

LISTEN CLOSELY, AND INSTRUCT YOUR MUSCLES...
...LIKE SO...


MASTER GUY THE TIME HAS SURELY COME FOR ME TO USE THE FORBIDDEN SKILL YOU TAUGHT ME...
...AND NOT HOLD BACK!


HUF
!
HUF


HAH!





!!

WHERE'D HE GO?!

!!

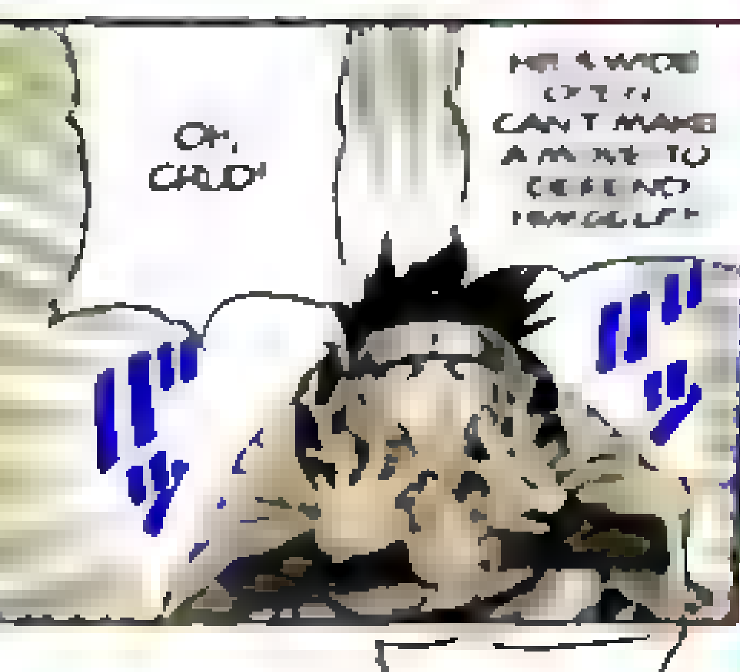





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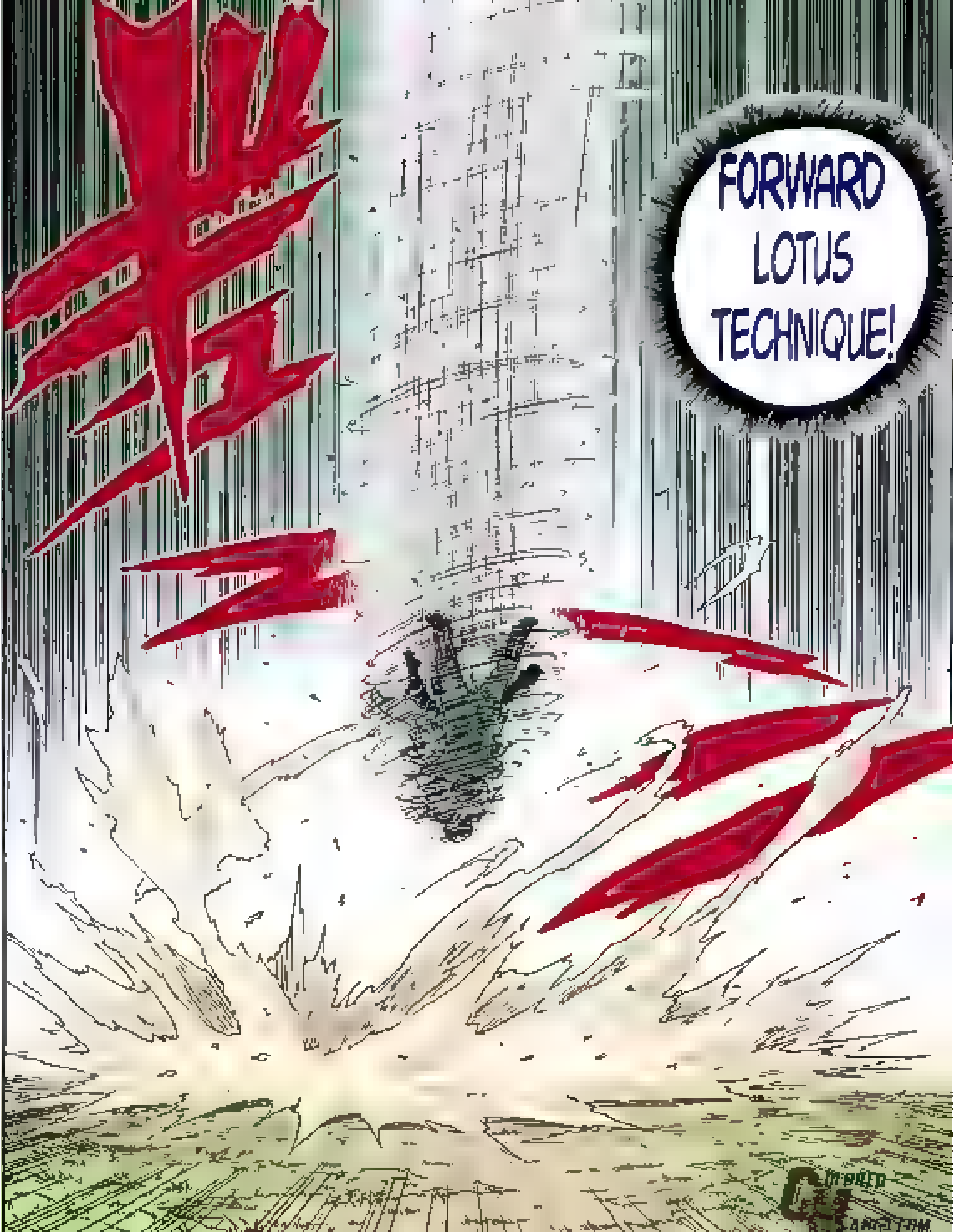


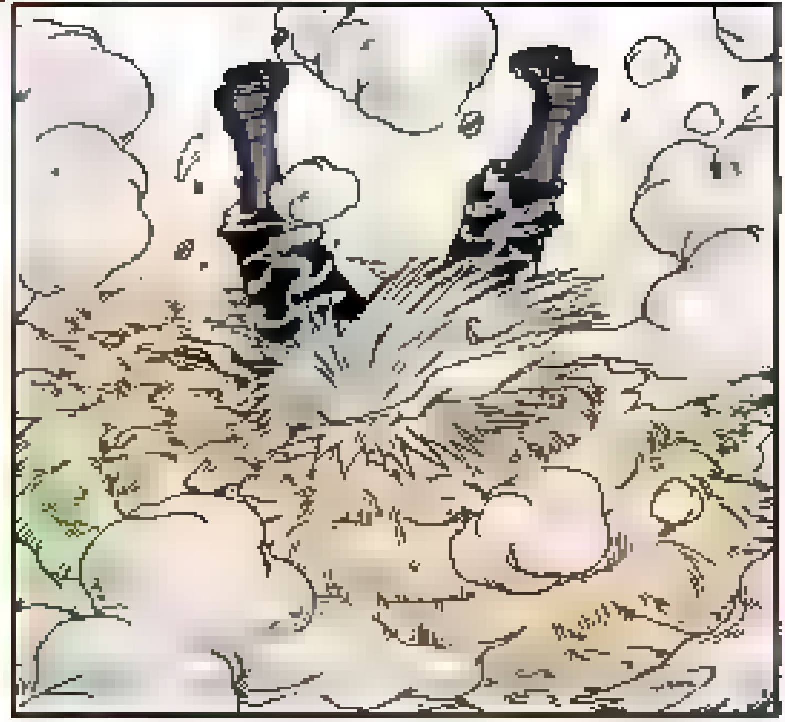



OH, CRUD!

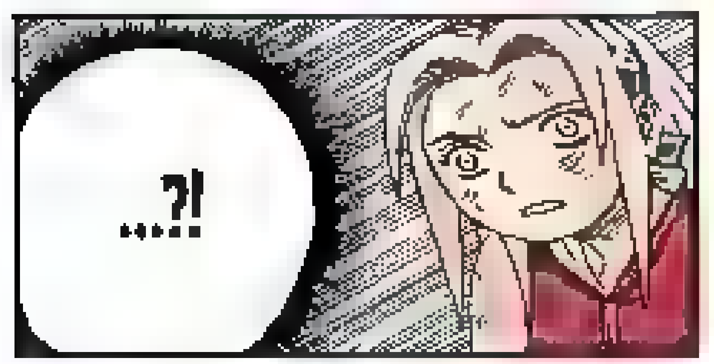

TAKE THIS!
グッ


!!


FORWARD LOTUS TECHNIQUE!

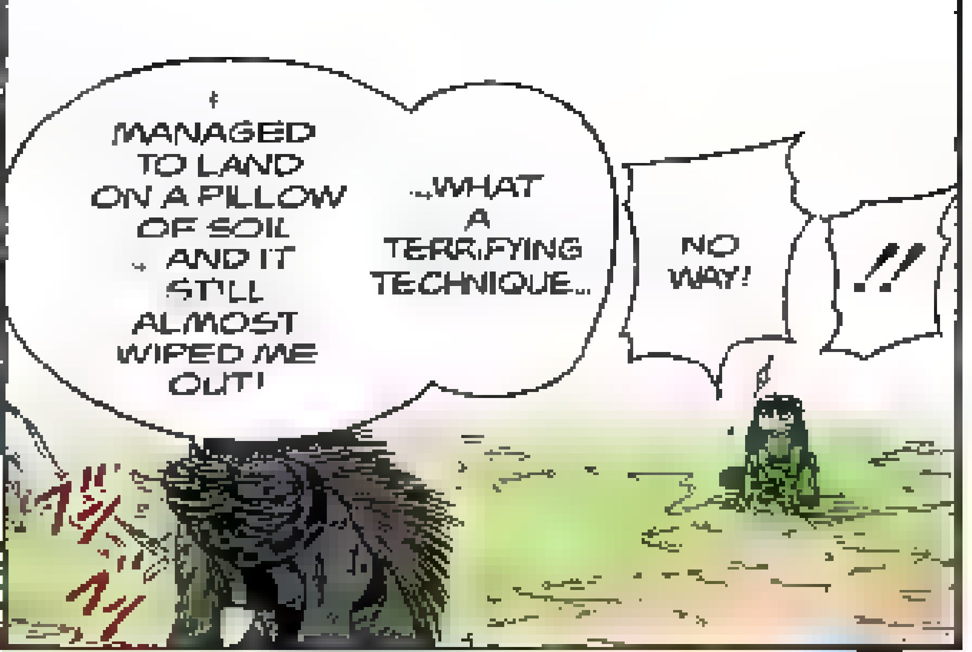


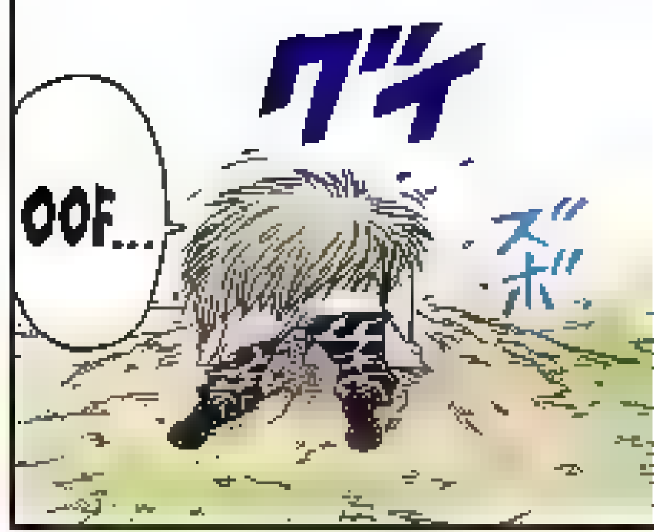

THIS DOES NOT FEEL GOOD
!!


.....?!

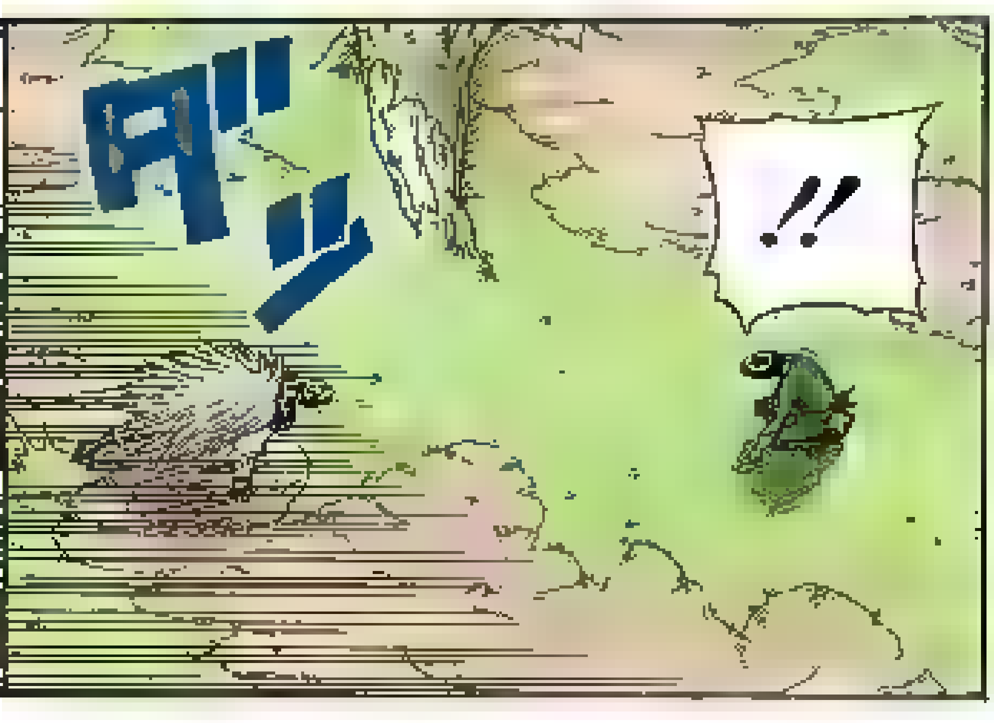

WHEW
LOOKS LIKE I MADE IT...


TAP


I MANAGED TO LAND ON A PILLOW OF SOIL AND IT STILL ALMOST WIPED ME OUT!
...WHAT A TERRIFYING TECHNIQUE...
NO WAY!
!!

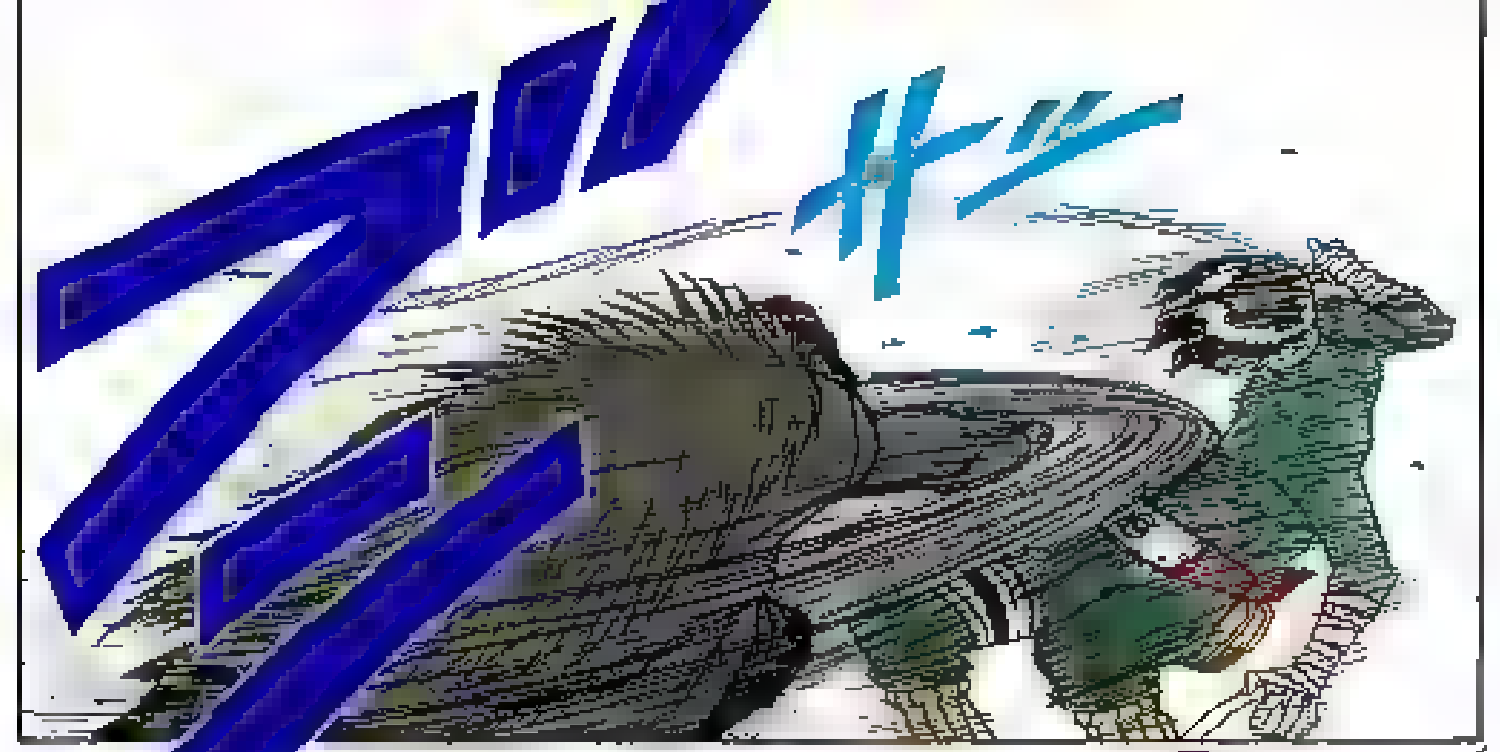

OOF...

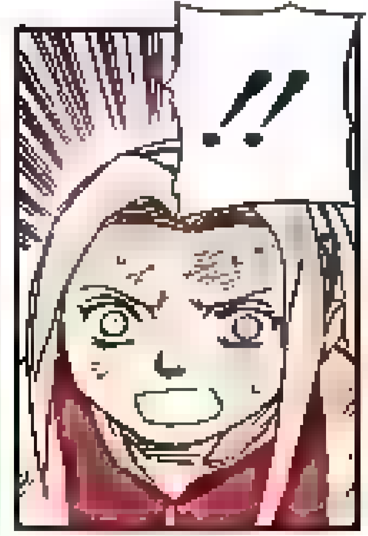

BUT NOW... IT'S MY TURN...


!!


OH... THIS IS NOT GOOD...
THAT LAST MOVE I DID JUST TOASTED ME I'VE GOT NOTHING!


COLORED
ANGA.COM



YOUR MOVES MAY BE FAST...

!!

!!

UHHN..!

...BUT OURS ARE SUPER-SONIC!
AND MUSCLES ALONE CAN'T BREAK DOWN...
...THIS WALL OF SOUND!

COLORED
ANGA.COM

MEET KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S ASSISTANTS
PART FOUR
ASSISTANT NO. 4: KAWAHARA TAKEMI

PROFILE

* A TOTAL PERVERT
* BLABBERMOUTH
* A NATIVE OF KANSAI WITH A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR. (HIS OLDER BROTHER IS ALSO QUITE A JOKER. I'VE FALLEN FOR HIS PRANKS AT LEAST TWICE.)
* LOVES AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN-TYPE MUSIC.
* A TOYS"R"US KID AND A STAR CHILD.
* A REAL RAY OF SUNSHINE, HE BRIGHTENS UP THE MOOD IN THE OFFICE.



IN TERMS OF JOBS, HE'S AN ALL-AROUND MASTER OF ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING.

ナンバー



53 : SAKURA'S DECISION!!



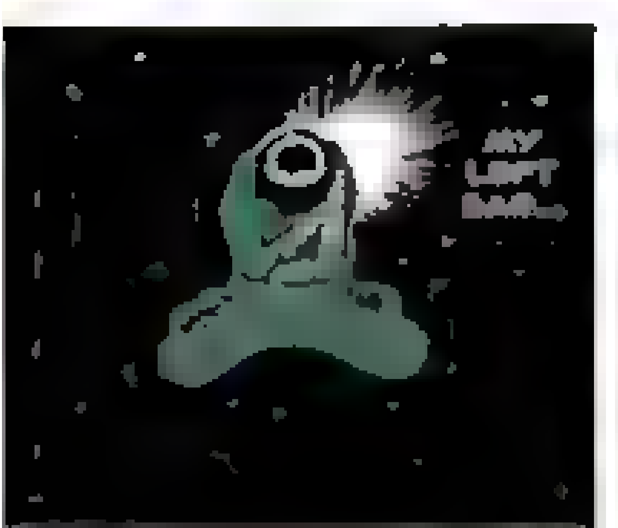




LEE!!

ゲホ

ゲホ

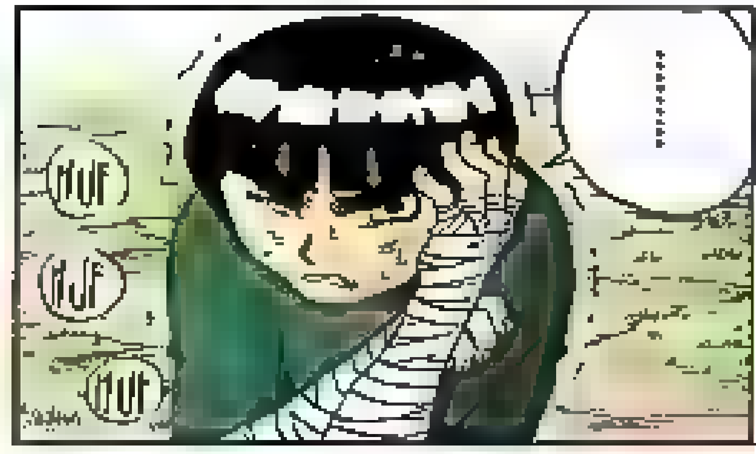




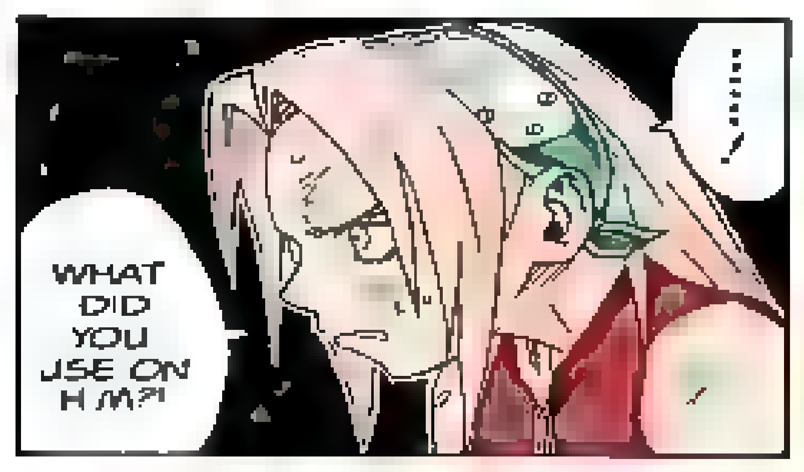




カチャ
IT'S THIS APPLIANCE ON MY ARM...
...YOU SEE? IT PREVENTS YOU...
...FROM BLOCKING MY ATTACKS.



......
HUF
HUF
HUF

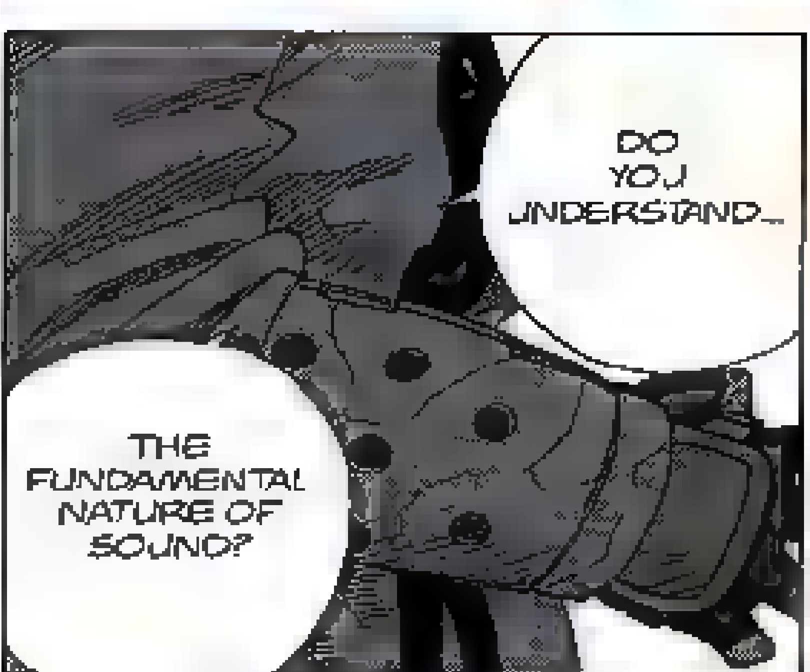


......!
WHAT DID YOU USE ON HIM?!

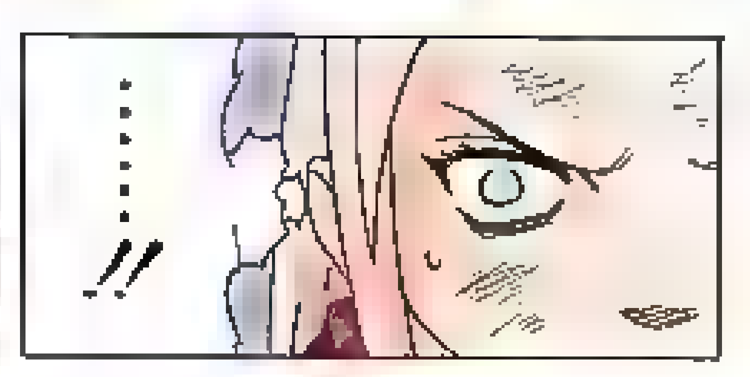
HEH HEH HEH...

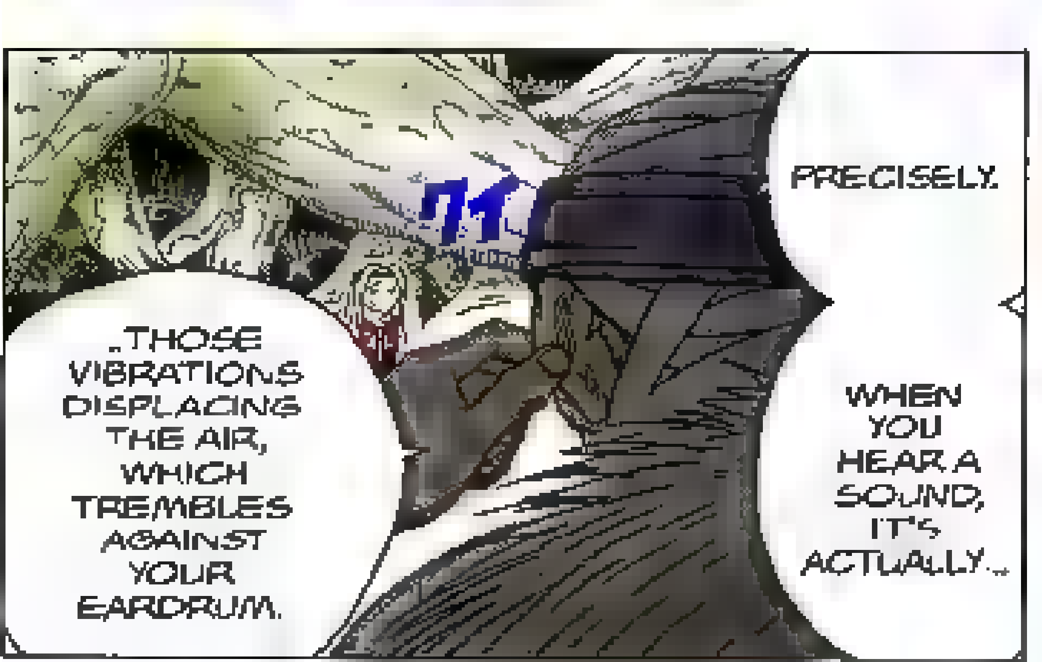
EVEN IF YOU BLOCK MY FIST, THE SOUND WAVES REACH YOU.

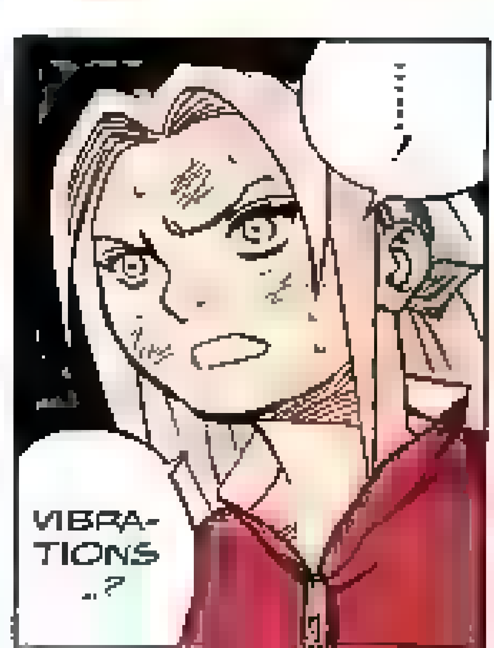
IT'S SOUND!



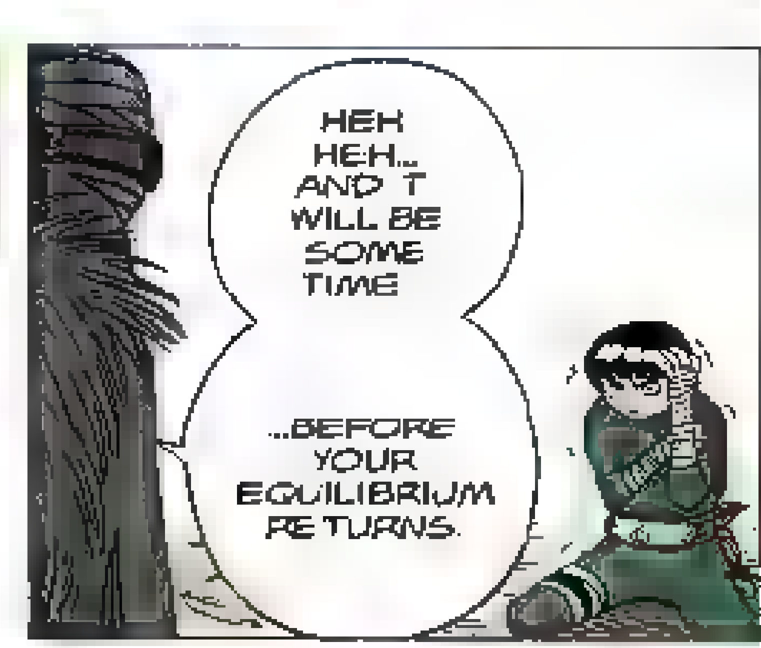






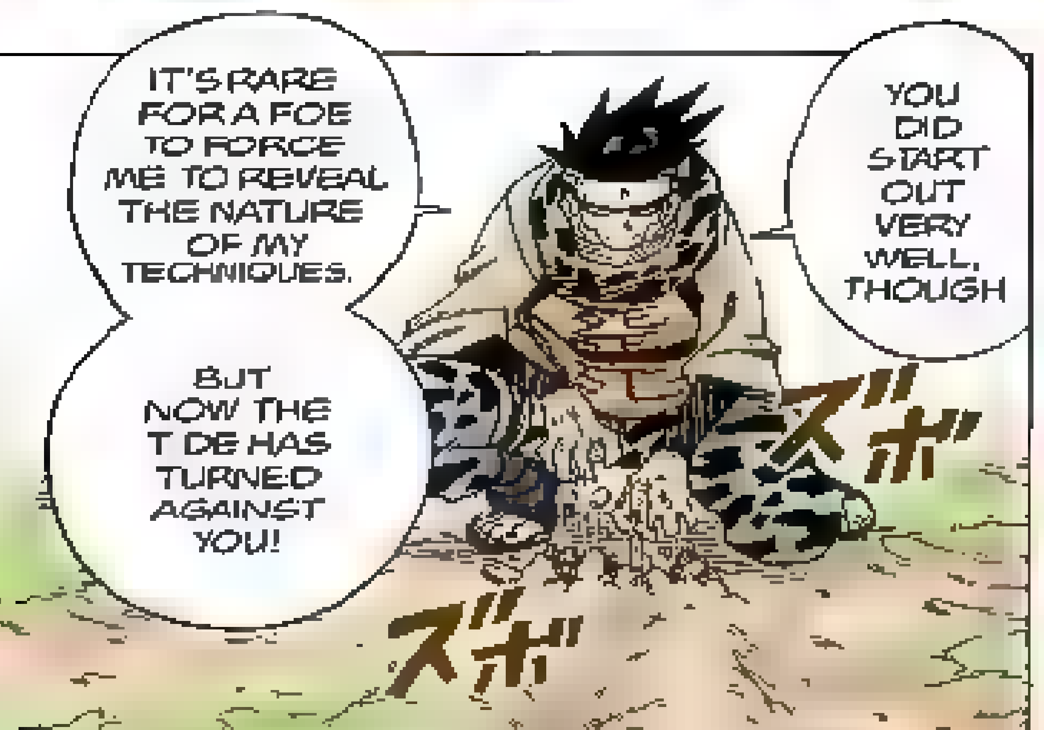



AND THE HUMAN EARDRUM—THE TYMPANIC MEMBRANE—
...RUPTURES WHEN EXPOSED TO SOUND LEVELS IN EXCESS OF 150 PHONS.
SEMI-CIRCULAR CANALS
EARDRUM
MOREOVER, IF THE SOUND IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO UPSET THE LIQUID WITHIN THE SEMI-CIRCULAR CANALS OF THE DEEPEST INNER EAR...
...IT BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO MAINTAIN YOUR BALANCE.

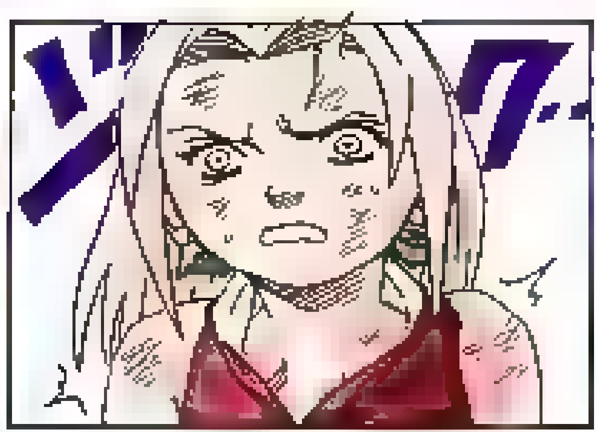

HEH HEH... AND IT WILL BE SOME TIME
...BEFORE YOUR EQUILIBRIUM RETURNS.


SO, YOU SEE, CRUDE, OLD-FASHIONED PHYSICAL ARTS...
...SIMPLY DON'T WORK AGAINST US.

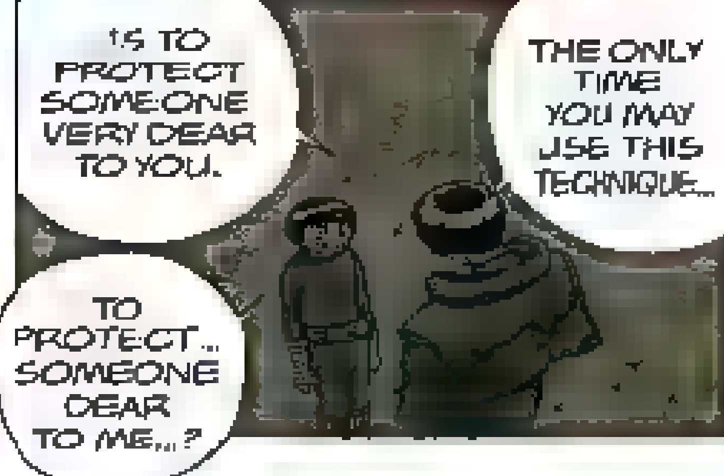



YOU DID START OUT VERY WELL, THOUGH
IT'S RARE FOR A FOE TO FORCE ME TO REVEAL THE NATURE OF MY TECHNIQUES.
BUT NOW THE TIDE HAS TURNED AGAINST YOU!
ズボ
ズボ

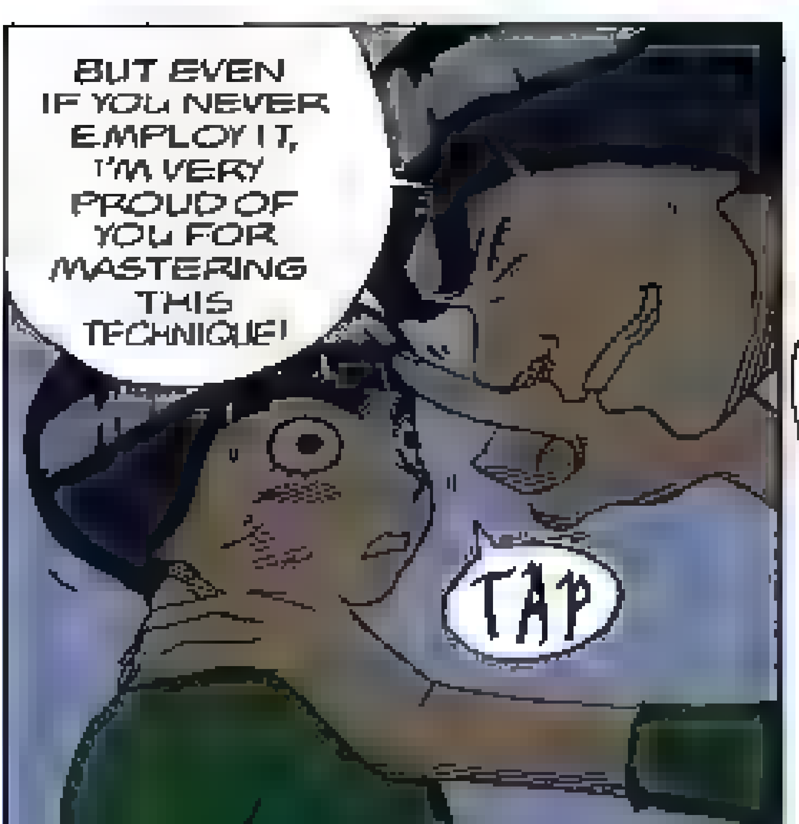
I CAN WIELD SOUND WAVES AS A WEAPON WITH ENOUGH FORCE TO CRUSH ENTIRE BOULDERS!
AND WITH A MERE THOUGHT I CAN USE SOUND WAVES TO FORCE AIR INTO THE EARTH BENEATH ME, TRANSFORMING ROCK-HARD SOIL INTO THE SOFTEST KIND OF CUSHION...
...A FAR MORE ELEGANT AND EFFECTIVE ART THAN YOUR CRUDE APPLICATION OF BRUTE FORCE.











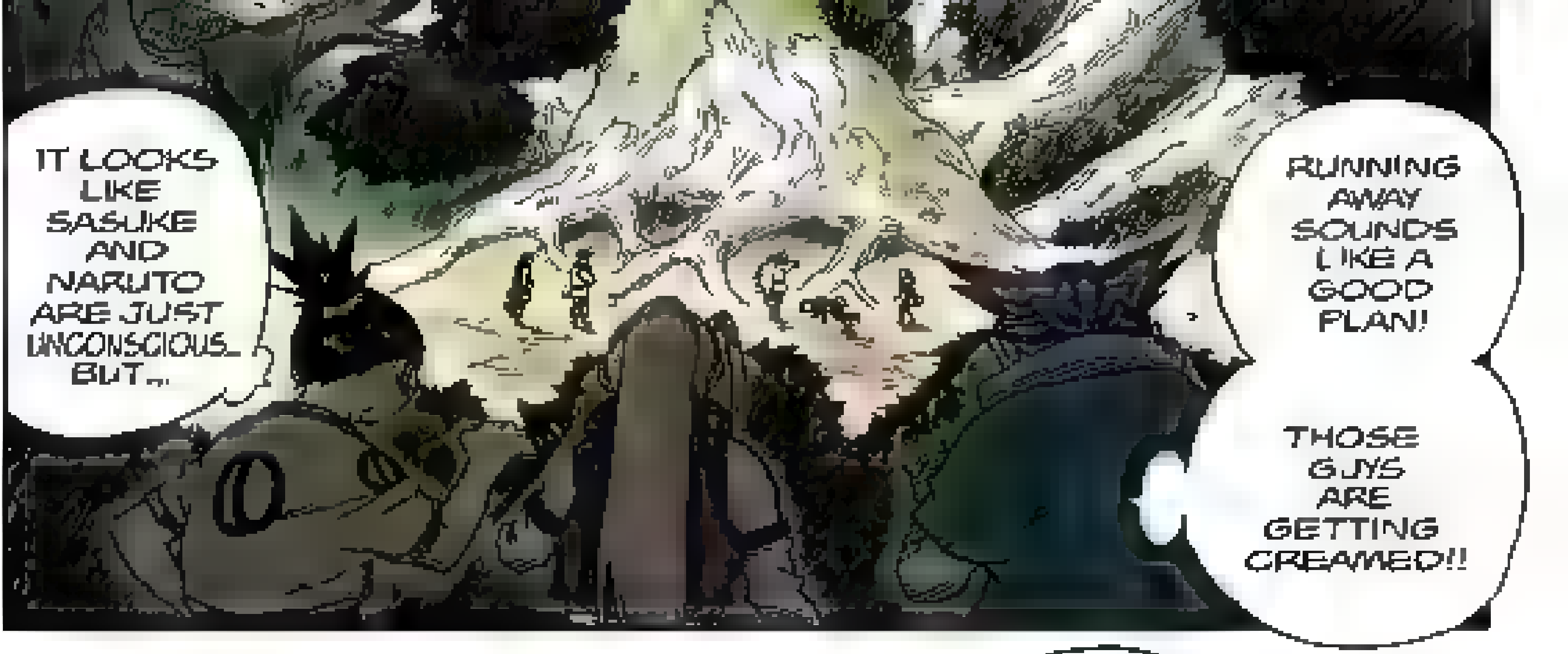

GOOD WORK LEE!
DARN IT...
AND NOW...
...IT'S YOUR TURN.
!!
!!
BLAST..!!
HE'S COMING!
!!
!!
WHAT?!

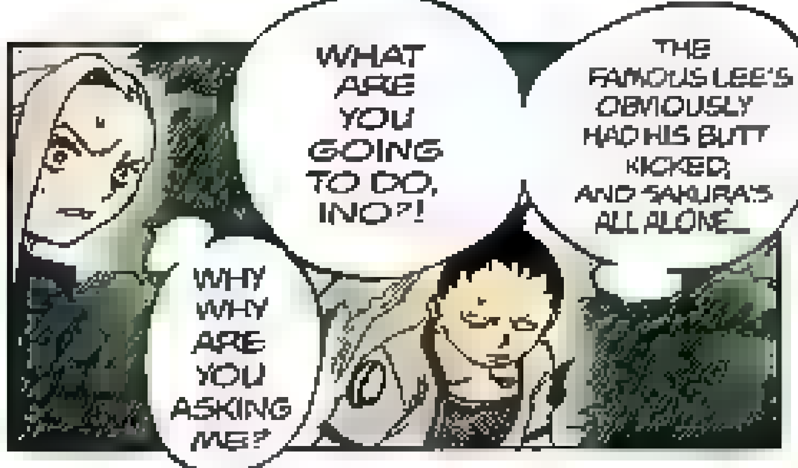
LEE!!
IMPOSSIBLE!
EEP!
KONOHA HURRICANE!
MY LAST ATTACK IS FINALLY SHOWING SOME EFFECT!
PAT
!!
ズキン

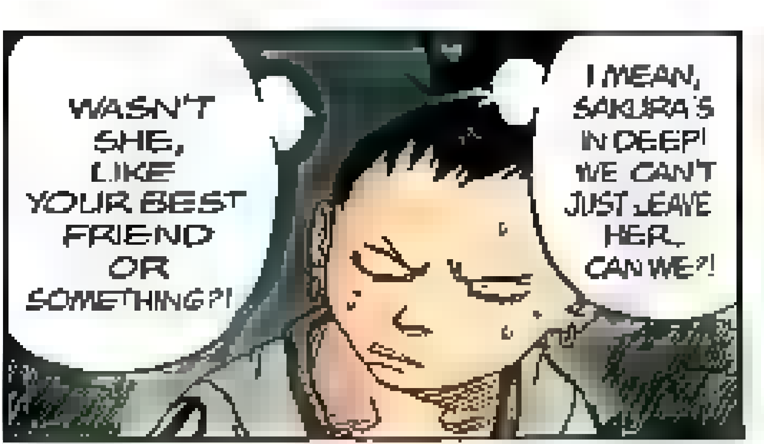


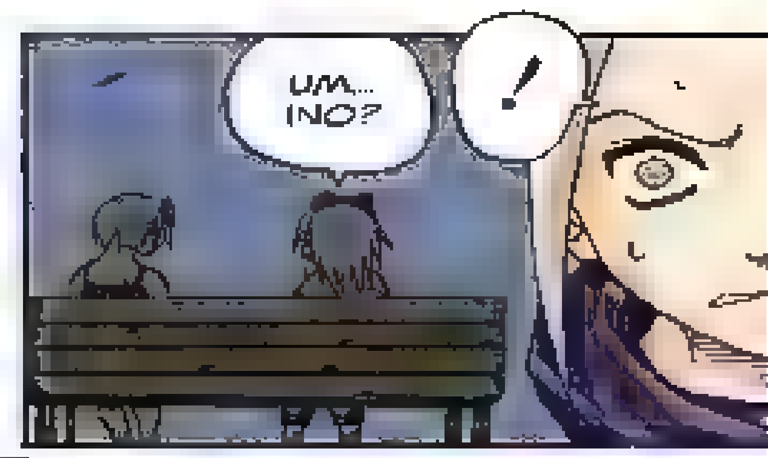

..AND IT GOES TO !!!!!
AND NOT ONLY THAT, BUT FAR FROM RELYING ON THE MOMENTUM OF MY ARM'S SWING
..I CAN USE MY CHAKRA TO DIRECT ITS POWER TOWARD MY CHOSEN PREY, WHEREVER HE MAY LIE!!
LEEEEE!!
AAUUGH!!

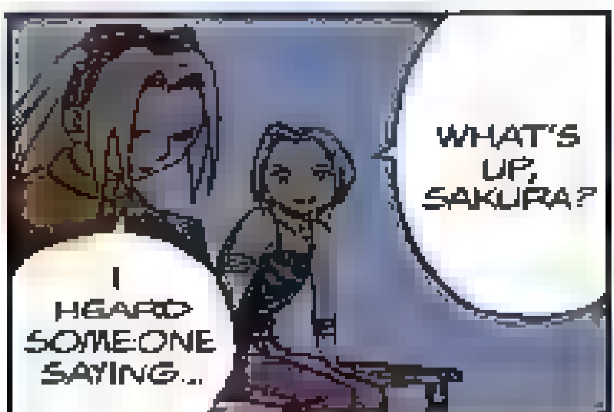

AAARGH!!
NOW...
...FOR THE COUP DE GRACE!
I DON'T THINK SO!
OH MY...
......


RUNNING AWAY SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD PLAN!
THOSE GUYS ARE GETTING CREAMED!!
IT LOOKS LIKE SASUKE AND NARUTO ARE JUST UNCONSCIOUS... BUT...

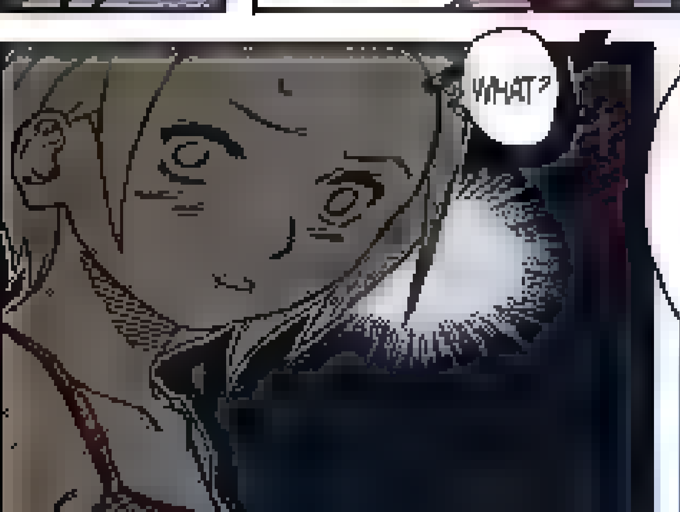

THE FAMOUS LEE'S OBVIOUSLY HAD HIS BUTT KICKED, AND SAKURA'S ALL ALONE...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, INO?!
WHY WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME?


I MEAN, SAKURA'S IN DEEP! WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER... CAN WE?!
WASN'T SHE, LIKE YOUR BEST FRIEND OR SOMETHING?!

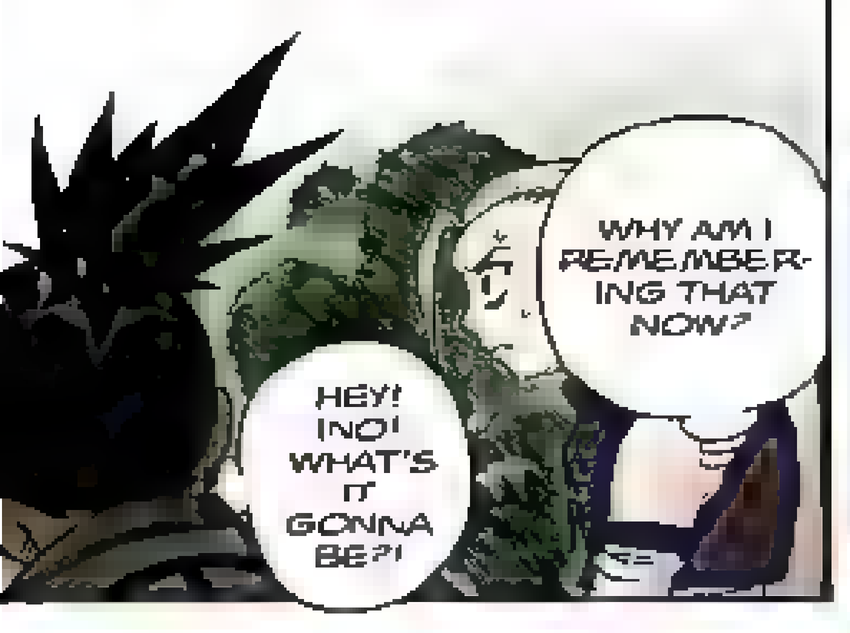

!
UM... INO?

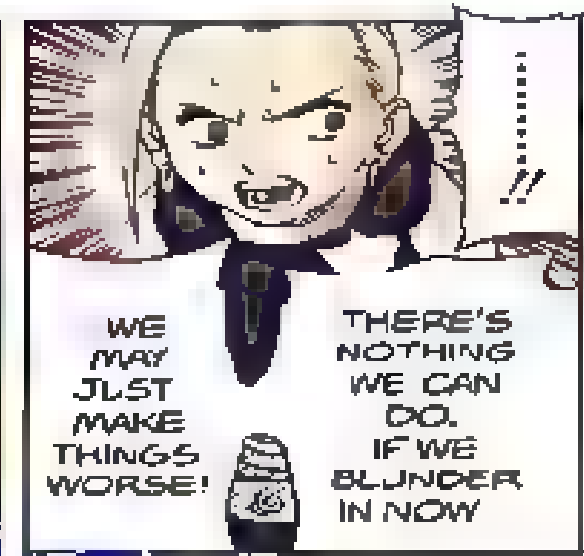

WHAT'S UP, SAKURA?
I HEARD SOMEONE SAYING...


SAYING WHAT?!

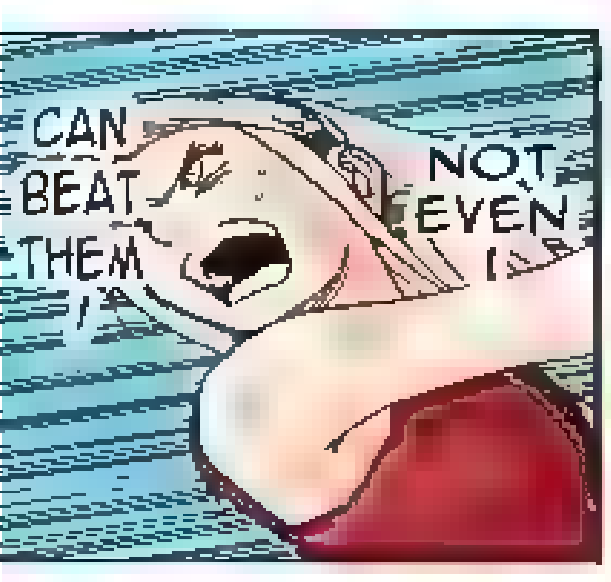

SAYING THAT YOU LIKE SASUKE, TOO!
WHAT?



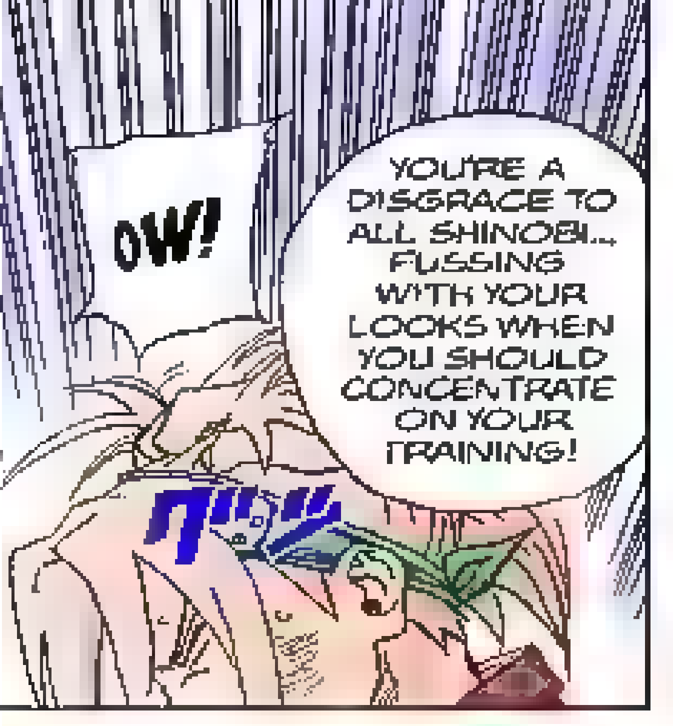

WHY AM I REMEMBERING THAT NOW?
HEY! INO! WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?!

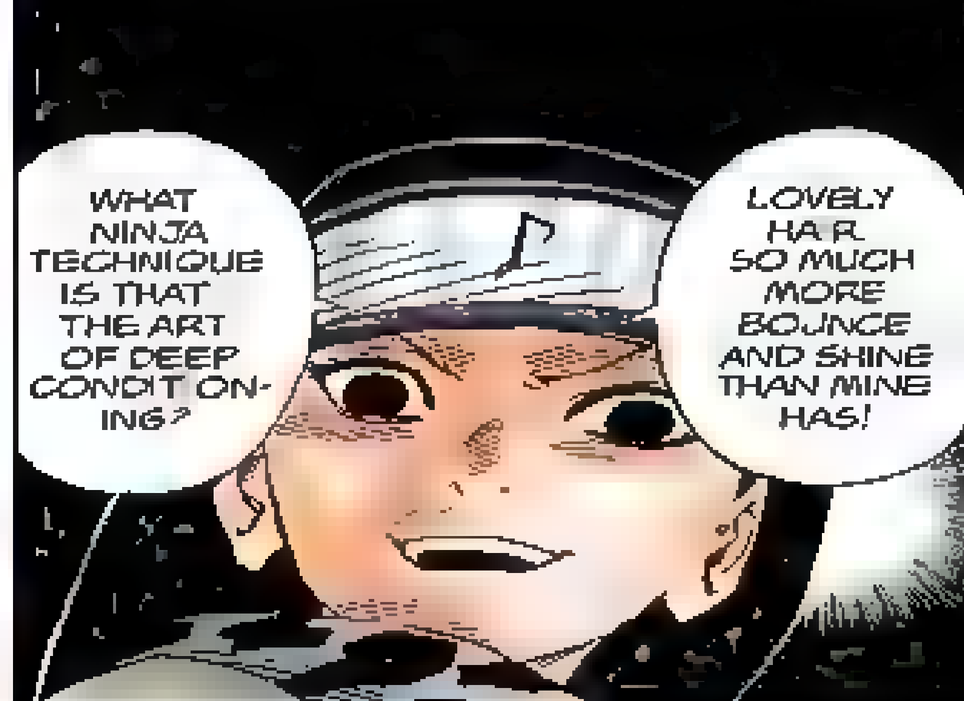

......!!
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO. IF WE BLUNDER IN NOW
WE MAY JUST MAKE THINGS WORSE!

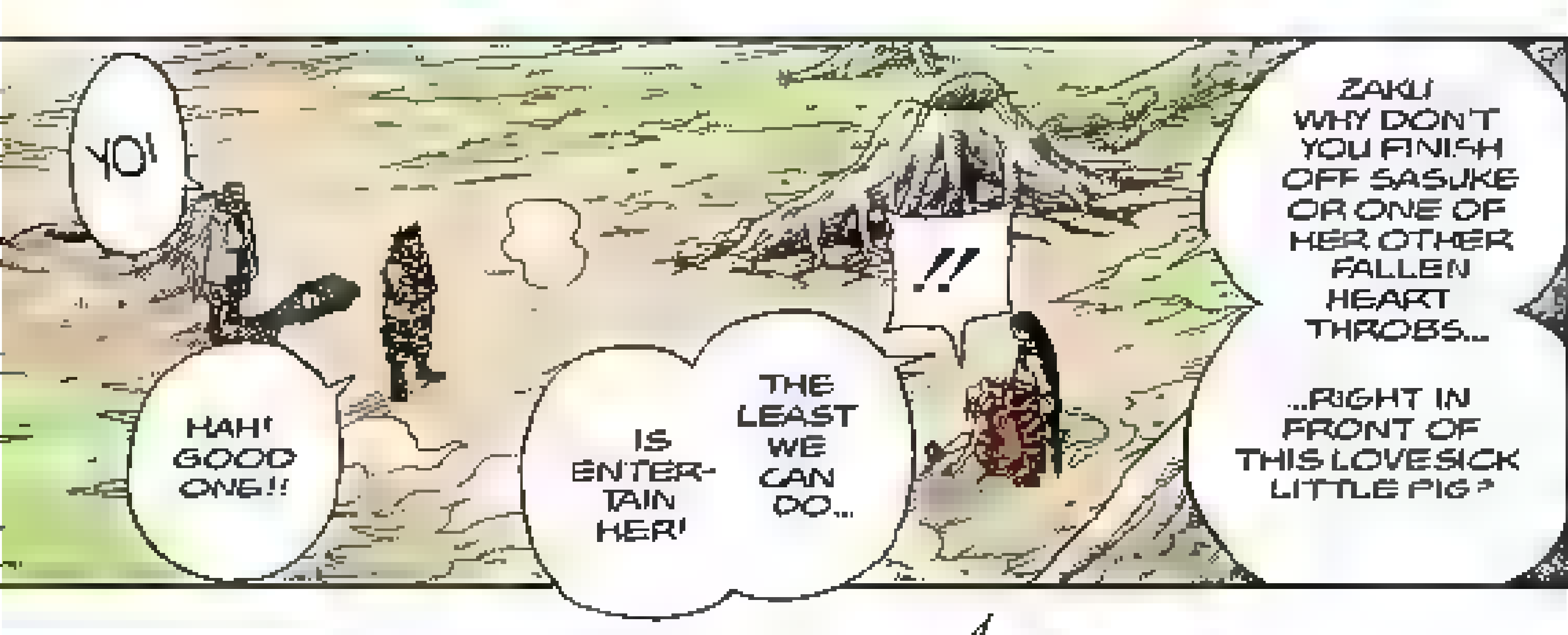

THOSE GUYS WOULD TAKE ME OUT IN ABOUT 10 SECONDS FLAT!

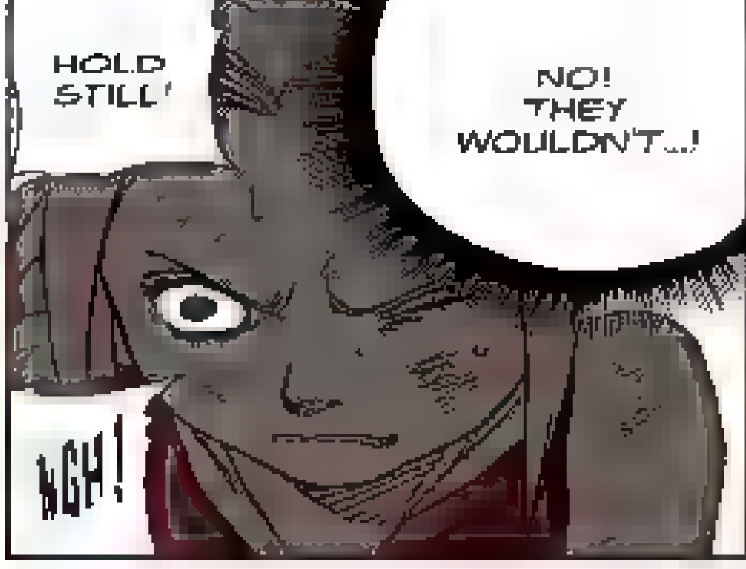

NOT EVEN
CAN BEAT THEM!


HAH!!
AIEE!!
!
MY THROWING STARS...
...WERE REPELLED BY A WALL OF AIR!!
!!
OW!!

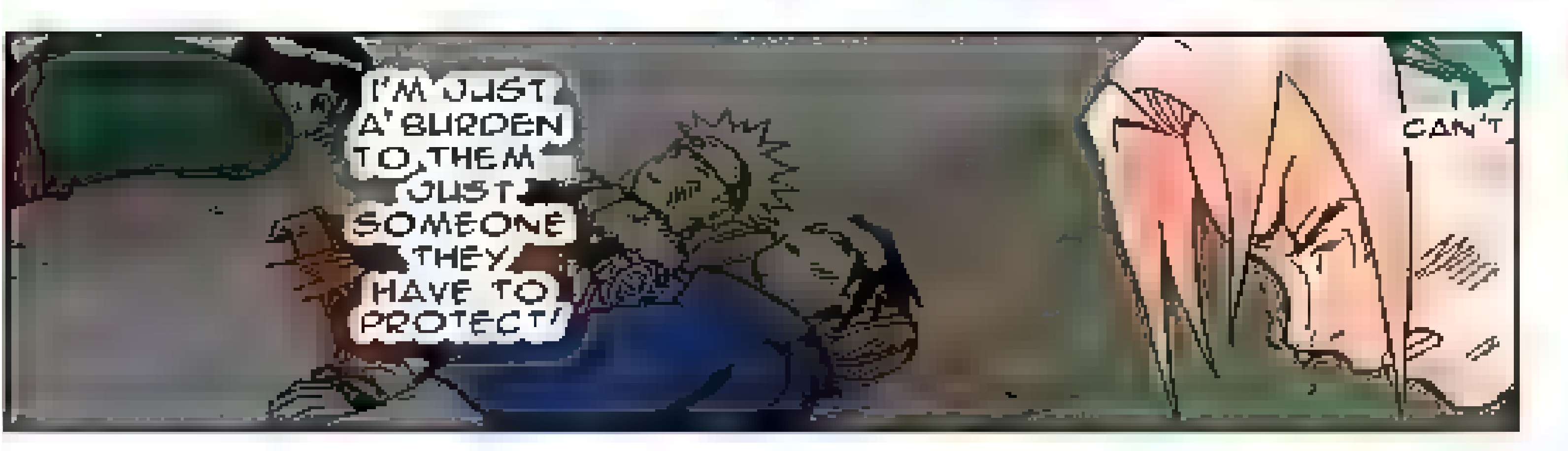

OW!
YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO ALL SHINOBI... FUSSING WITH YOUR LOOKS WHEN YOU SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON YOUR TRAINING!


LOVELY HAIR. SO MUCH MORE BOUNCE AND SHINE THAN MINE HAS!
WHAT NINJA TECHNIQUE IS THAT THE ART OF DEEP CONDITIONING?

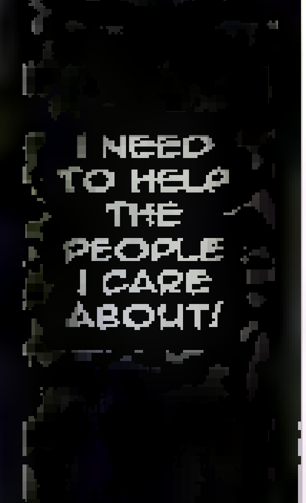
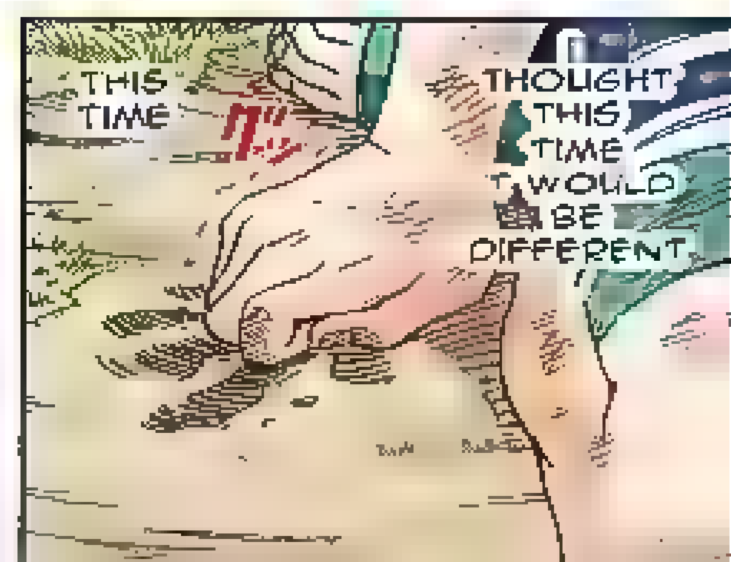

ZAKU WHY DON'T YOU FINISH OFF SASUKE OR ONE OF HER OTHER FALLEN HEART THROBS...
...RIGHT IN FRONT OF THIS LOVESICK LITTLE PIG?
!!
THE LEAST WE CAN DO...
IS ENTERTAIN HER!
HAH! GOOD ONE!!
YO!

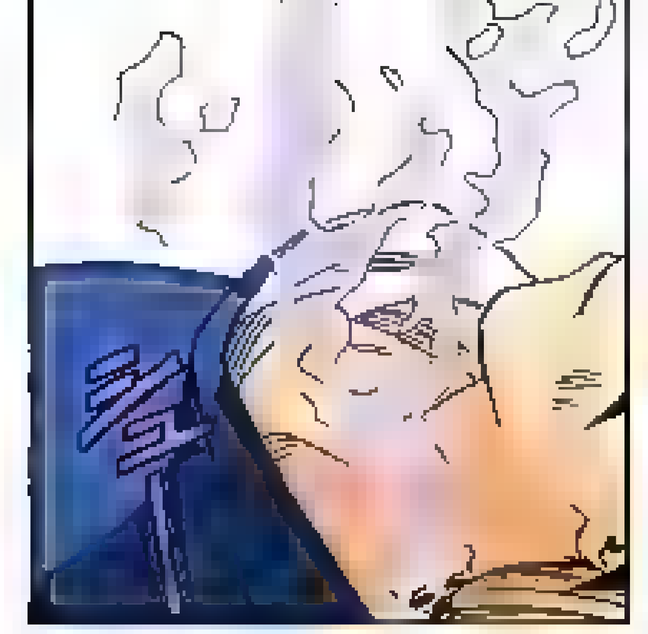

NO! THEY WOULDN'T...!
HOLD STILL!
NGH!

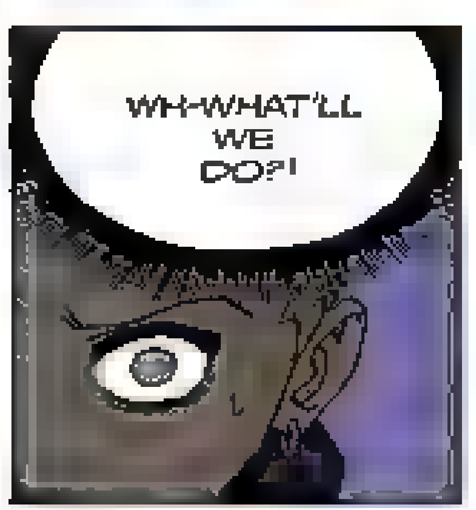

S-SAKURA...
I CAN'T SUMMON ANY STRENGTH

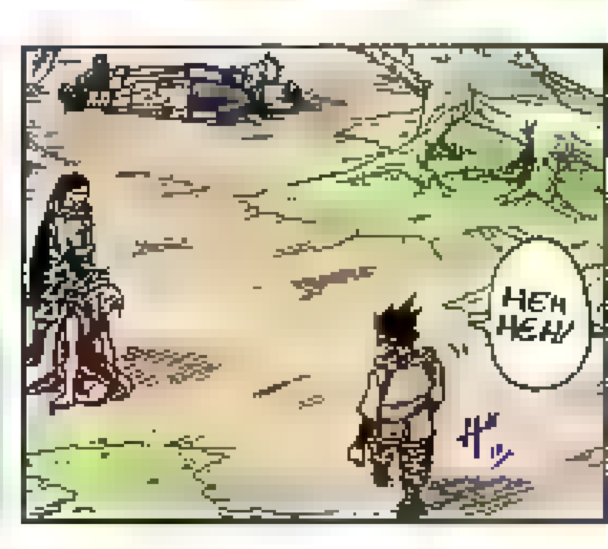
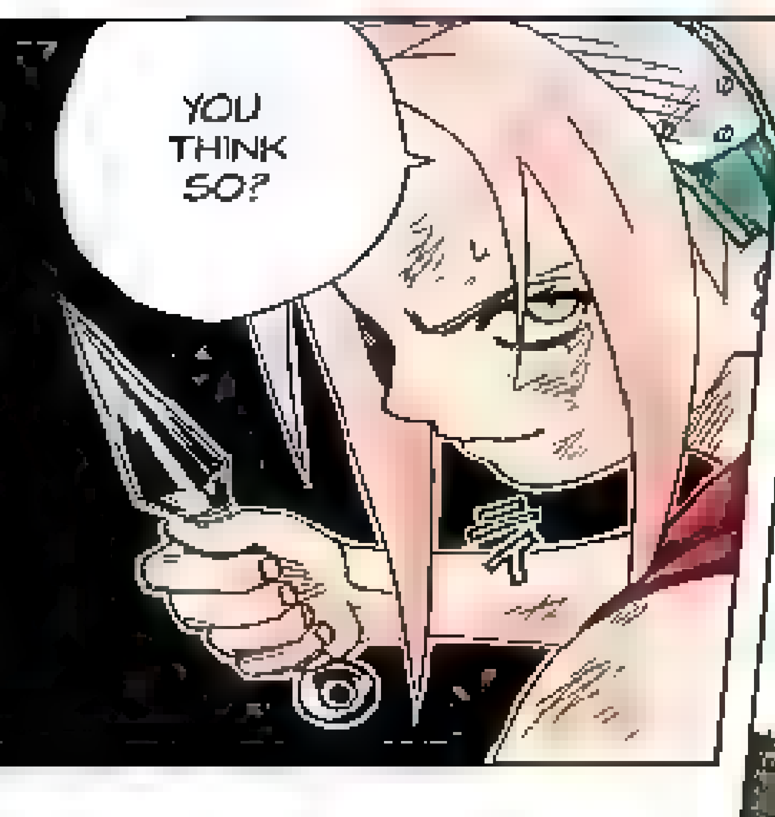
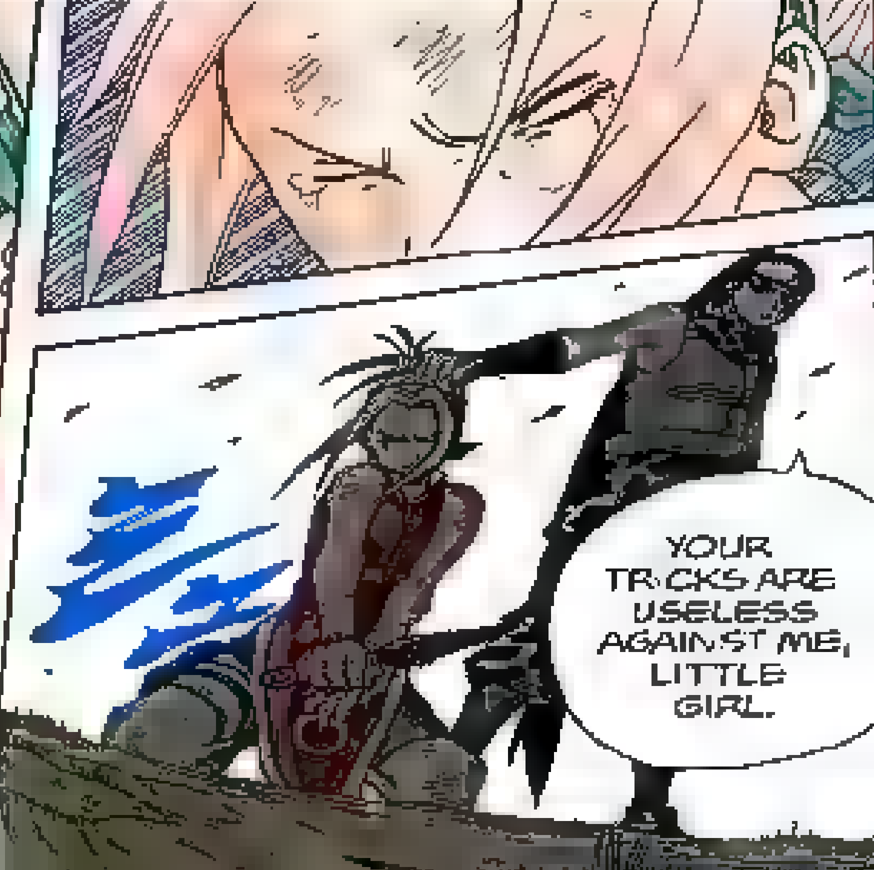

I...

CAN'T
I'M JUST A BURDEN TO THEM JUST SOMEONE THEY HAVE TO PROTECT!

I'M ALWAYS IN THE WAY
NEVER HELPING DARN IT

ALL RIGHT.
LET'S DO IT.

I NEED TO HELP THE PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT!

THOUGHT THIS TIME I WOULD BE DIFFERENT
THIS TIME




WH-WHAT'LL WE DO?!

!!
HEY! SASUKE AND NARUTO ARE IN DEEP TROUBLE!

HEH HEH!

YOU THINK SO?

YOUR TRICKS ARE USELESS AGAINST ME, LITTLE GIRL.

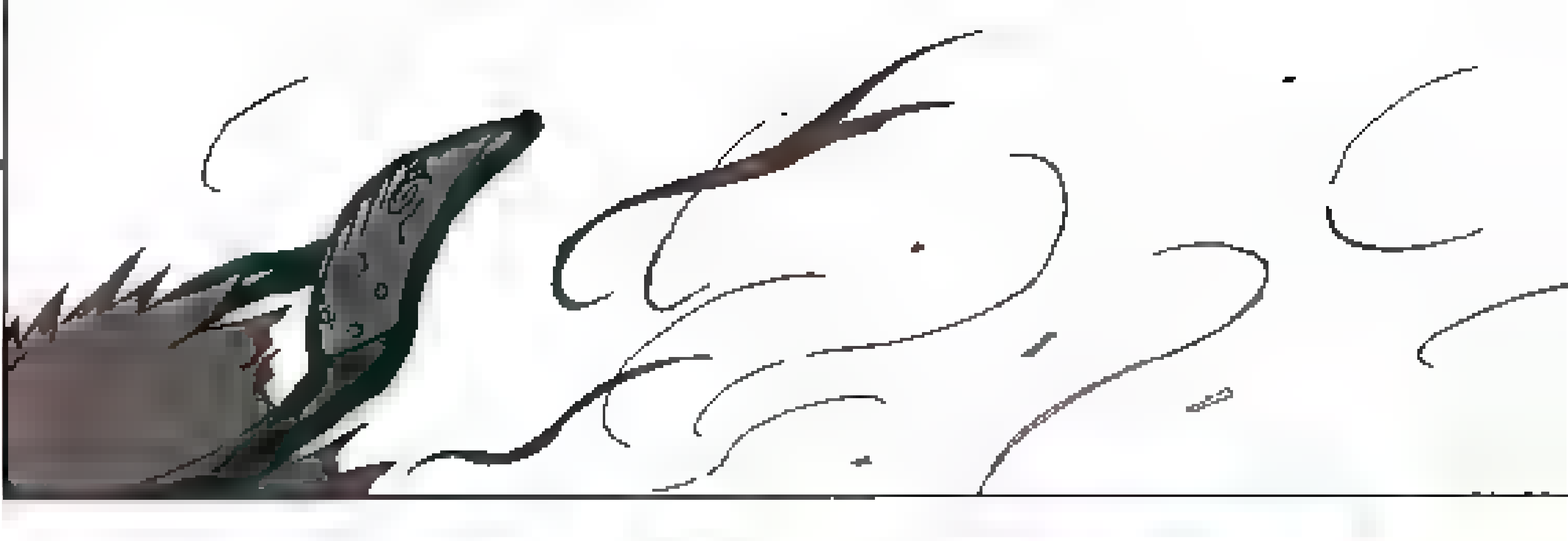



!!
WHAT ?!
!
!
!!!

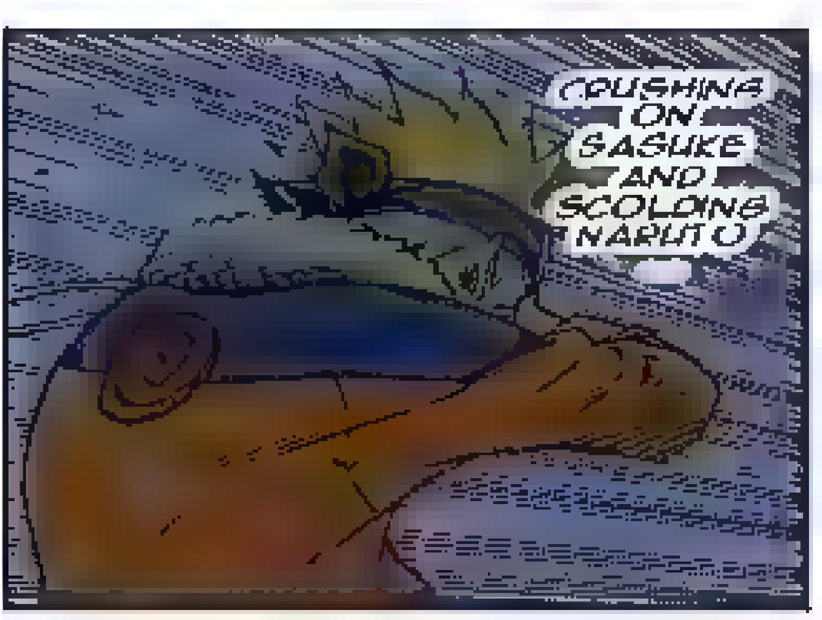
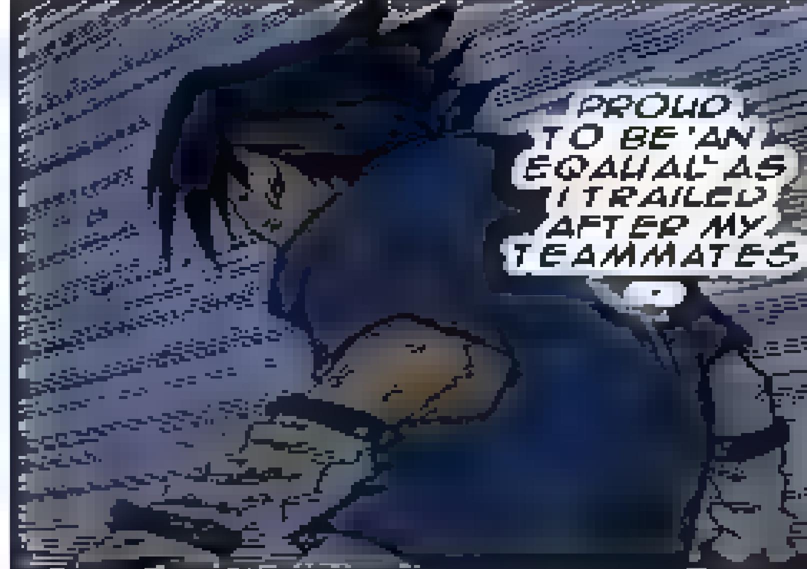


SAKURA AND INO





THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS A FULL-FLEDGED NINJA.
TO ALWAYS ...

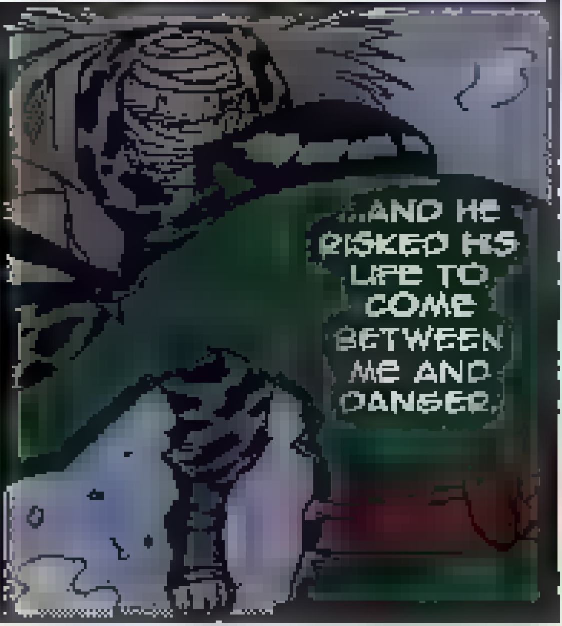
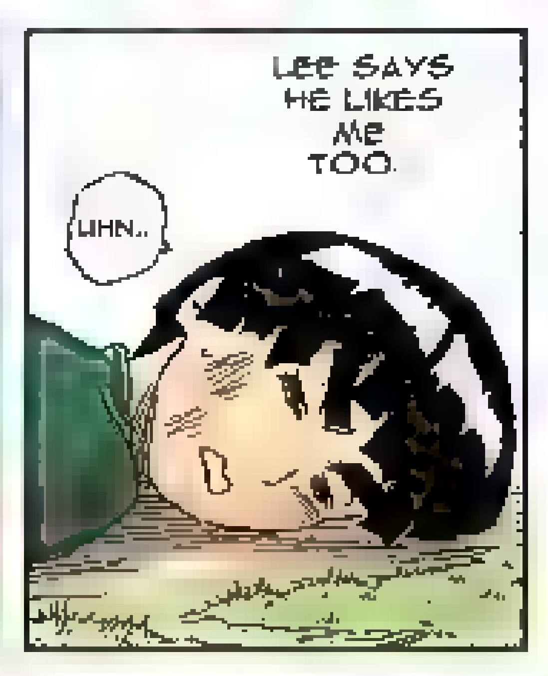

CRUSHING ON SASUKE AND SCOLDING NARUTO

PROUD TO BE AN EQUAL AS I TRAILED AFTER MY TEAMMATES

SAFELY FROM THE BACKGROUND.
WATCHING THEM
...



WOULD BOTH RISK ANYTHING TO PROTECT ME.

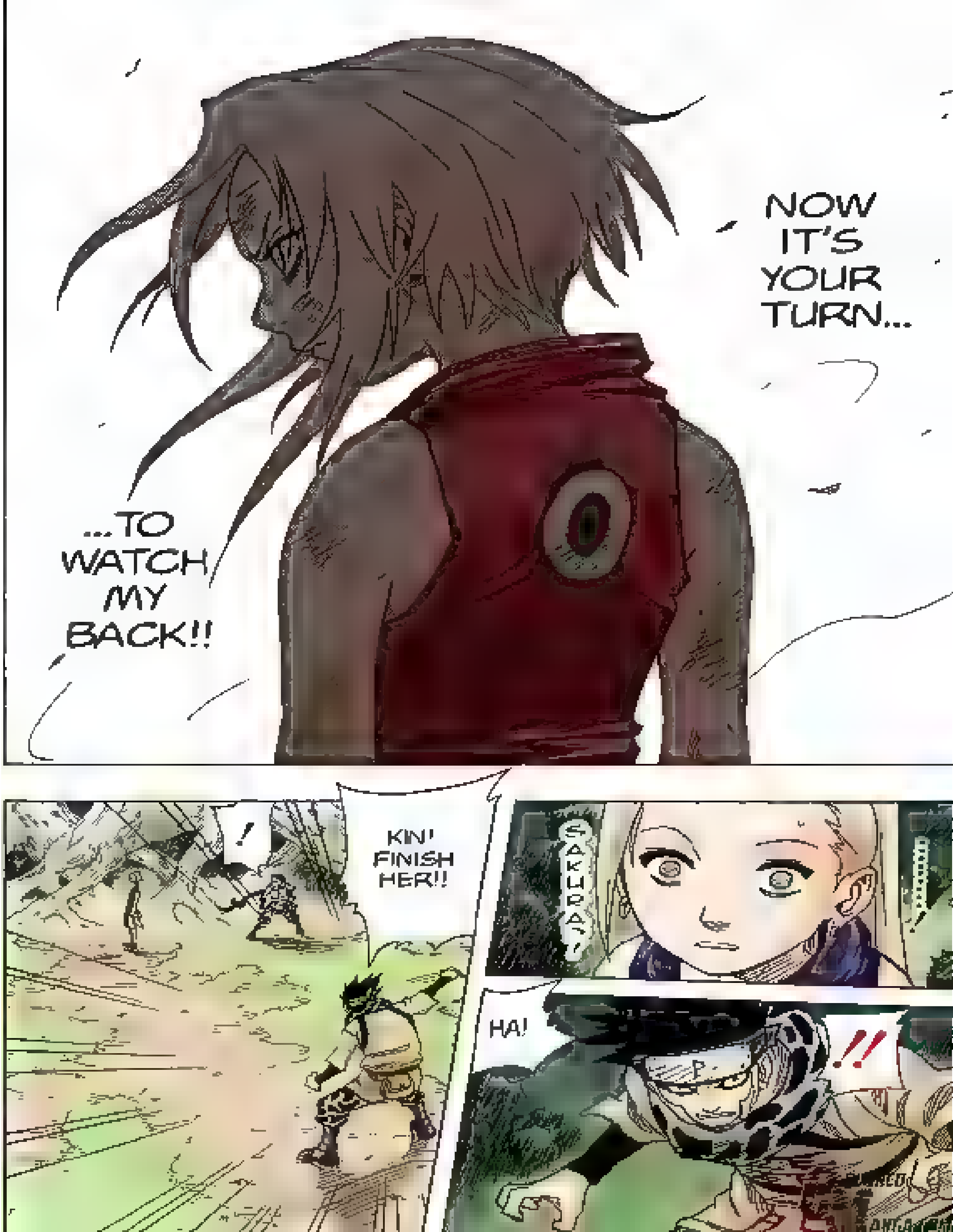
WHILE THEY...

YOU'RE ALL MY TEACHERS.

...AND HE RISKED HIS LIFE TO COME BETWEEN ME AND DANGER.

LEE SAYS HE LIKES ME TOO.
UHN..


LIKE YOU ALL OF YOU

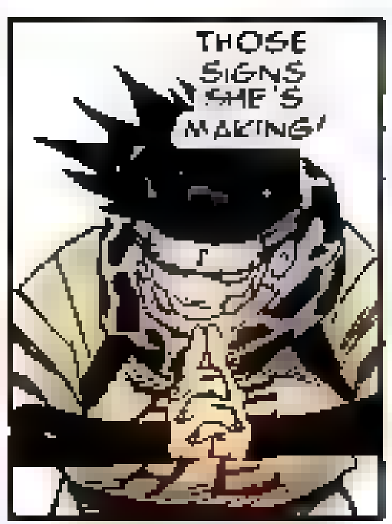
AND YOU'VE SHOWN ME WHAT I WANT TO BE

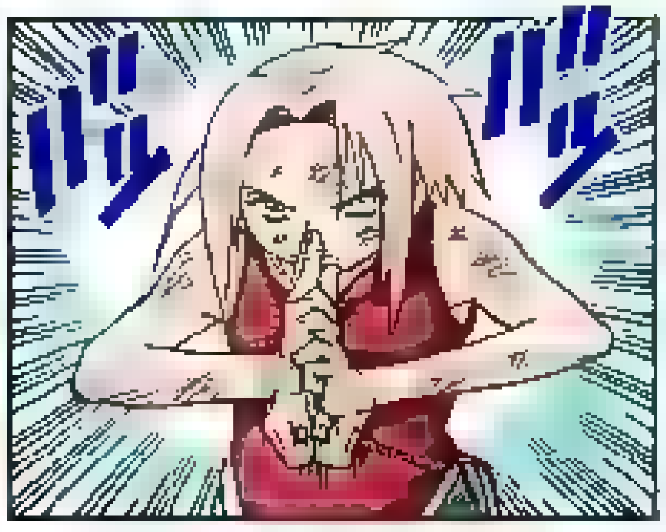
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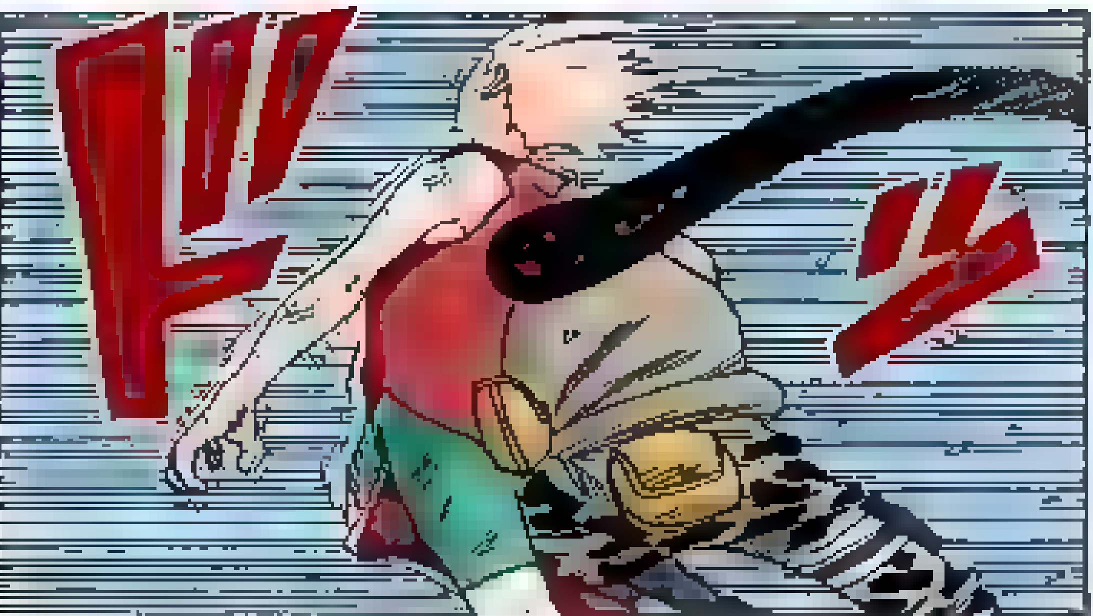
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN...
...TO WATCH MY BACK!!
SAKURA...!
KIN! FINISH HER!!
HA!
!!
!

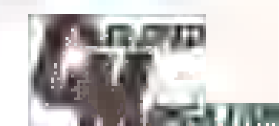


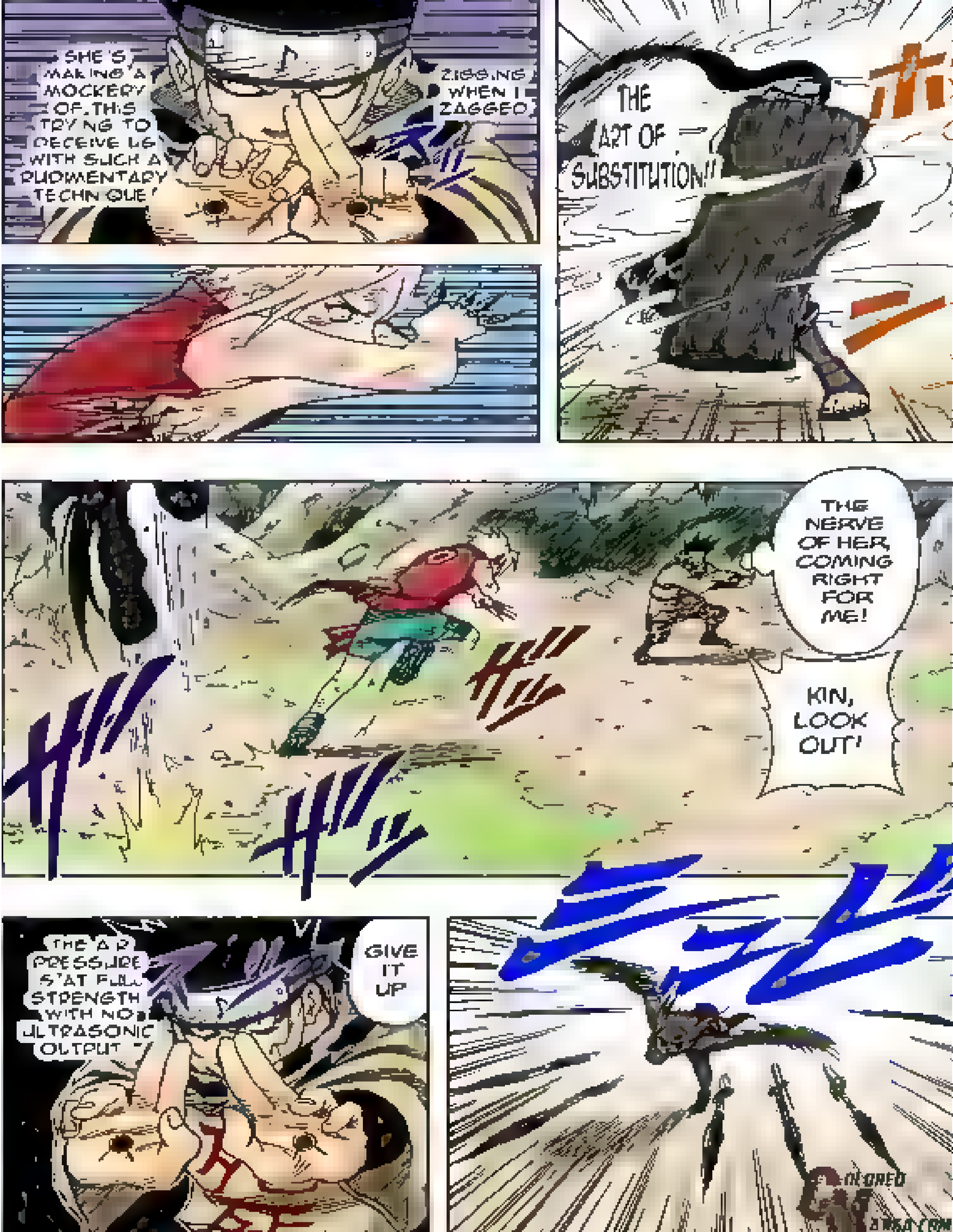

THOSE SIGNS SHE'S MAKING!



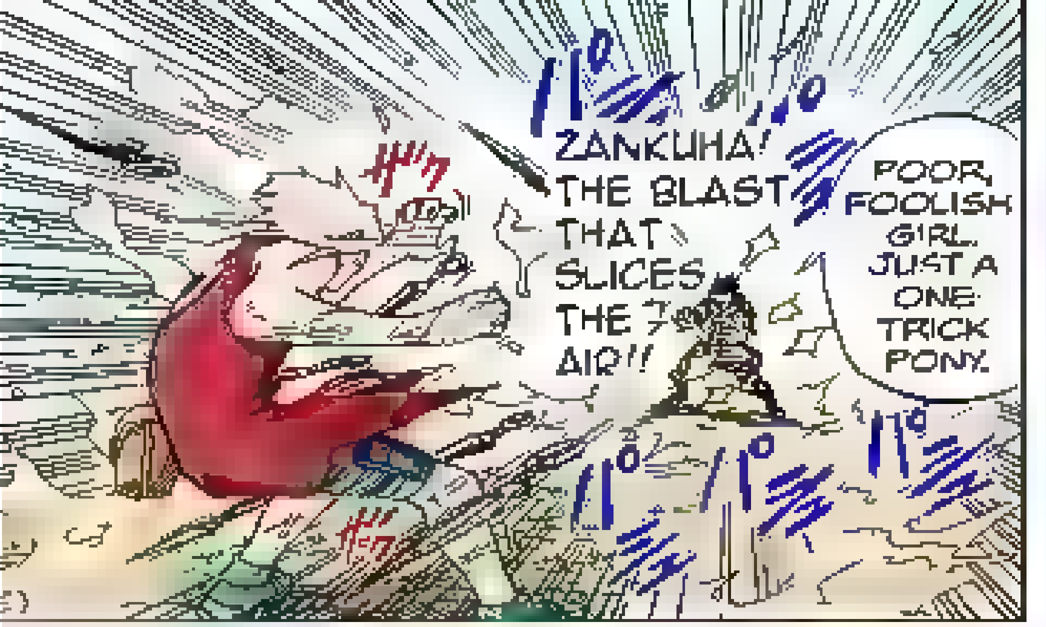
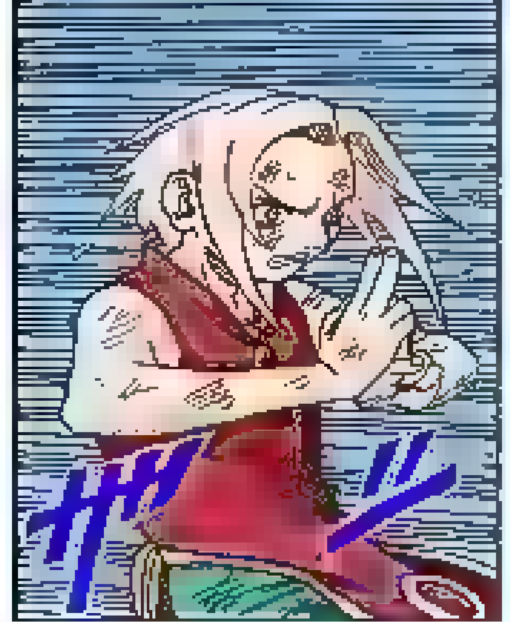
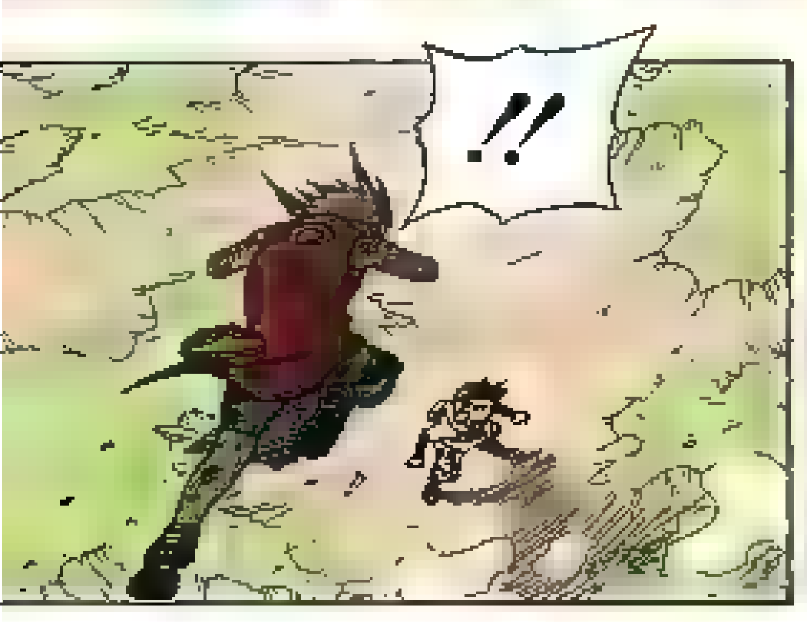
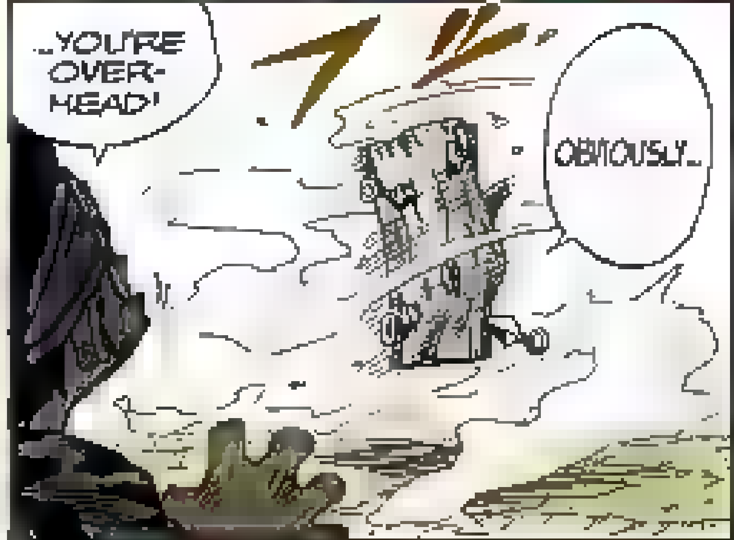
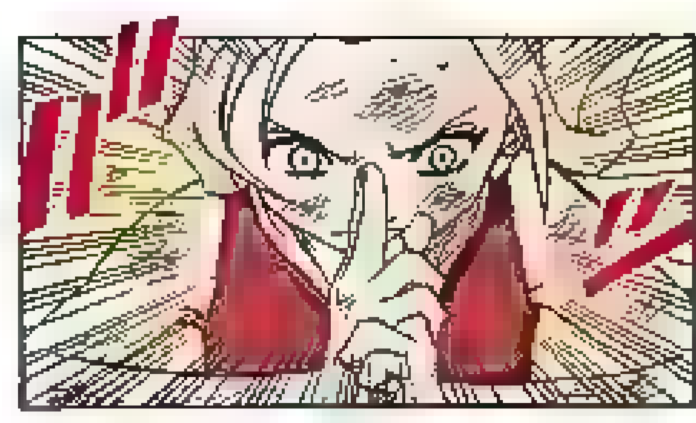
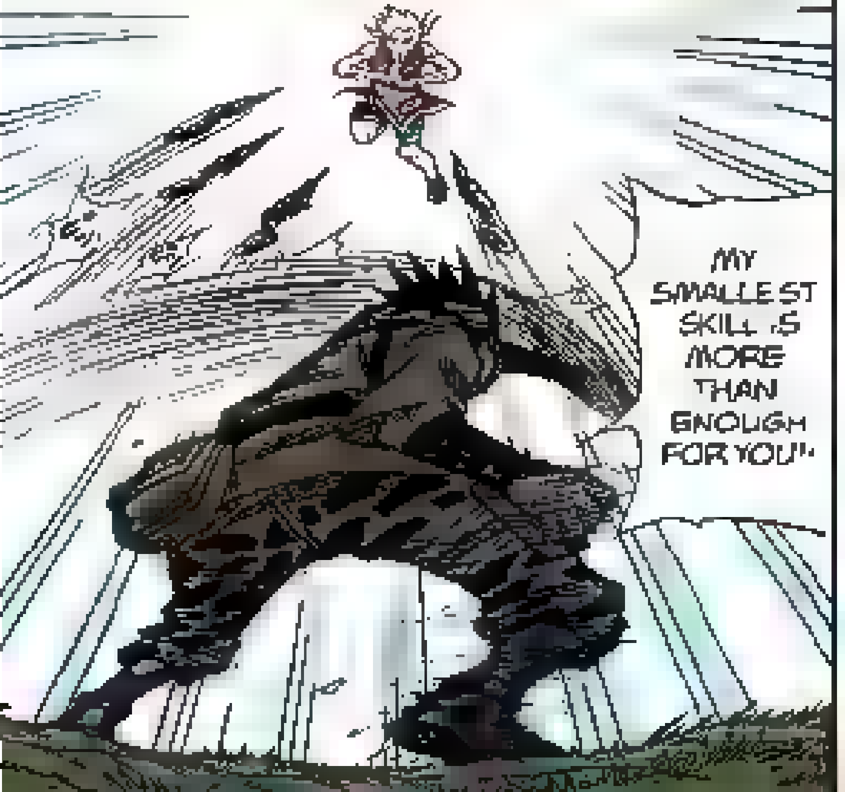
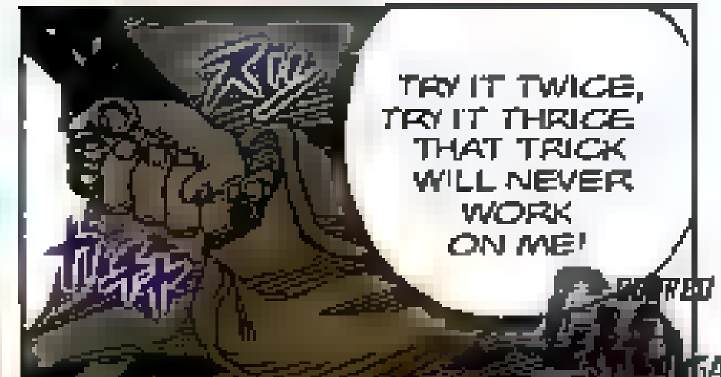

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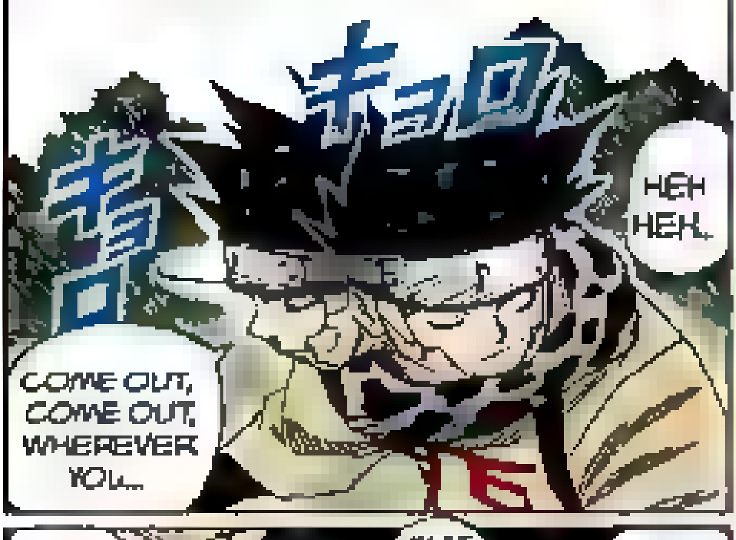




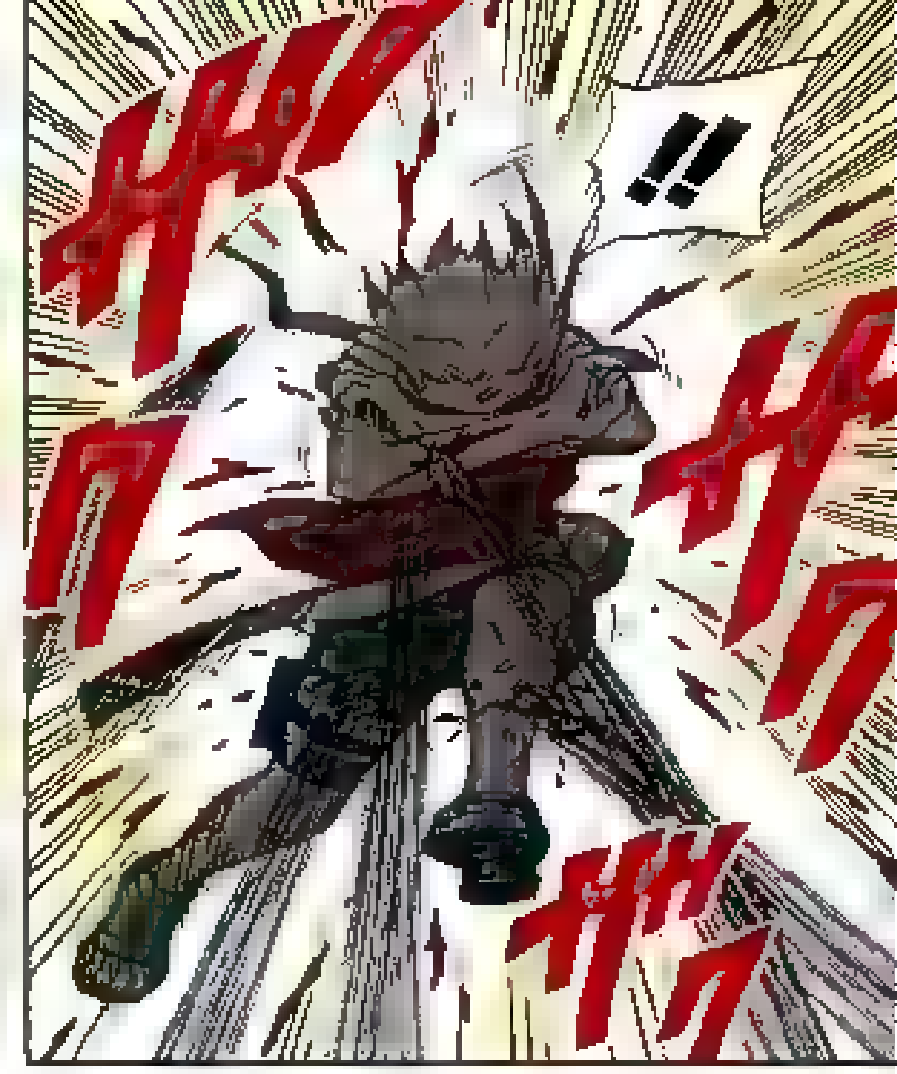


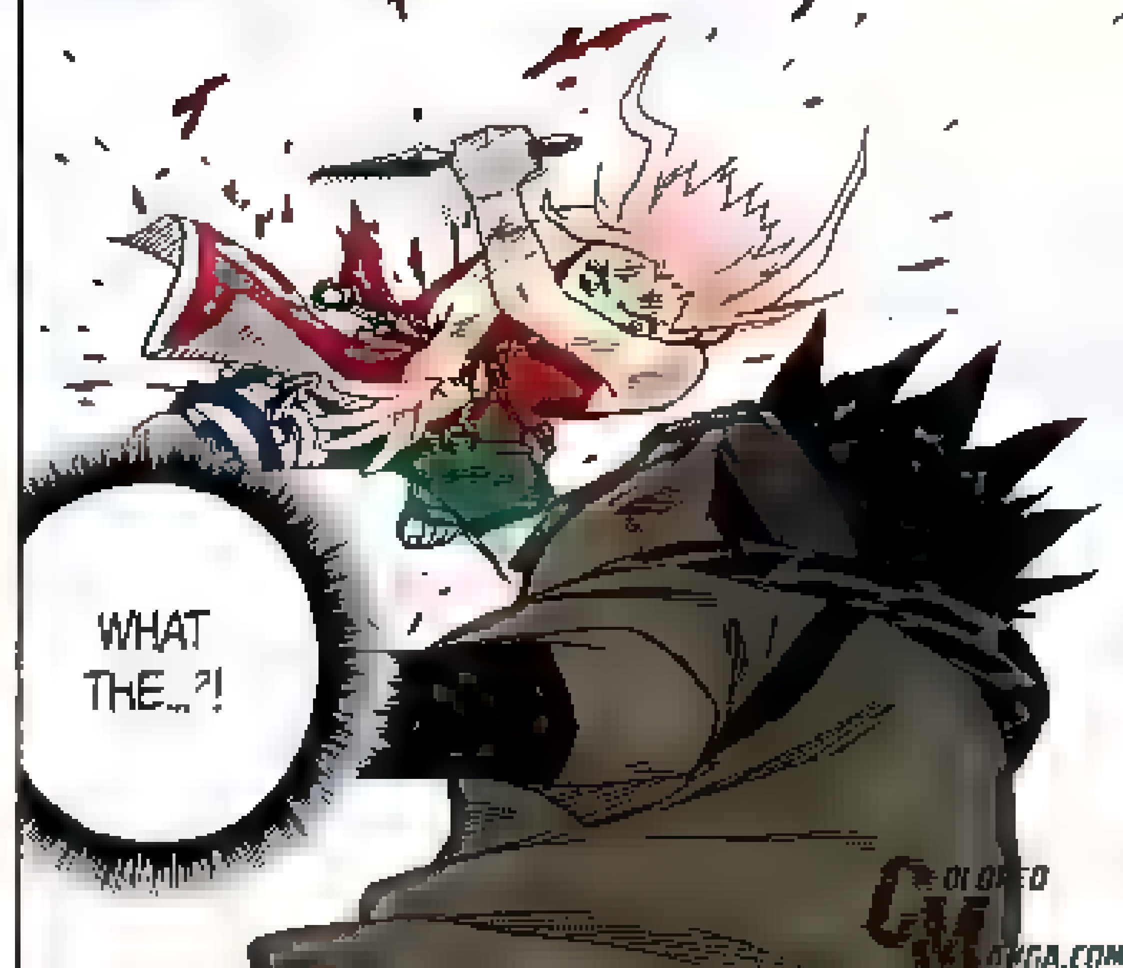
THE ART OF SUBSTITUTION!!
ZIGGING WHEN I ZAGGED.
SHE'S MAKING A MOCKERY OF THIS TRYING TO DECEIVE US WITH SUCH A RUDIMENTARY TECHNIQUE!
THE NERVE OF HER, COMING RIGHT FOR ME!
KIN, LOOK OUT!
GIVE IT UP.
THE AIR PRESSURE'S AT FULL STRENGTH WITH NO ULTRASONIC OUTPUT.


ZANKUHA! THE BLAST THAT SLICES THE AIR!!
POOR, FOOLISH GIRL. JUST A ONE-TRICK PONY.


!!

...YOU'RE OVER-HEAD!
OBVIOUSLY...


MY SMALLEST SKILL IS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR YOU!!

TRY IT TWICE, TRY IT THRICE THAT TRICK WILL NEVER WORK ON ME!


HEH HEH.
COME OUT, COME OUT, WHEREVER YOU...

PLIT
EH?
!
PLIT

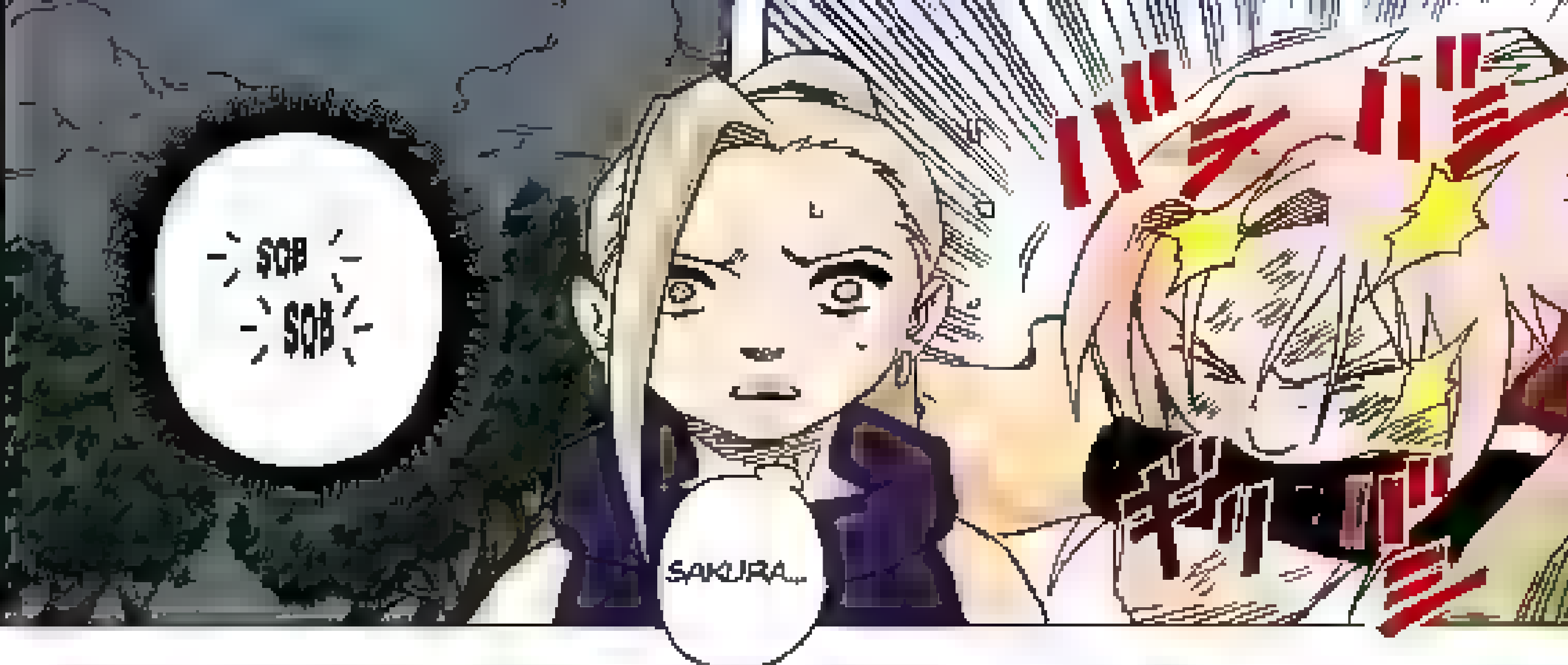

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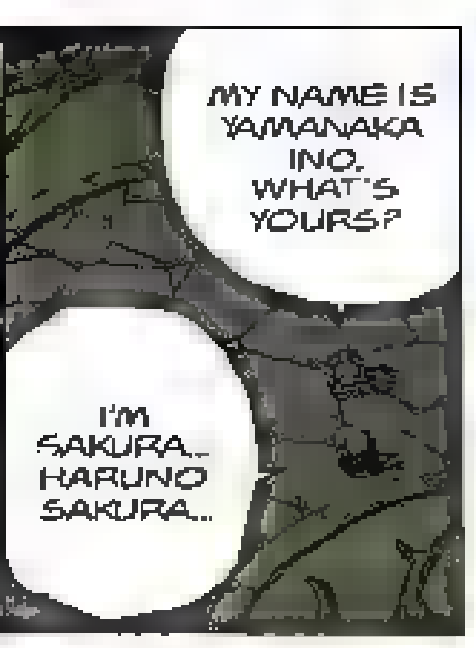
THIS TIME...
...IT'S REAL!!

WHAT THE...?!

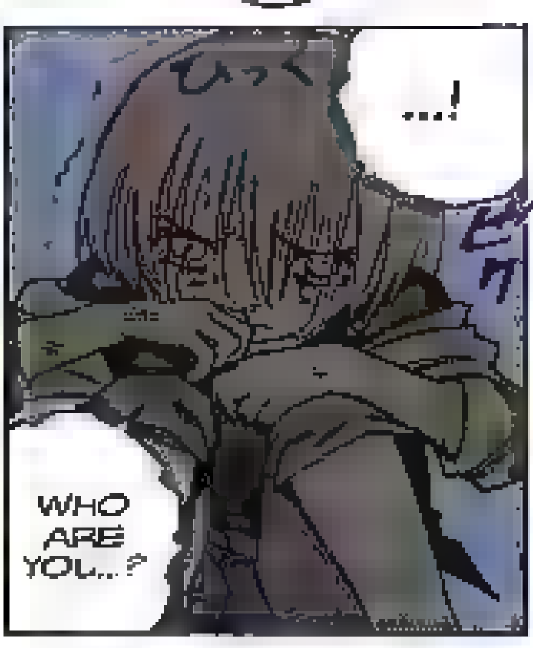

!!
ACK!
YANK


GET OFF!!

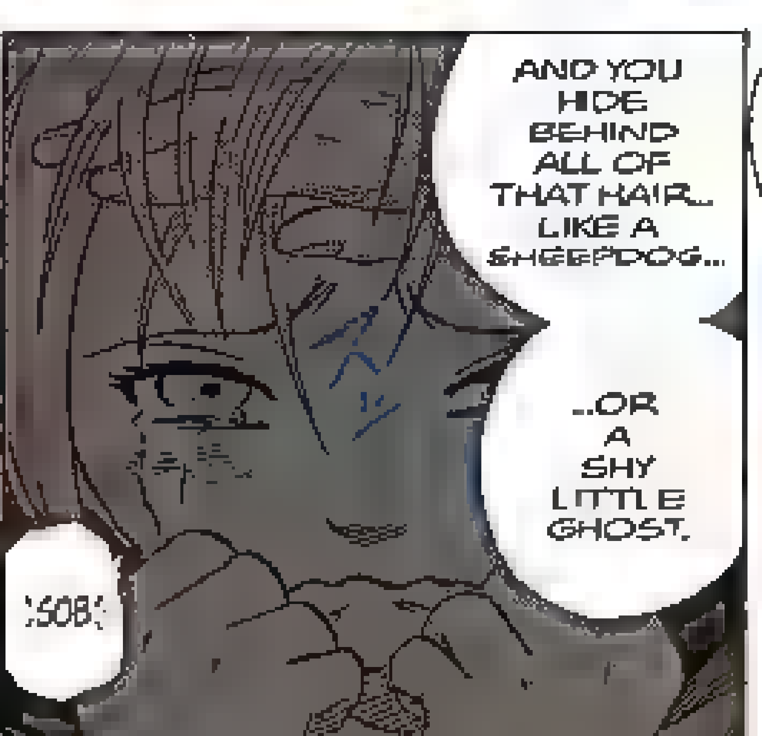

!
!
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!
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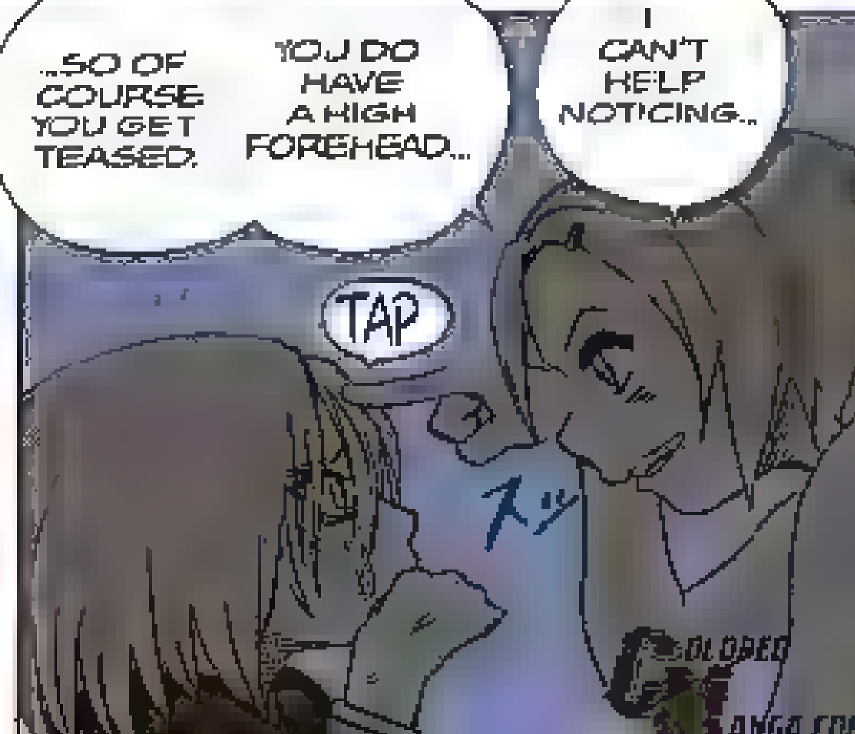

SOB
SOB
SAKURA...


MY NAME IS YAMANAKA INO. WHAT'S YOURS?
I'M SAKURA... HARUNO SAKURA...

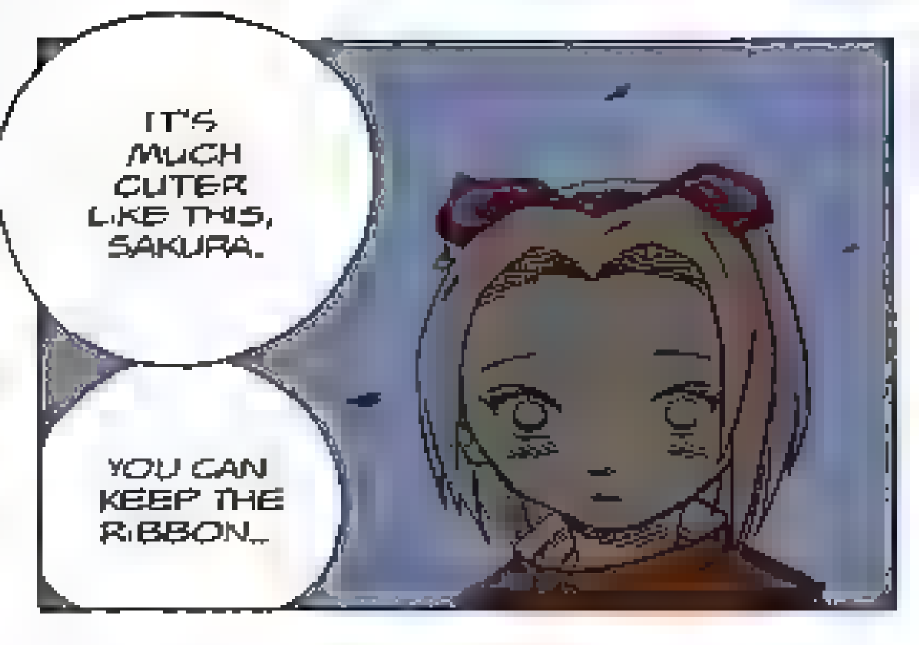
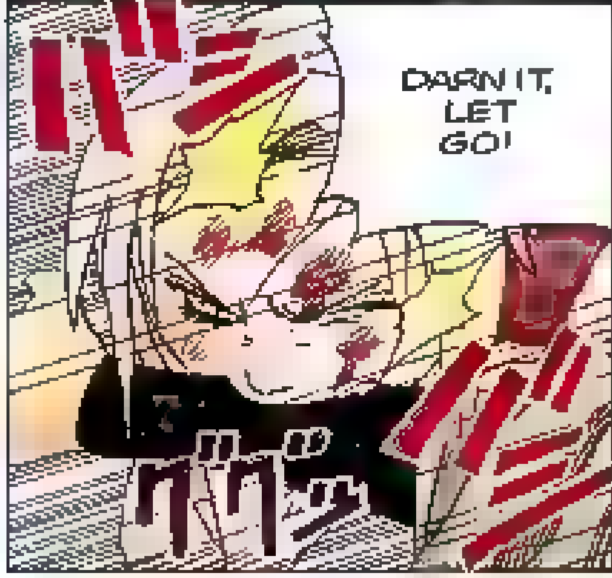

...!
WHO ARE YOU...?


!
EVERYONE ALWAYS CALLS YOU "BILLBOARD BROW," AND PICKS ON YOU...

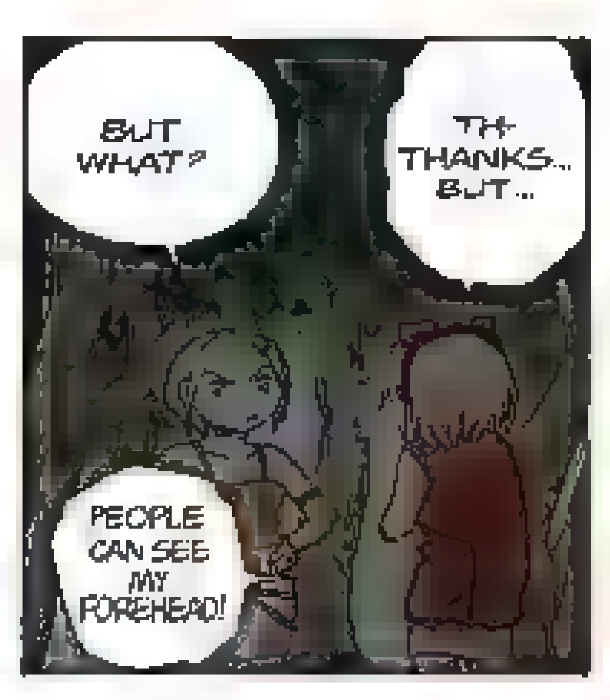

AND YOU HIDE BEHIND ALL OF THAT HAIR... LIKE A SHEEPDOG...
...OR A SHY LITTLE GHOST.
SOB

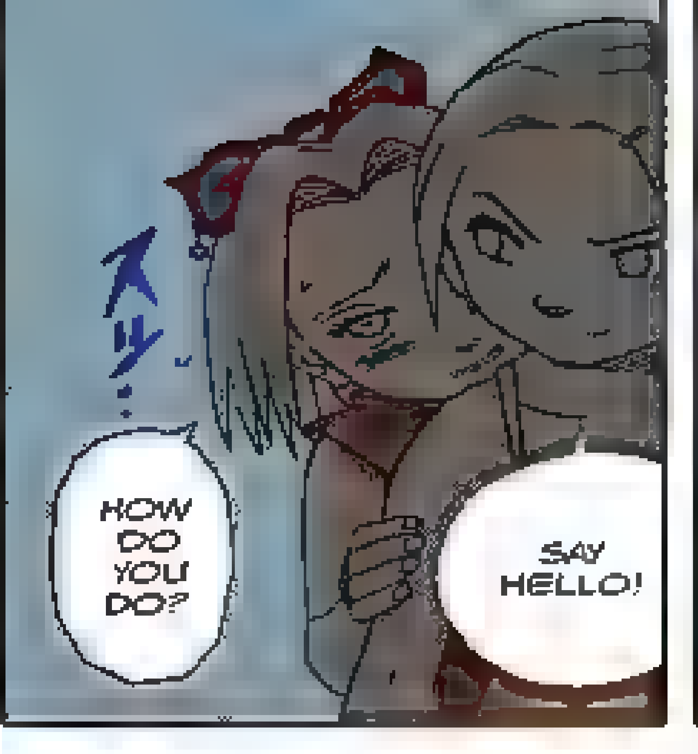

I CAN'T HELP NOTICING...
YOU DO HAVE A HIGH FOREHEAD...
...SO OF COURSE YOU GET TEASED.
TAP

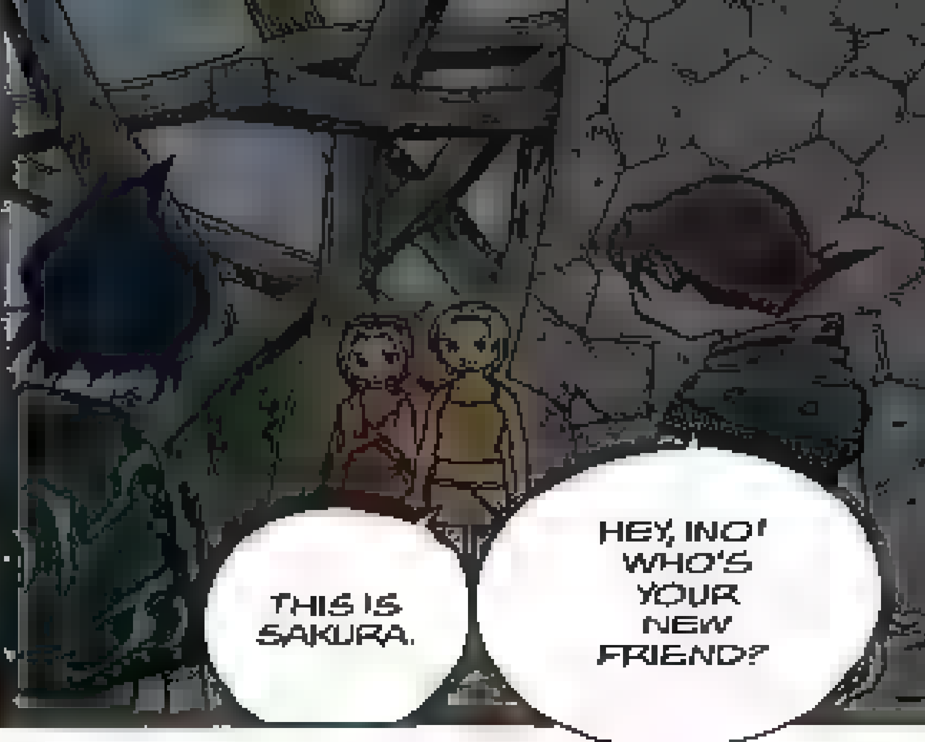

HUH?
TELL YOU WHAT, SAKURA... MEET ME HERE AGAIN TOMORROW, OKAY?
I'LL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE SO DON'T STAND ME UP.

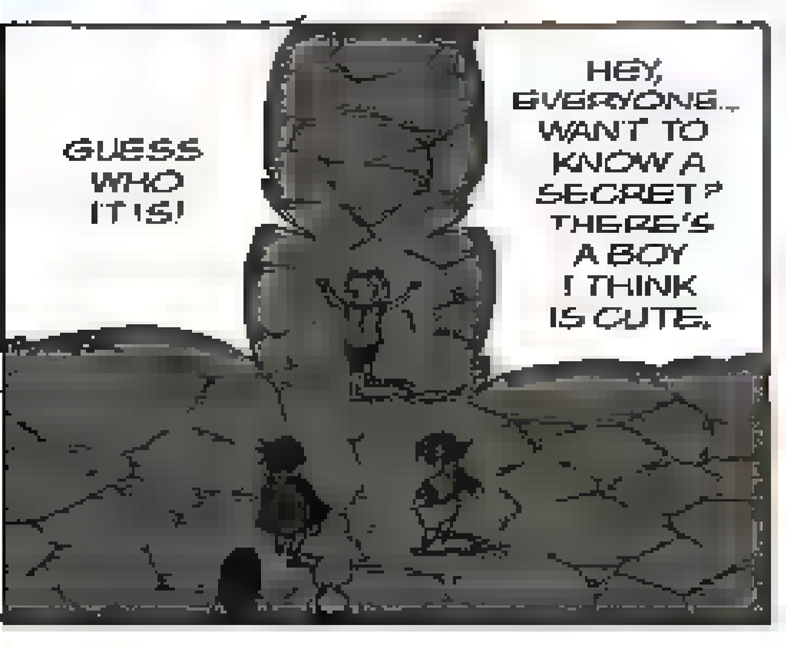

!

IT'S MUCH CUTER LIKE THIS, SAKURA.
YOU CAN KEEP THE RIBBON...

DARN IT, LET GO!

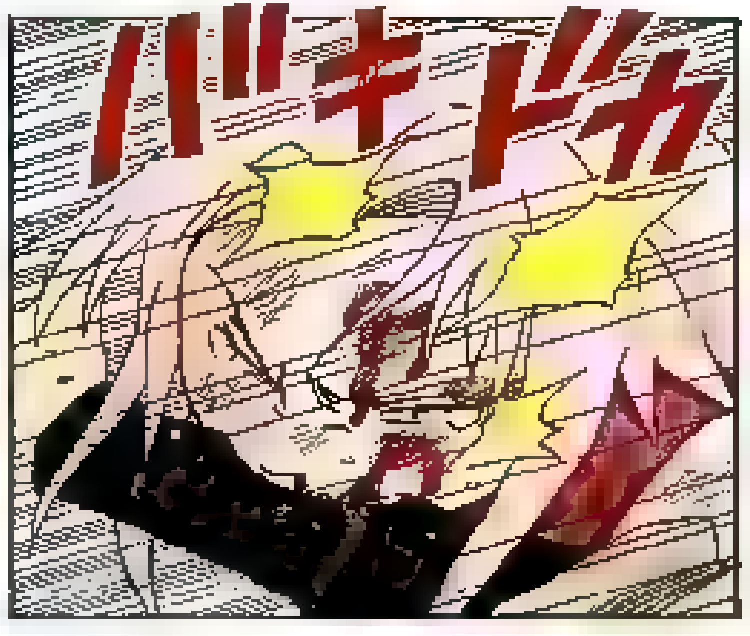
LET THE WORLD SEE THAT PRETTY FACE!! STRIKE A POSE!
INO...

THE ONLY REASON THEY TEASE YOU ABOUT IT IS BECAUSE YOU'VE MADE IT OBVIOUS YOU'RE SENSITIVE. DON'T PLAY THEIR GAME. SHOW IT OFF!

TH- THANKS... BUT...
BUT WHAT?
PEOPLE CAN SEE MY FOREHEAD!

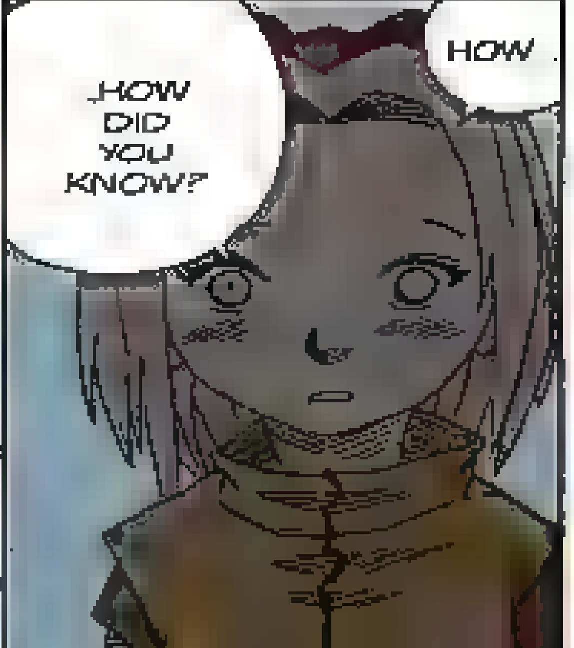


スッ
SAY HELLO!
HOW DO YOU DO?


HEY, INO! WHO'S YOUR NEW FRIEND?
THIS IS SAKURA.

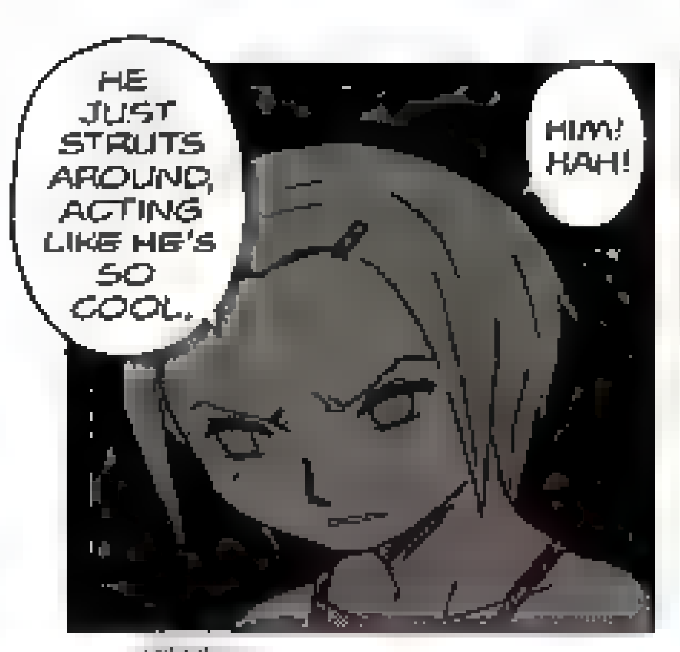

HEY, EVERYONE... WANT TO KNOW A SECRET? THERE'S A BOY I THINK IS CUTE.
GUESS WHO IT IS!

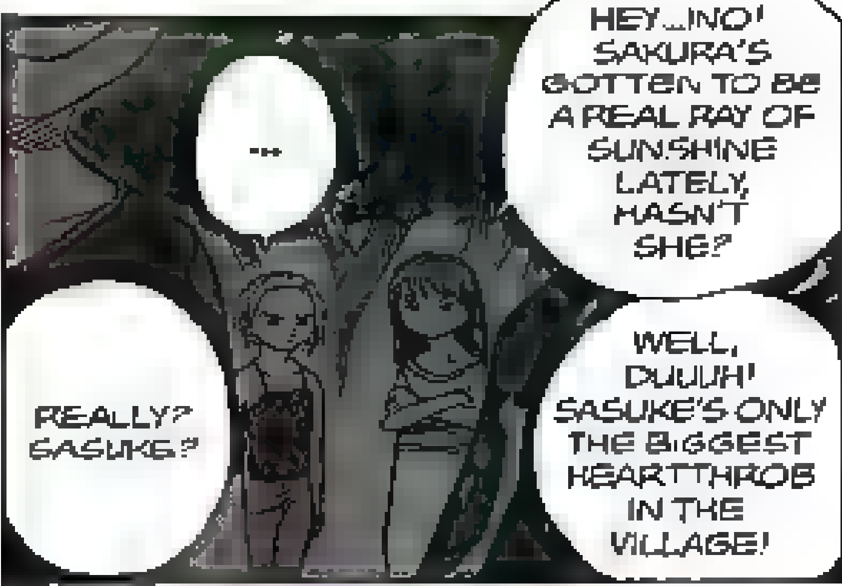

バキドカ

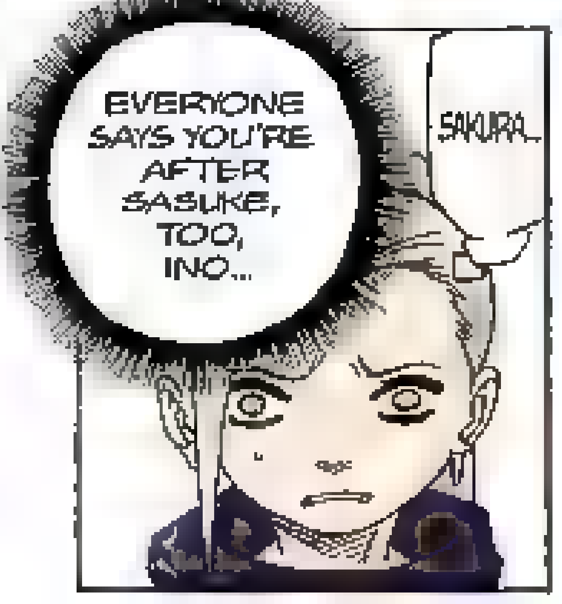



HOW
HOW DID YOU KNOW?

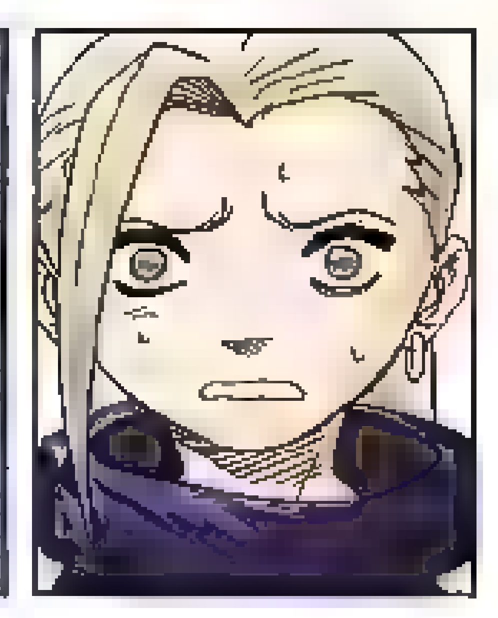

WHAT ARE WE, MIND READERS?!
DON'T TELL ME IT'S SASUKE!


HE JUST STRUTS AROUND, ACTING LIKE HE'S SO COOL.
HIM! HAH!


...
HEY...INO! SAKURA'S GOTTEN TO BE A REAL RAY OF SUNSHINE LATELY, HASN'T SHE?
REALLY? SASUKE?
WELL, DUUUH! SASUKE'S ONLY THE BIGGEST HEARTTHROB IN THE VILLAGE!

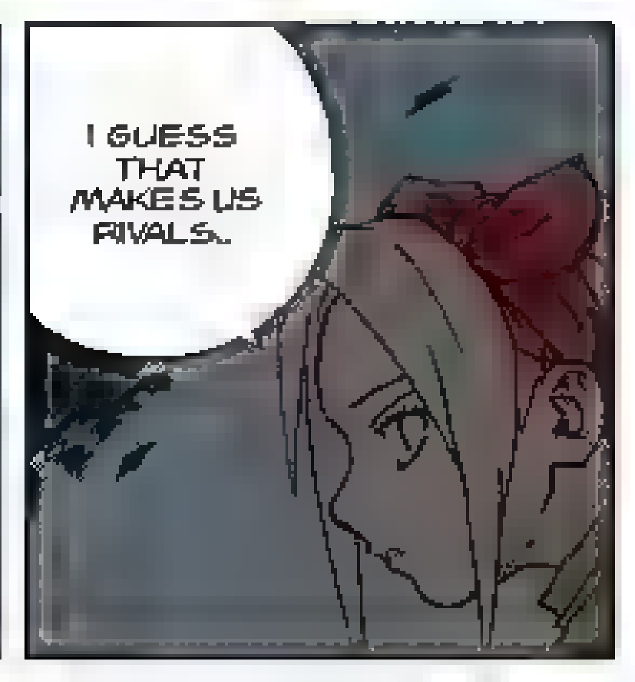

EVERYONE SAYS YOU'RE AFTER SASUKE, TOO, INO...
SAKURA...


HEY, INO! SASUKE SEEMS TO LIKE GIRLS WITH LONG HAIR, SO I'M GOING TO GROW MINE...



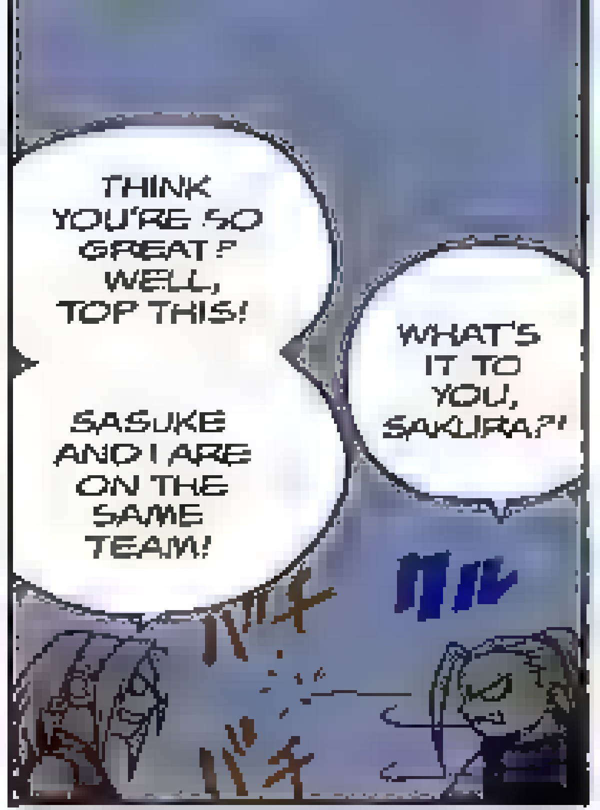


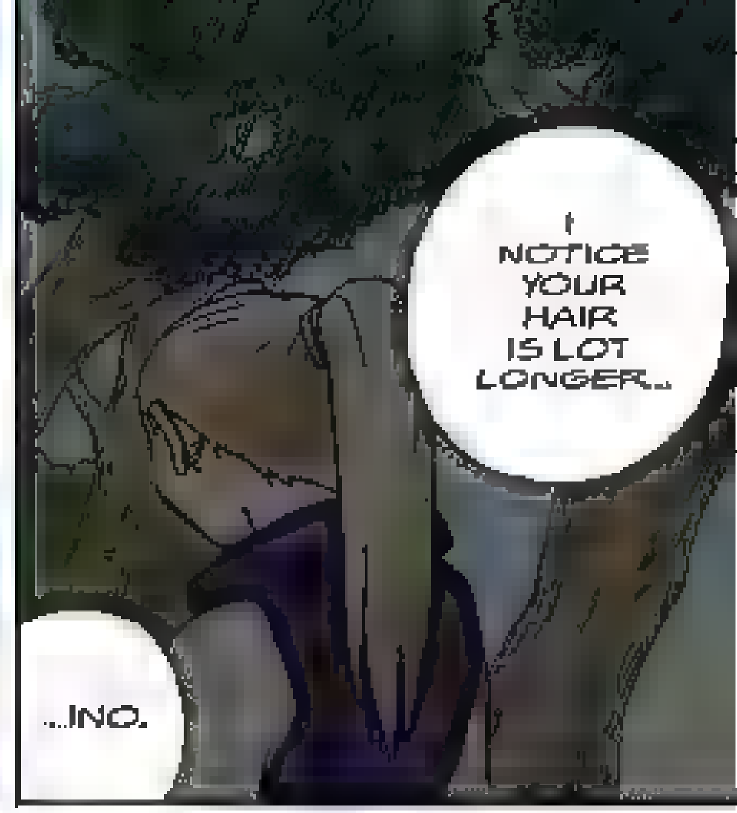


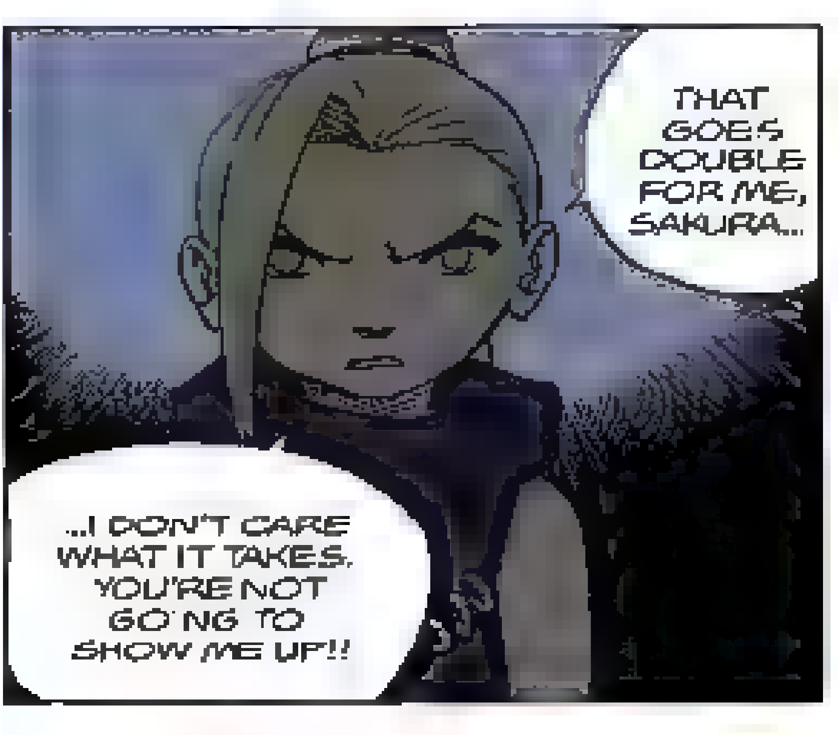

I GUESS THAT MAKES US RIVALS.

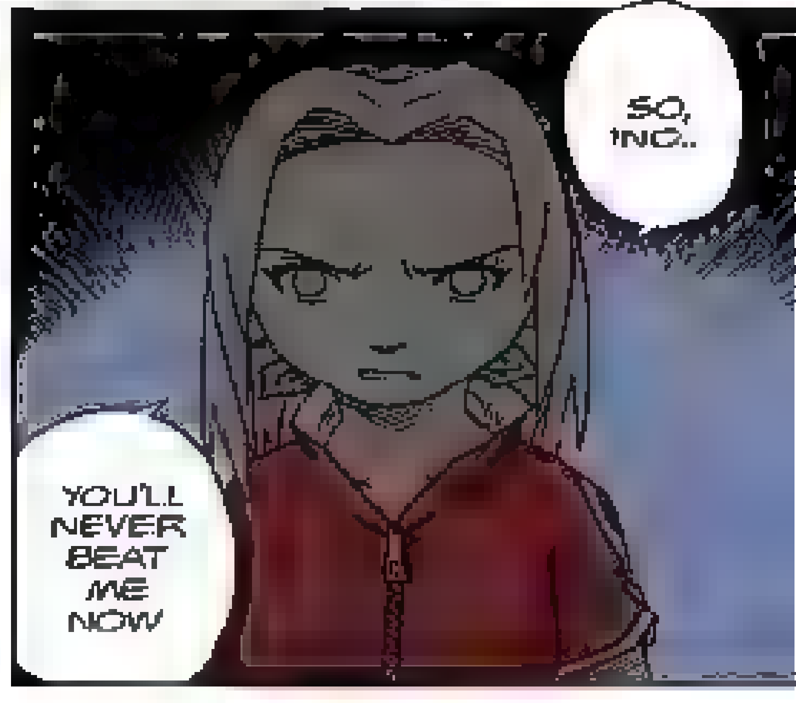

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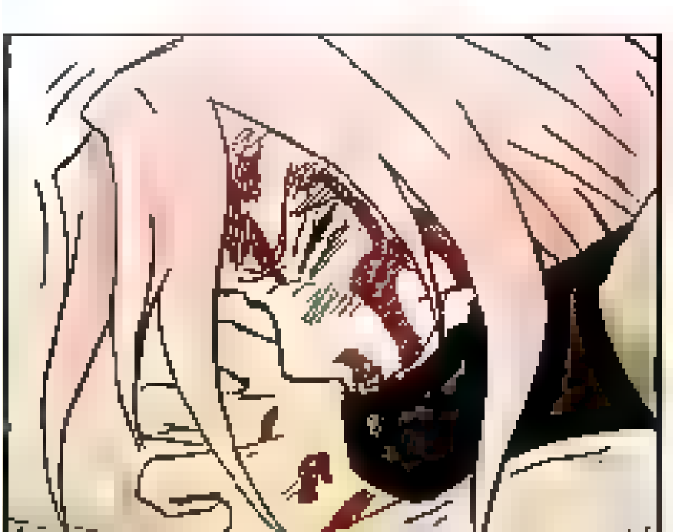

WHAT?!


THINK YOU'RE SO GREAT? WELL, TOP THIS!
SASUKE AND I ARE ON THE SAME TEAM!
WHAT'S IT TO YOU, SAKURA?!
バチ
バチ

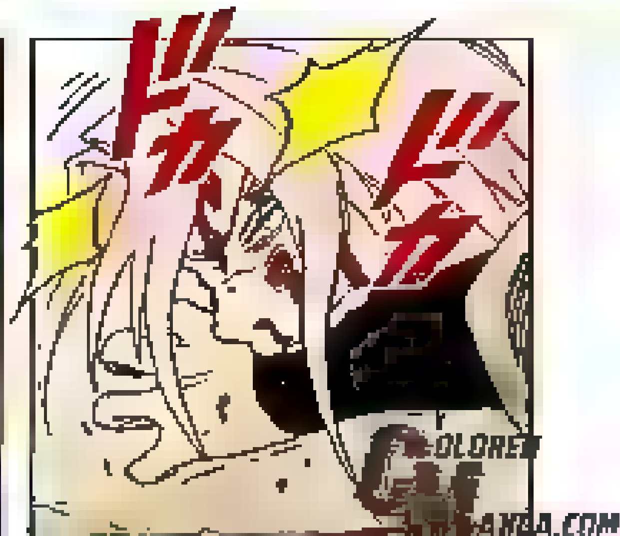

I NOTICE YOUR HAIR IS LOT LONGER...
...INO.

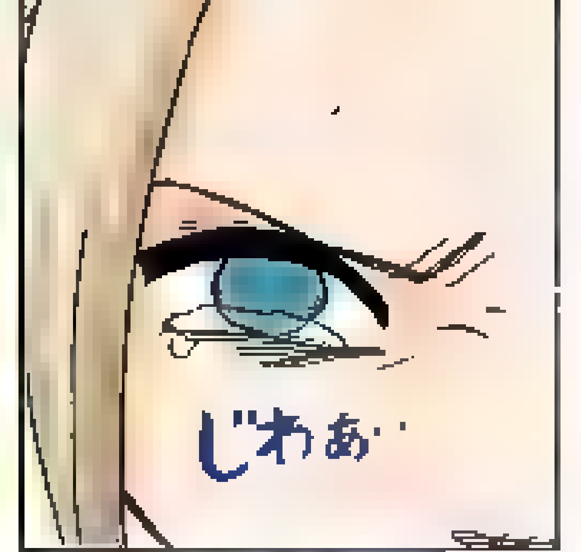

THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR ME, SAKURA...
...I DON'T CARE WHAT IT TAKES. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SHOW ME UP!!


SO, INO..
YOU'LL NEVER BEAT ME NOW



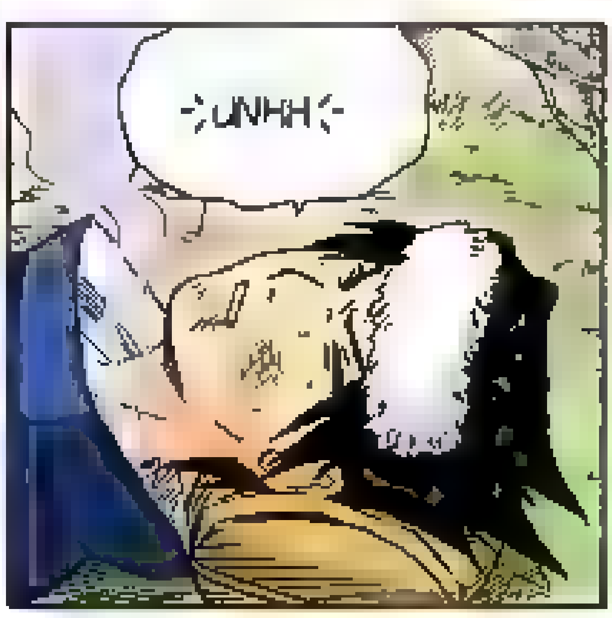





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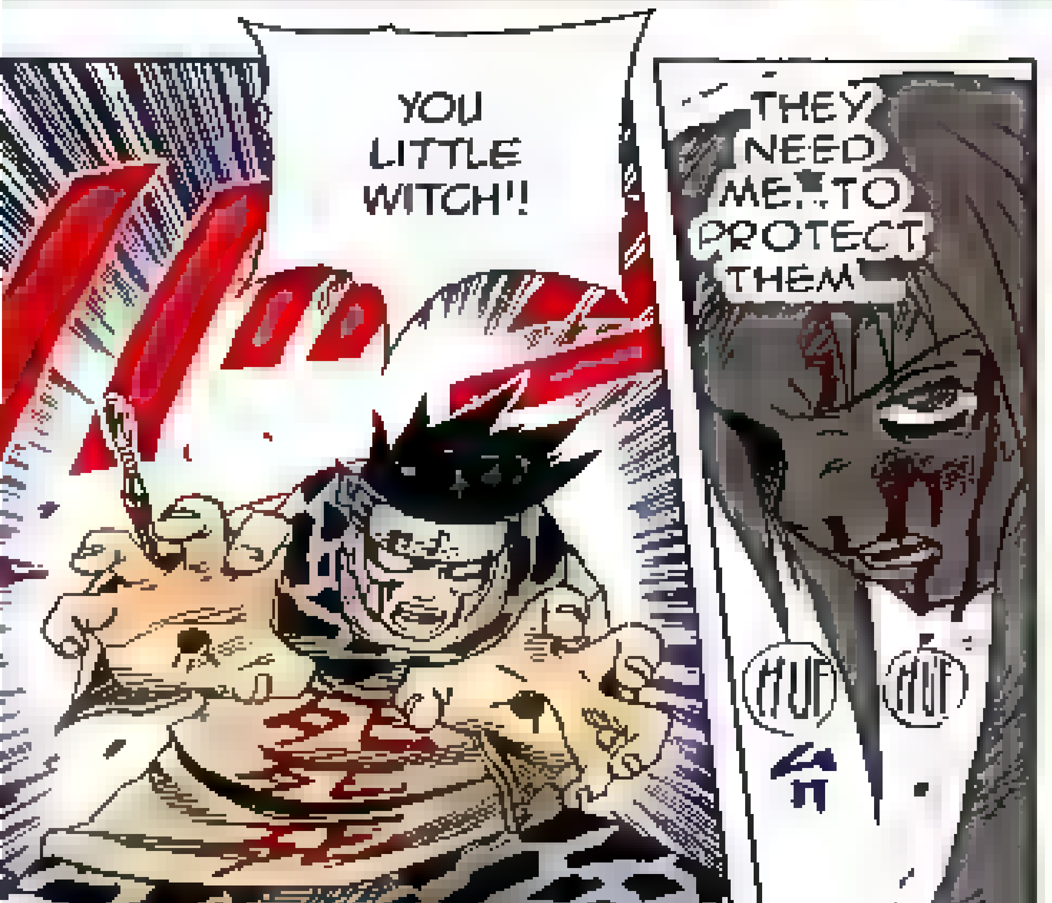





UNHH



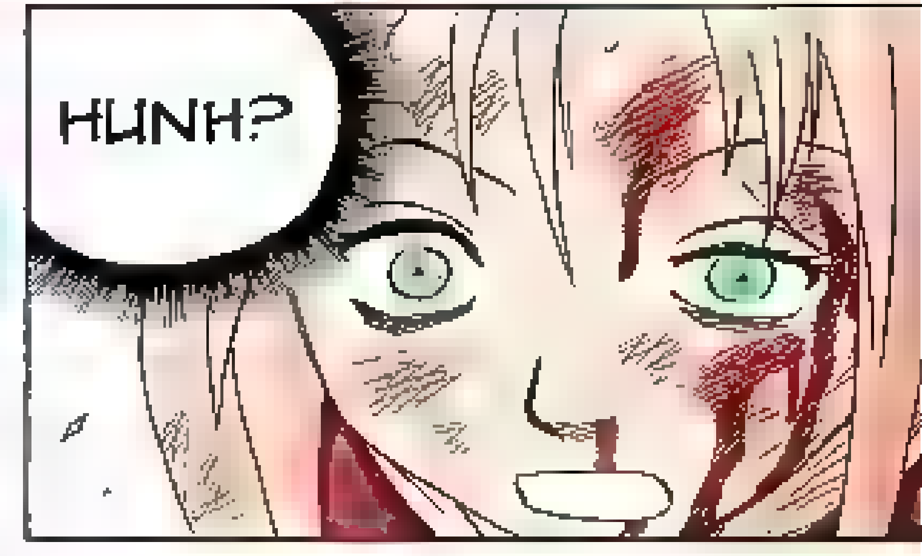

TH-THIS IS NOT GOOD...!
INO! INO.. COME ON!

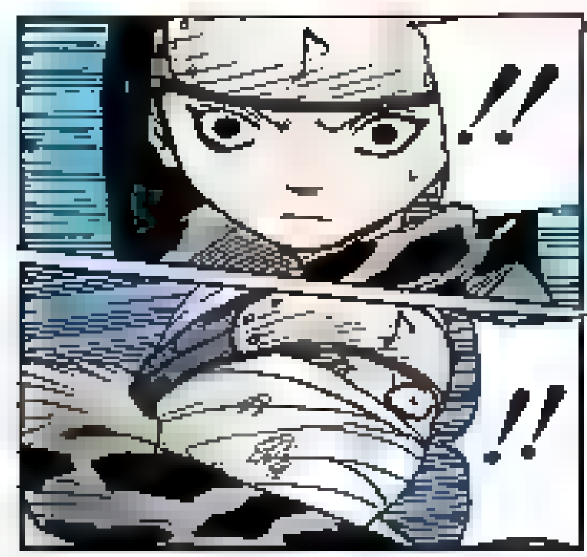

YOU LITTLE WITCH!!
THEY NEED ME...TO PROTECT THEM
HUF
HUF

!!


INO...
SAKURA... I TOLD YOU.
...I'D NEVER LET YOU SHOW ME UP!

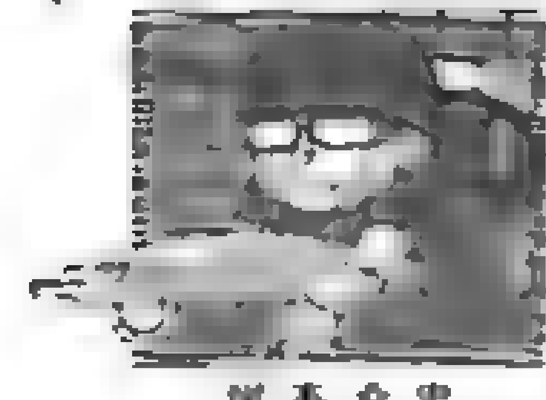

HMMPH! THE FREAK PARADE JUST GOES ON AND ON...


HUNH?


!!
!!


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NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 7



岸本斉史

This volume of Naruto is apparently the first to be created entirely digitally. My guess is that, in the future, manga production will continue to move further and further into this kind of production and away from the more traditional methods. Both the backgrounds and the characters themselves are created in software as polygons, and once the initial design and programming is done, any imaginable composition is possible. For action sequences, we use motion capture to create and manipulate the coolest poses we can come up with. It's all done on the computer, without using any paper or ink. Our methods will probably continue to change as the technology evolves... but there's one thing that won't ever change: the need to invent good stories."

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2001

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** ("Mechanism"). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

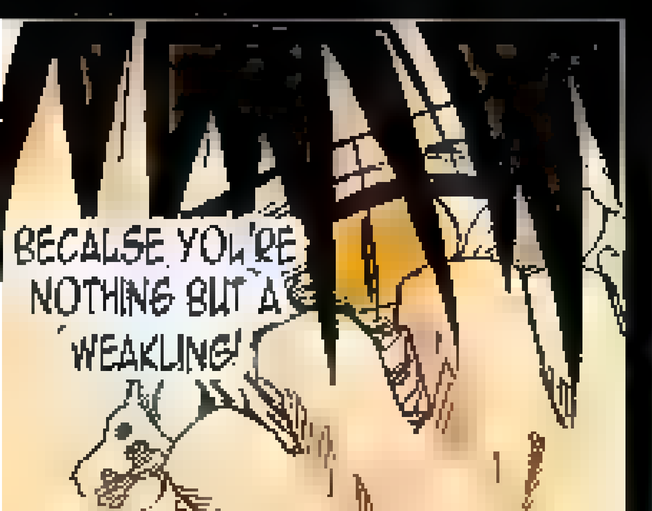


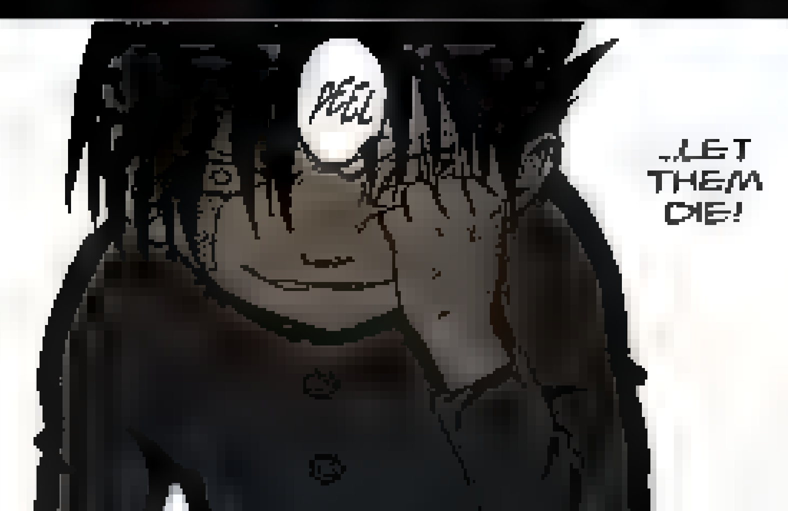
55 : NO HOLDS BARRED!!







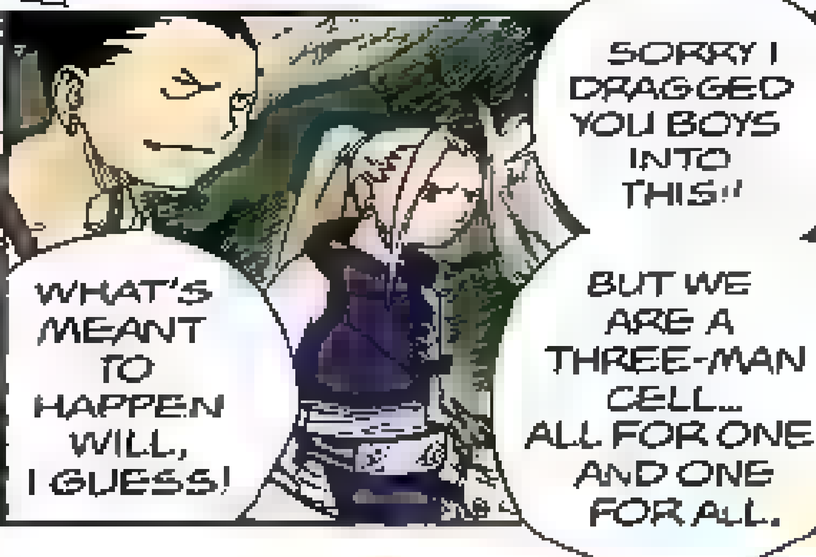





UNH...
55 : NO HOLDS BARRED!!
INO...
WHY...?
DID YOU THINK I WAS GOING TO LET YOU MAKE THE BIG SACRIFICE..
..AND HOG ALL THE GLORY IN FRONT OF SASUKE?!
MORE OF THESE ANNOYING LITTLE BUGS FROM KONOHA VILLAGE HAVE CREPT IN.. AND STARTED SWARMING

NOPE! NO WAY. SORRY, BUDDY, BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT IS!
WE'RE THE MEN HERE! WE CAN'T RUN AWAY WHEN INO'S READY TO RISK HER LIFE FIGHTING! NOT EVEN IF WE DIE!!
SHIKAMARU... LET GO OF ME!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU GUYS THINKING?!
THOSE CREEPS ARE TOO DANGEROUS! THEY'LL EAT US ALIVE!!





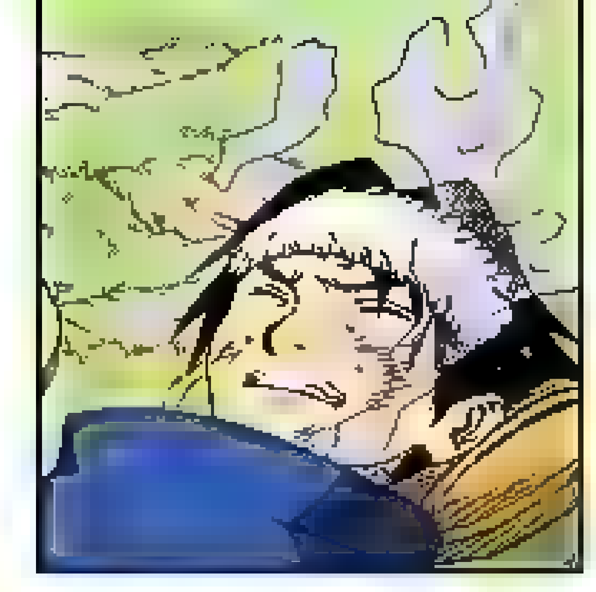


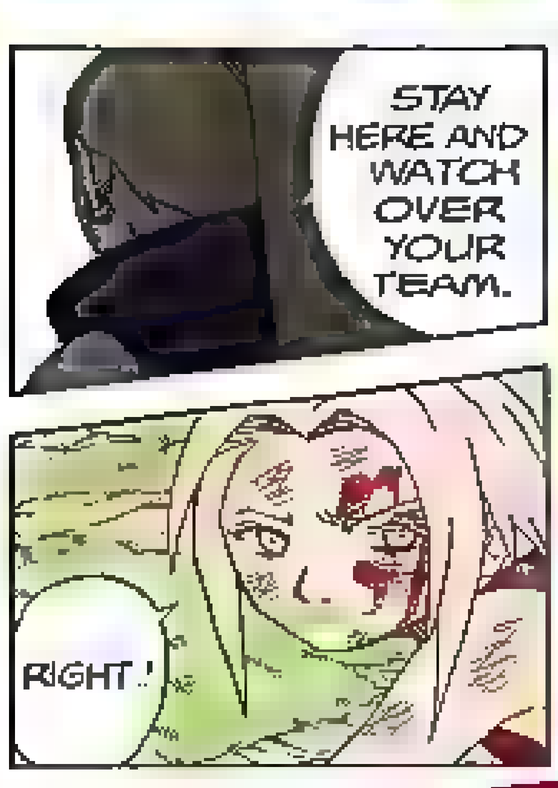
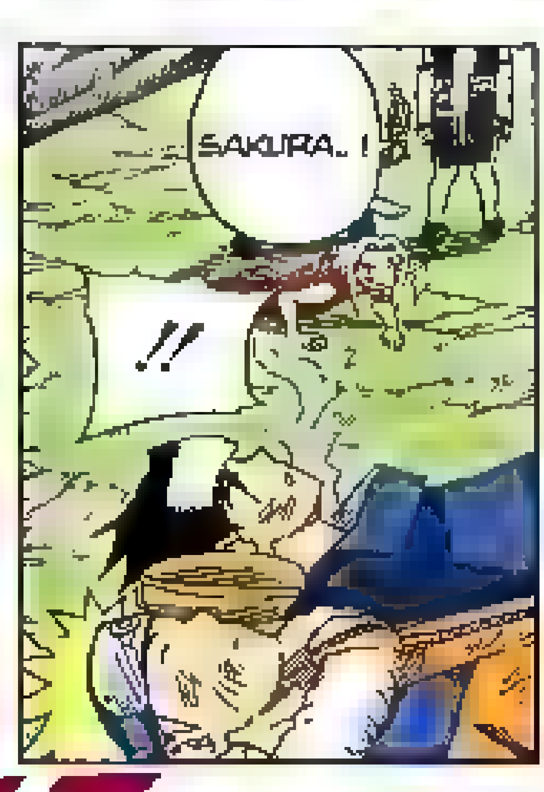
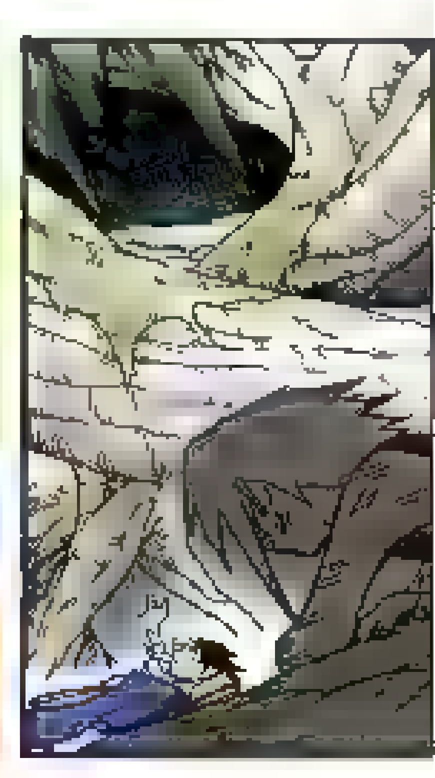
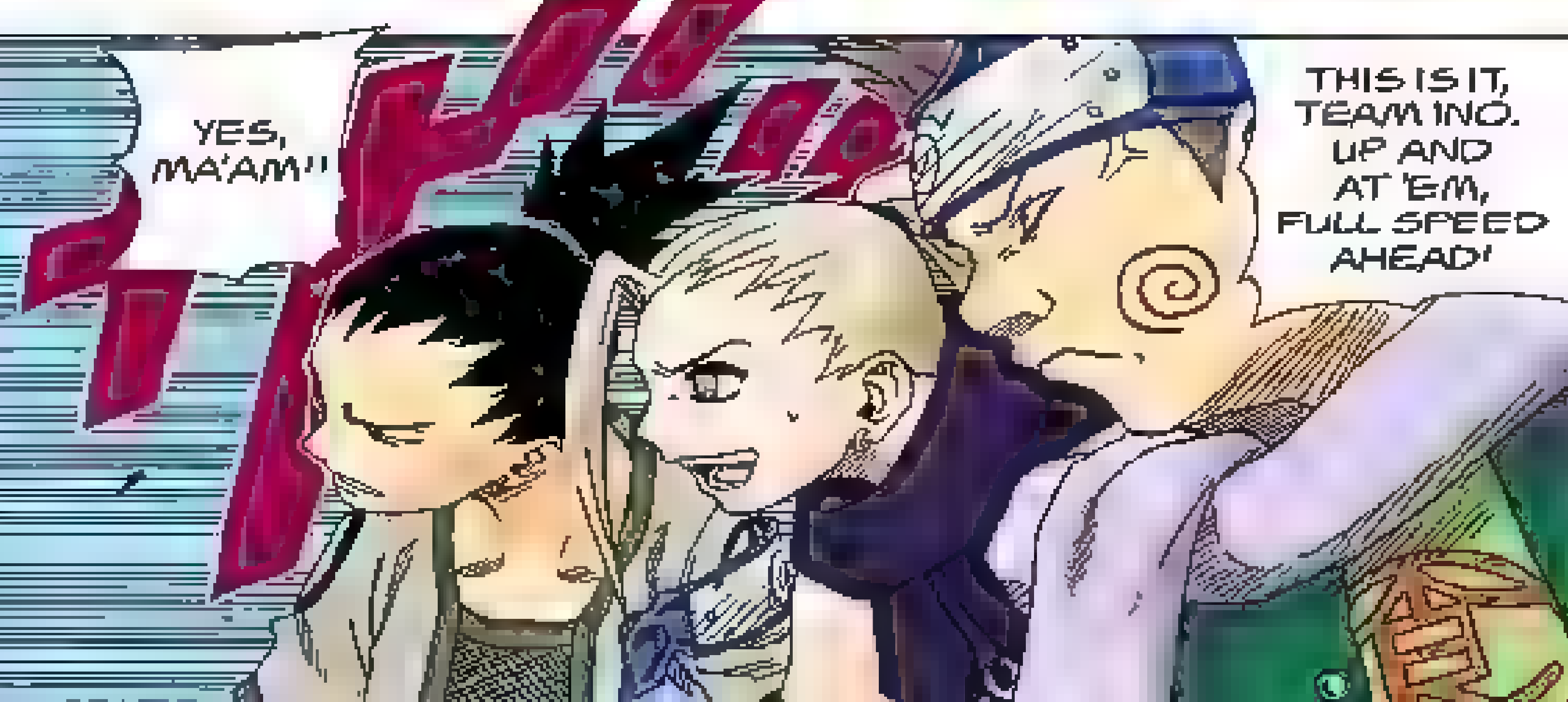






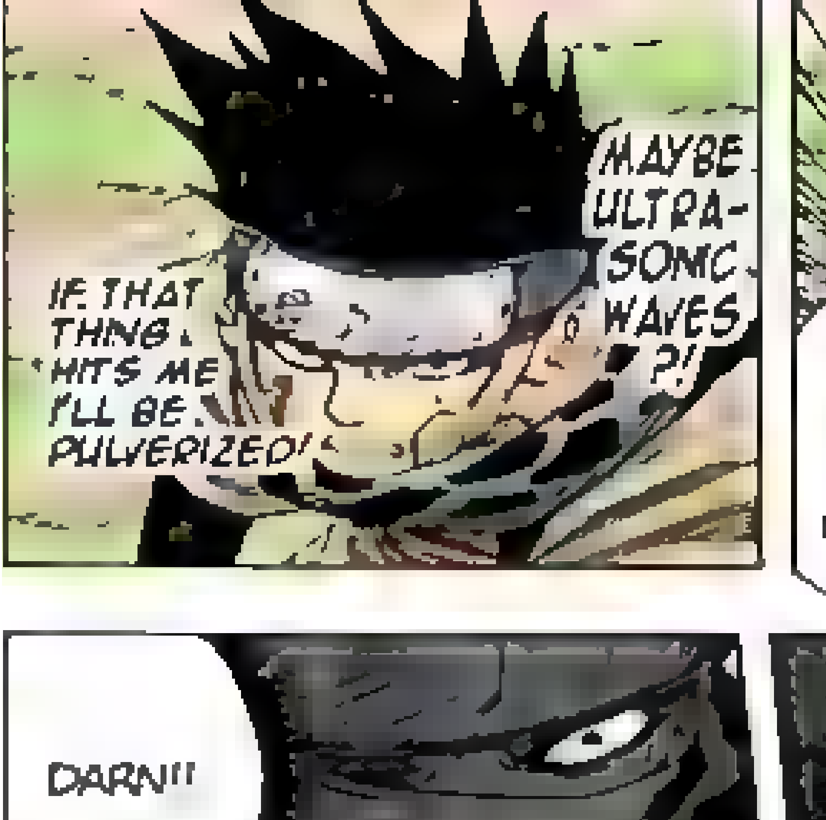

I'M NOT FAT!!
I'M JUST PLEASINGLY PLUMP!!
DOES EVERYONE UNDER-STAND?! DO YOU GET ME?!
KONOHA AND THE SOUND NINJA ARE AT WAR!
RRROARRR
PLEASINGLY PLUMP PEOPLE UNITE!!!
UNREAL!
GOOD LUCK! ♡ CHOJI'S LOST IT!
THIS IS TURNING INTO A COMPLETE MESS!
SHHF



OUR ORDERS WERE TO FIND AND KILL UCHIHA SASUKE UNDER THE COVER OF THIS EXAM, BUT ..
..IT CERTAINLY IS.

STAY HERE AND WATCH OVER YOUR TEAM.
RIGHT.!

SAKURA.. !
!!


THIS IS IT, TEAM INO. UP AND AT 'EM, FULL SPEED AHEAD!
YES, MA'AM!!


OKAY!!
INO-SHIKA-CHO BOAR-DEER-BUTTERFLY FORMATION!!

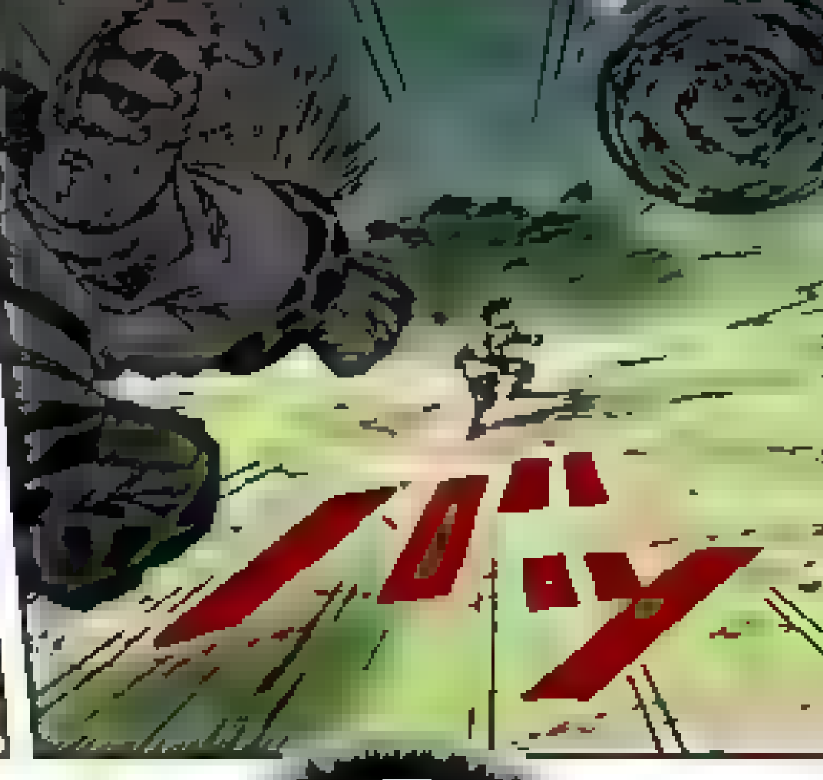

WHAT KIND OF FREAKIN ART IS THAT!!
!
HMPH!
JUST A FAT GUY ROLLING HIMSELF AROUND!
ZANKUHA! SLICING THE AIR!!
ズゴゴゴ
!!
FLYING!! HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE!!


IF THAT THING HITS ME I'LL BE PULVERIZED!
MAYBE ULTRA-SONIC WAVES ?!

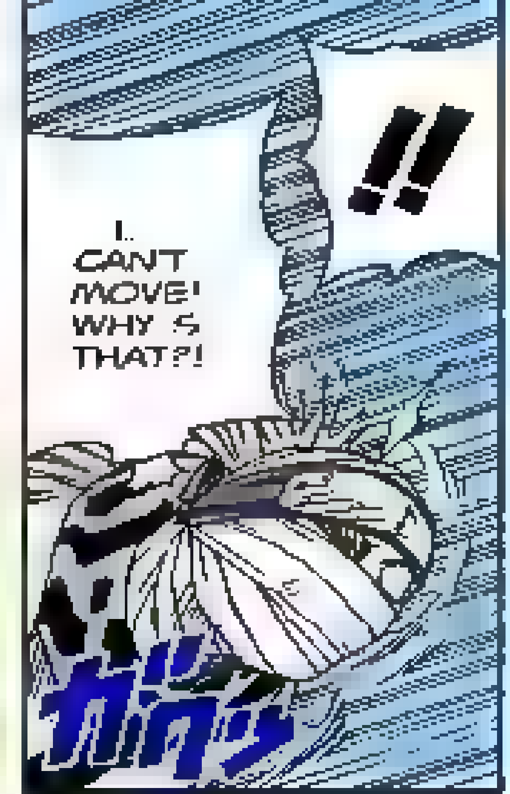

WITH THAT KIND OF ROTATION SO MUCH FOR AIR PRESSURE

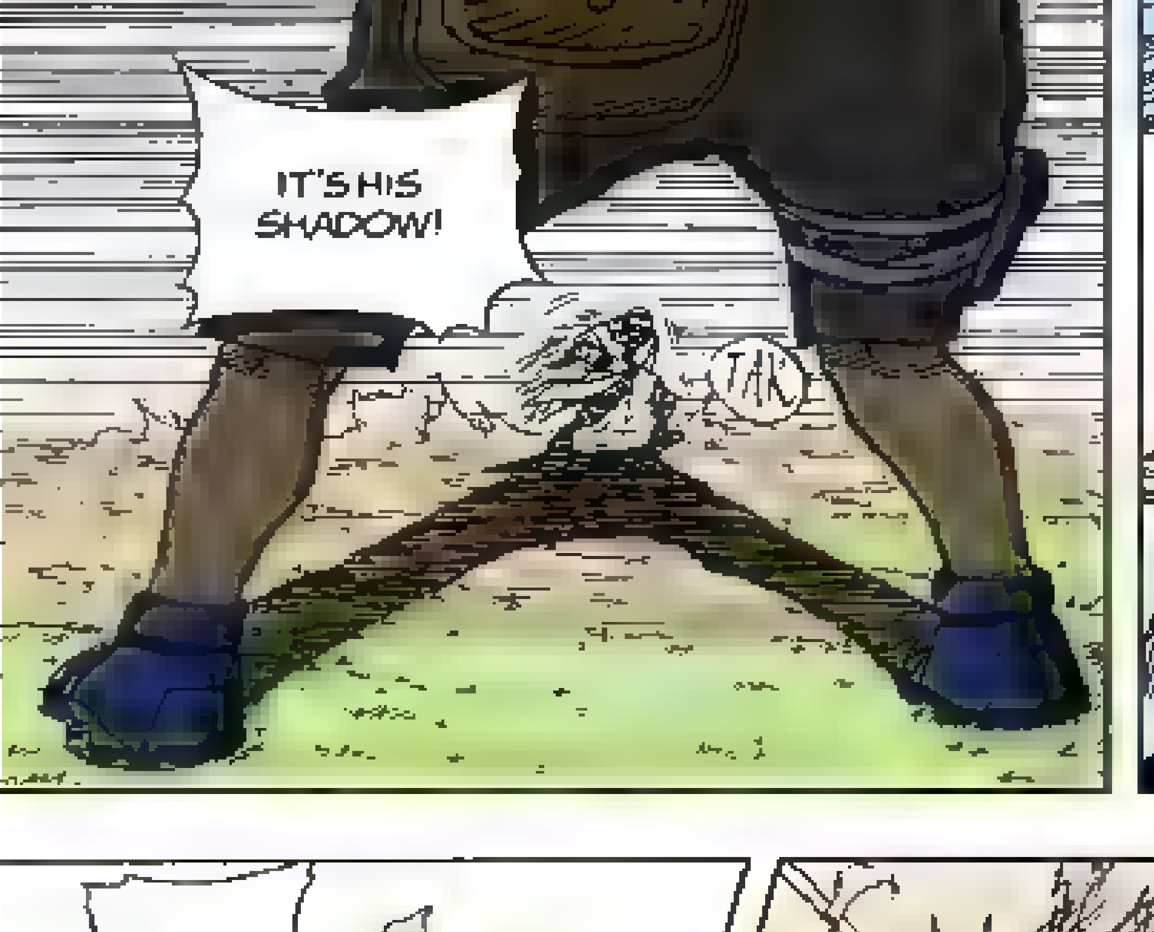

DARN!!


SINCE YOU'VE BEEN THE BIGGEST PAIN IN EVERYBODY'S ASCOT
OH, NO YOU DON'T!




ART OF ME-AND-MY-SHADOW!!





AUGH!!

!?

WHAT THE...?!

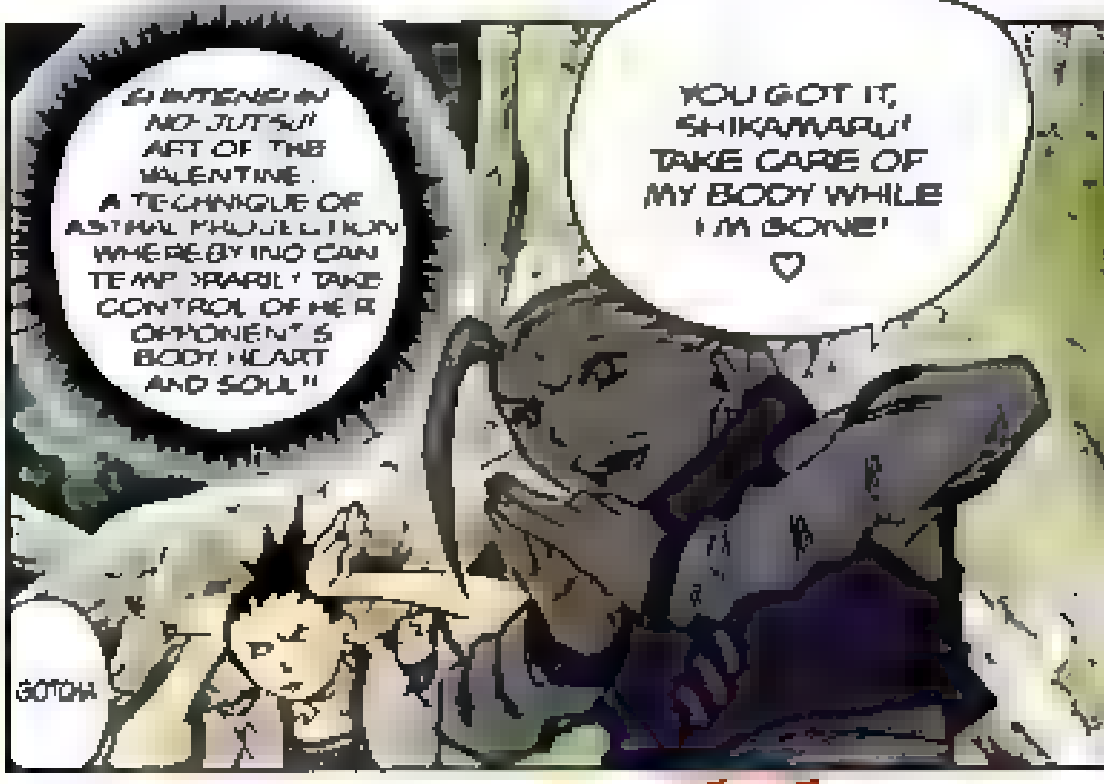
!?

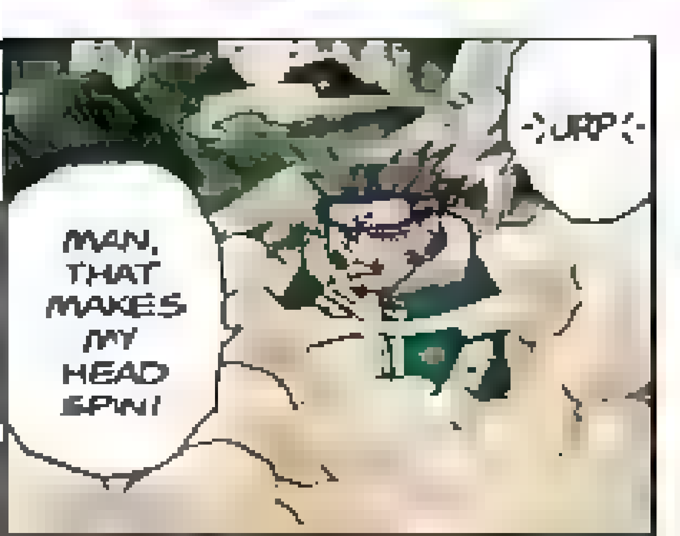
WH WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT A TIME LIKE THIS?! DOSU!

KAGEMANE-NO-JUTSU: THE ART OF ME AND MY SHADOW. SHIKAMARU'S HALLMARK TECHNIQUE WHERE HE JOINS AND ATTACHES HIS OWN SHADOW TO THAT OF HIS OPPONENT, FORCING HIS ENEMY TO MIMIC EVERY MOVE HE MAKES! HE CAN DO THIS ONLY BRIEFLY AT ANY GIVEN TIME.

INO! THE WOMAN IS THE ONLY ONE LEFT

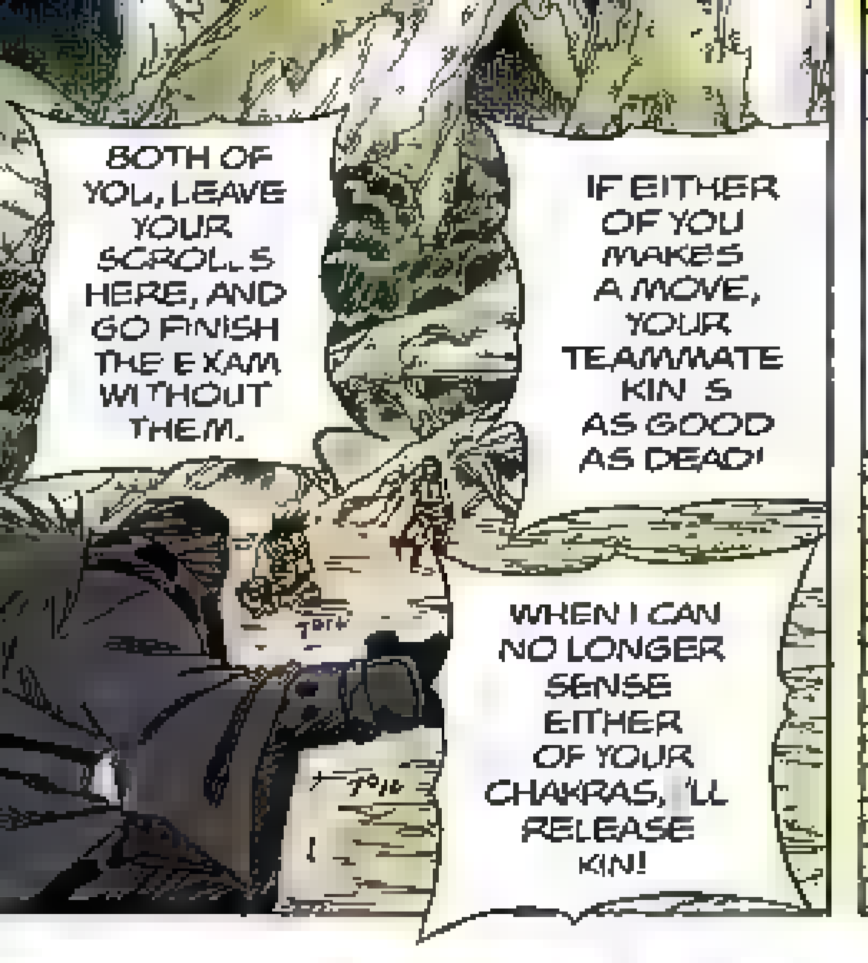
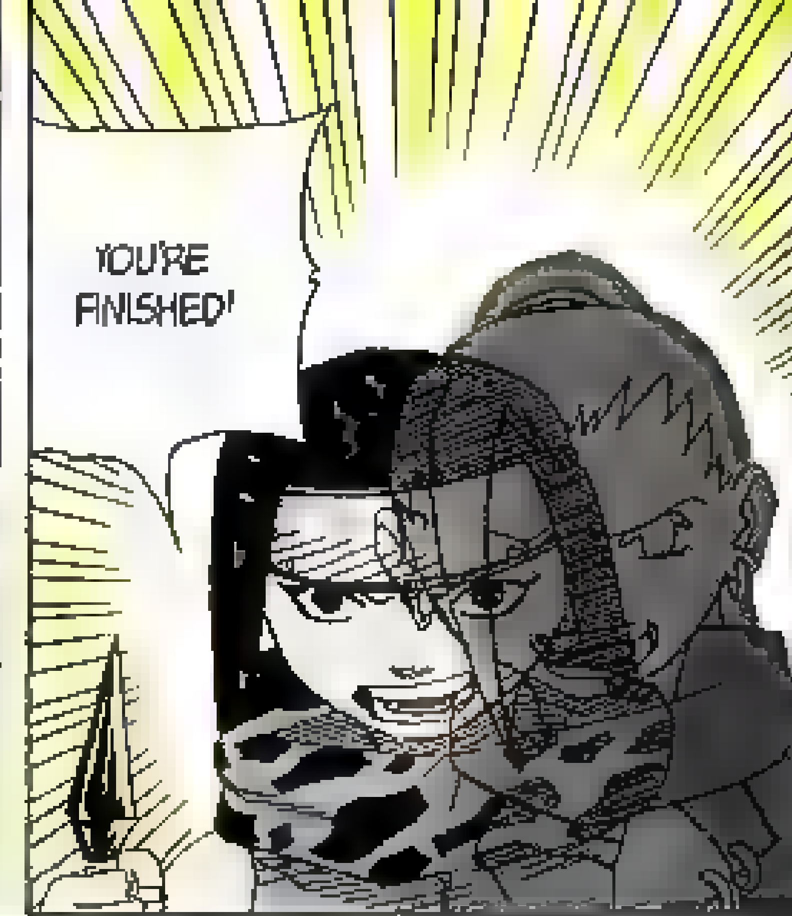
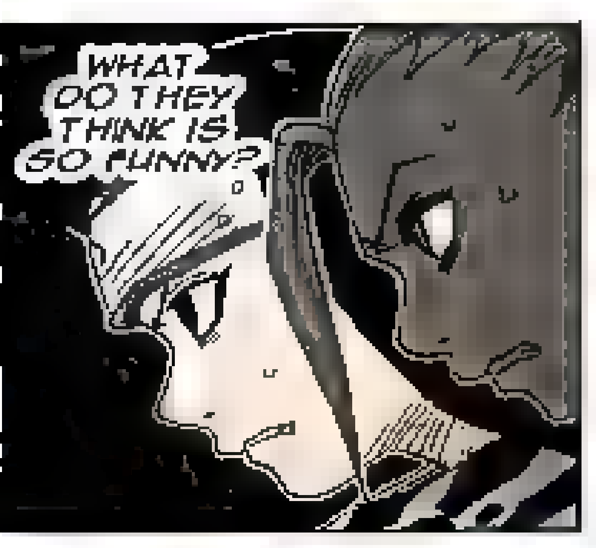


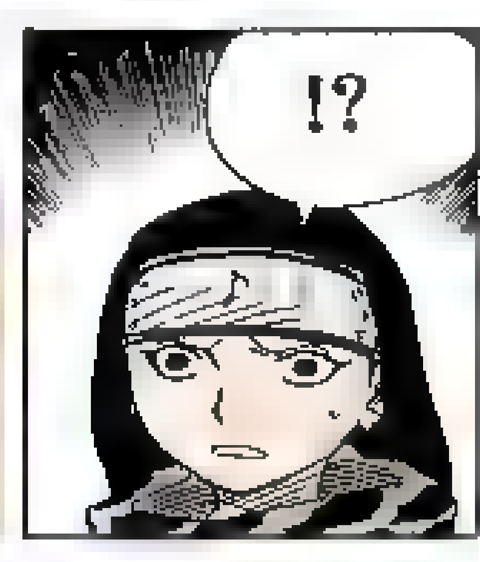
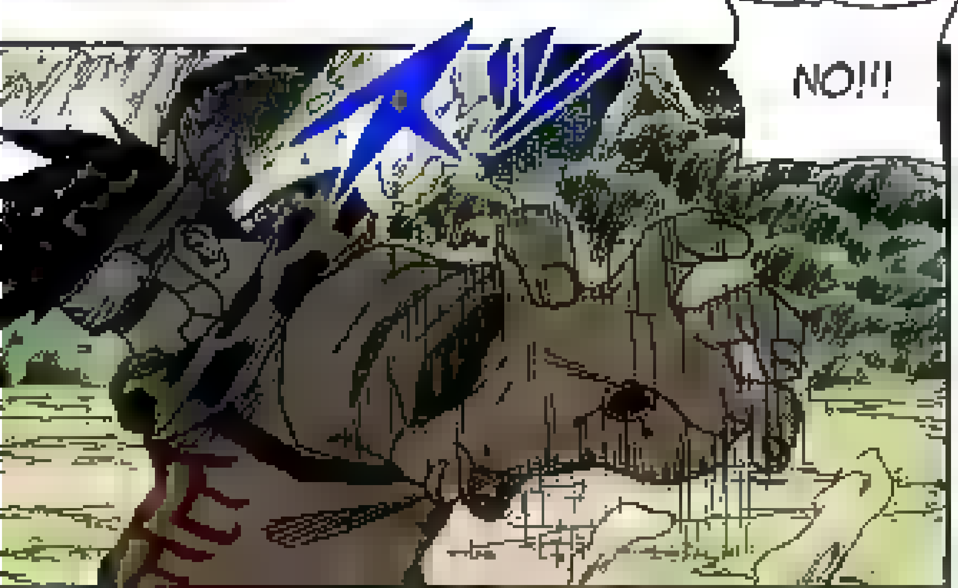
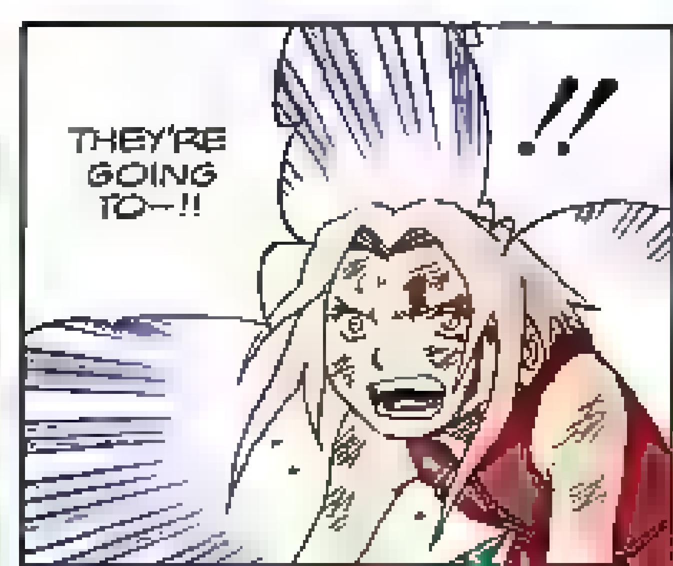


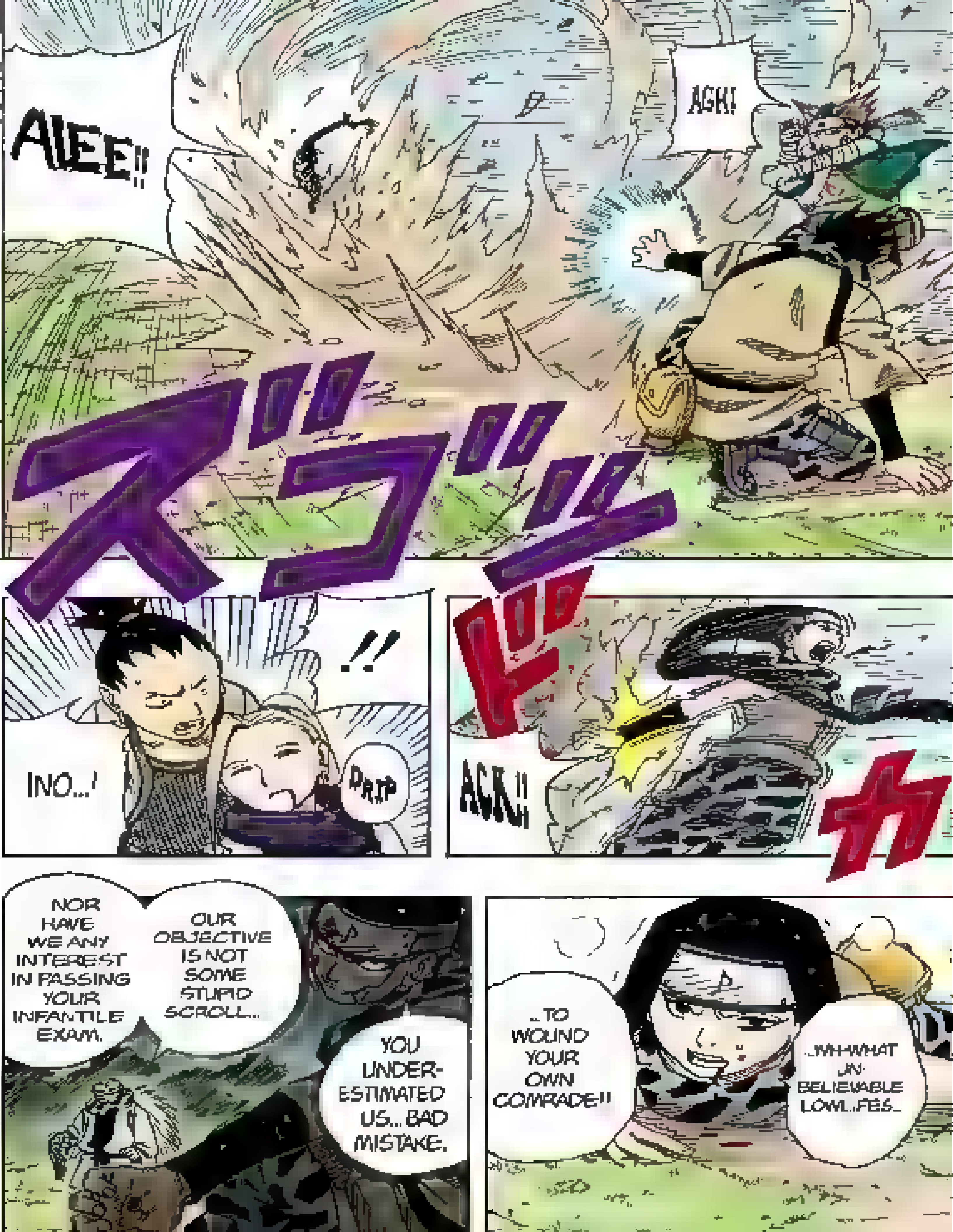







BOTH OF YOU, LEAVE YOUR SCROLLS HERE, AND GO FINISH THE EXAM WITHOUT THEM.
IF EITHER OF YOU MAKES A MOVE, YOUR TEAMMATE KIN IS AS GOOD AS DEAD!
WHEN I CAN NO LONGER SENSE EITHER OF YOUR CHAKRAS, I'LL RELEASE KIN!

YOU'RE FINISHED!

WHAT DO THEY THINK IS SO FUNNY?



!?

NO!!

THEY'RE GOING TO--!!
!!

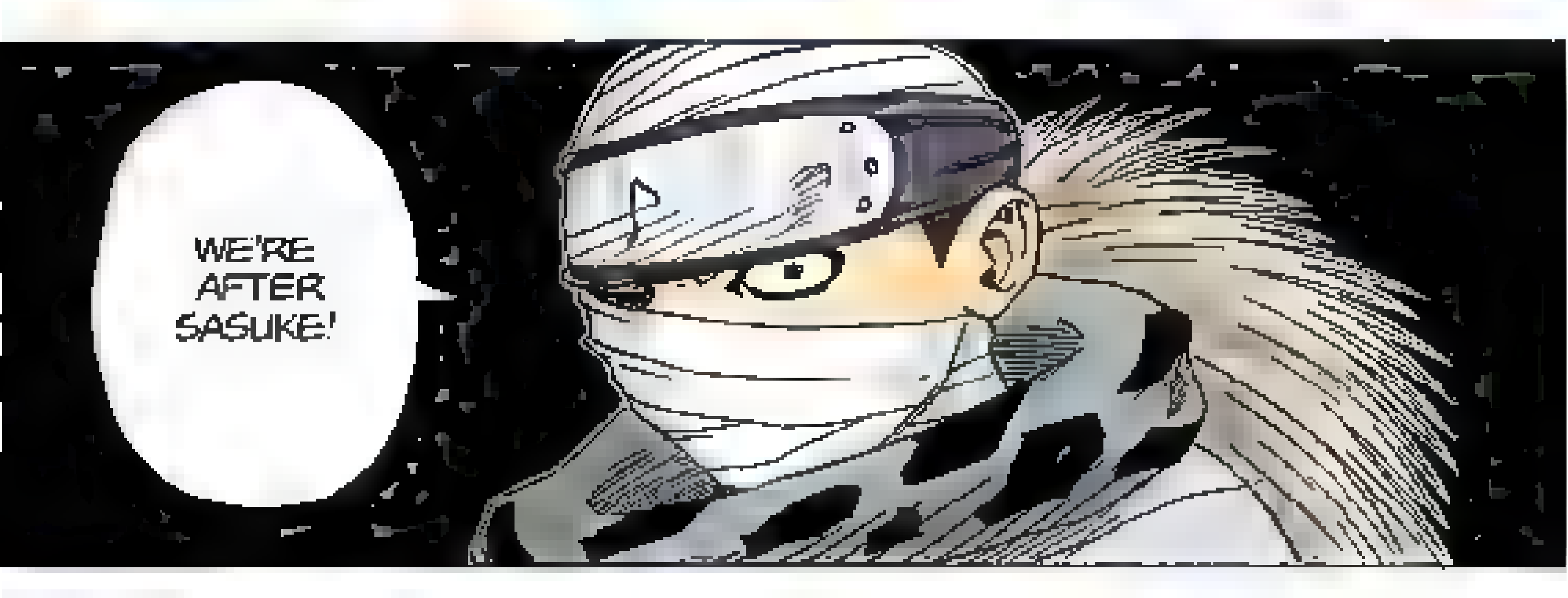

AGH!
AIEE!!
ACK!!
!!
INO...!
DRIP
...WH-WHAT UN-BELIEVABLE LOWLIFES...
...TO WOUND YOUR OWN COMRADE!!
OUR OBJECTIVE IS NOT SOME STUPID SCROLL...
NOR HAVE WE ANY INTEREST IN PASSING YOUR INFANTILE EXAM.
YOU UNDER-ESTIMATED US... BAD MISTAKE.


!?


!

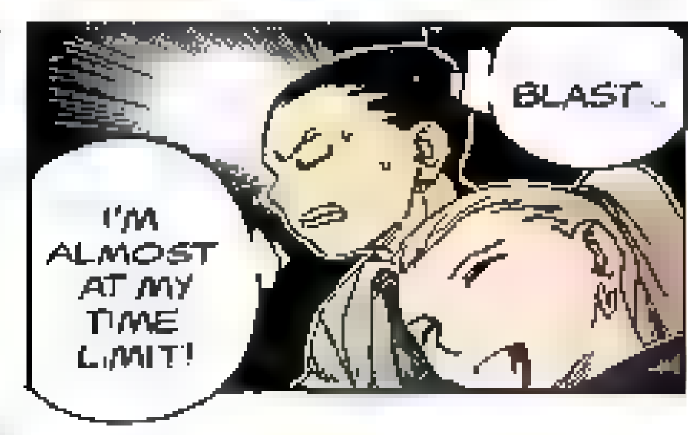

!


!?


WE'RE AFTER SASUKE!


YOU'RE DESPICABLE!


AND AS FOR THE ART THAT G RL S USING... FROM THE LOOK OF THINGS, IF WE INFL CT ANY HARM ON HER HOST, HER REAL BODY SUFFERS AS WELL!
!
HEH HEH.. WE CAN KILL HER BY KILLING KIN OURSELVES!


BLAST..
I'M ALMOST AT MY TIME LIMIT!


SO... YOUR LITTLE TRICK CAN ONLY WORK FOR FIVE MINUTES AT A TIME?
!
SIGH

YOU BUCOLIC NONENTITIES THINK YOU'RE ALL THAT JUST BECAUSE YOUR SONIC POWERS...

...WE'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO WHUMP THESE NOVICES!



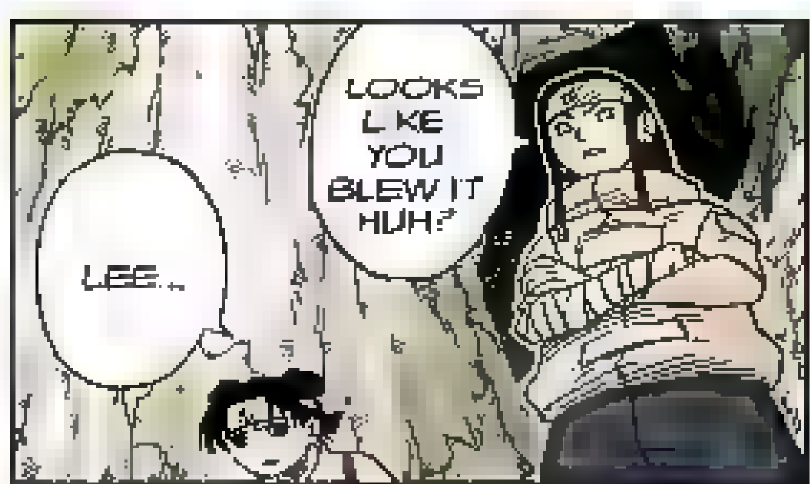


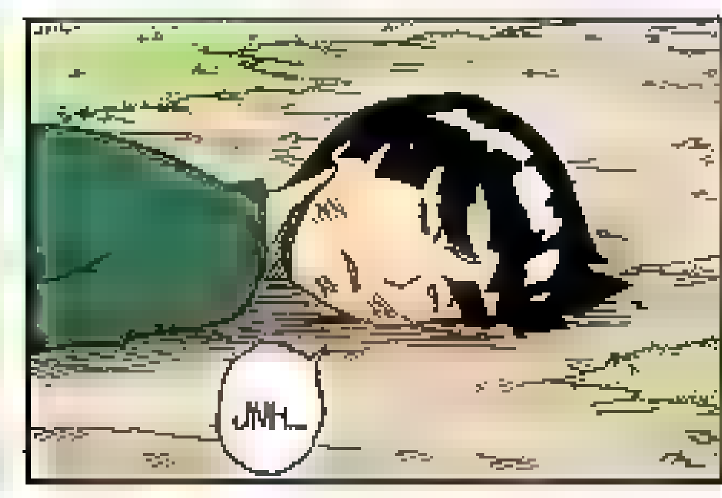


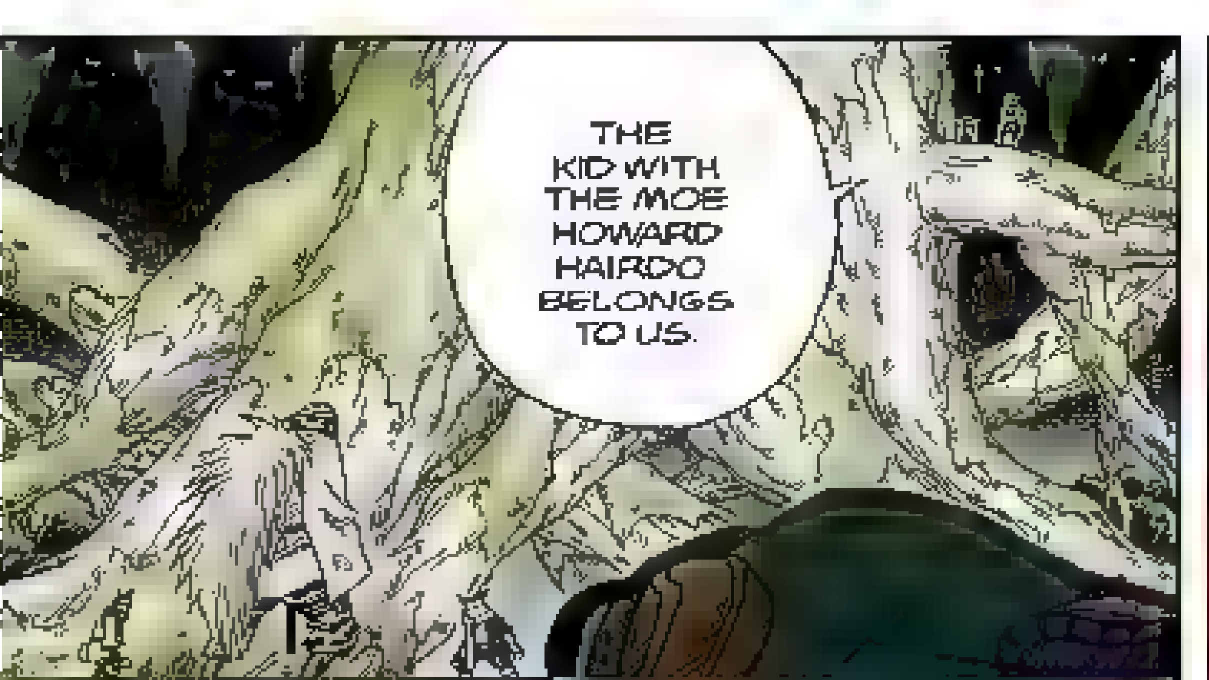


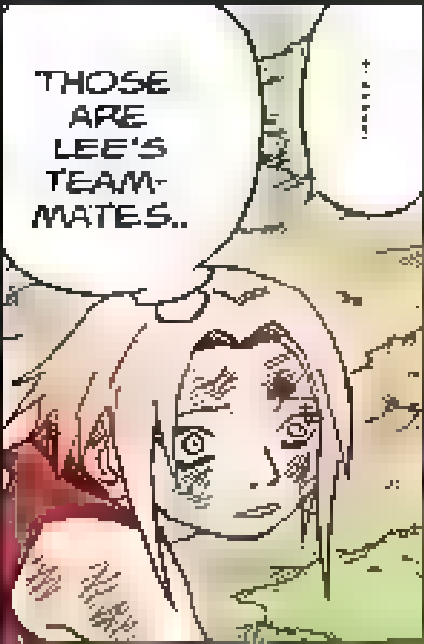


AGAIN, THE VERMIN COME CRAWLING FROM THE WOODWORK!



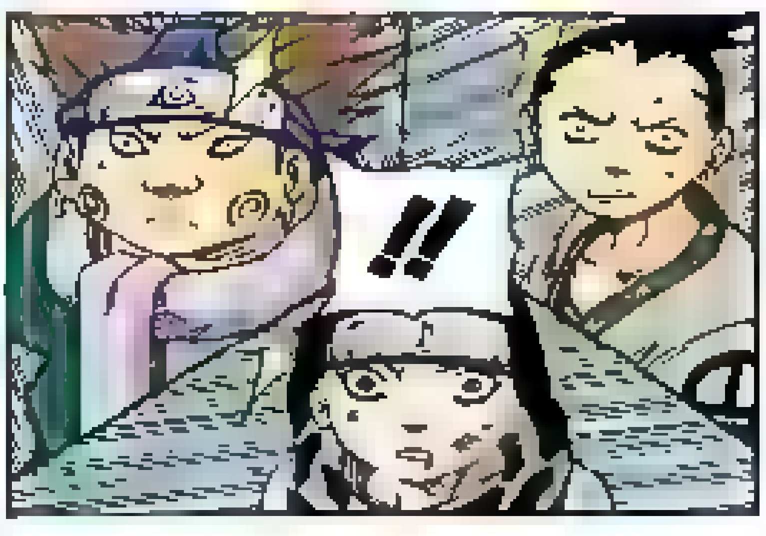







YOU HURT HIM, SO NOW YOU HAVE TO ANSWER TO US!

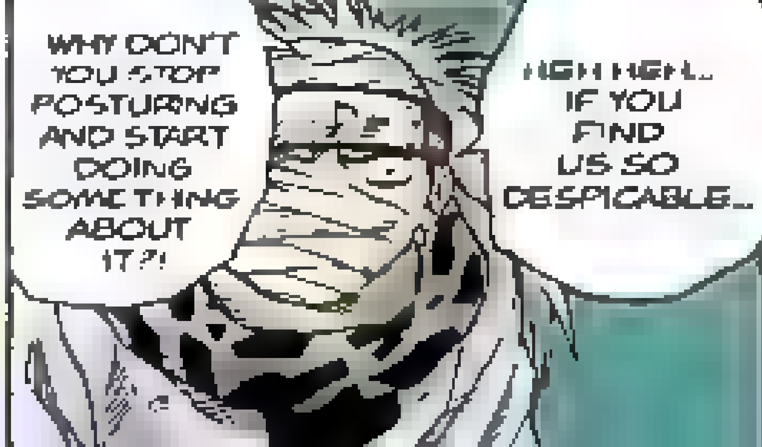

!!
HIS EYES SEEM TO PENETRATE EVERYTHING

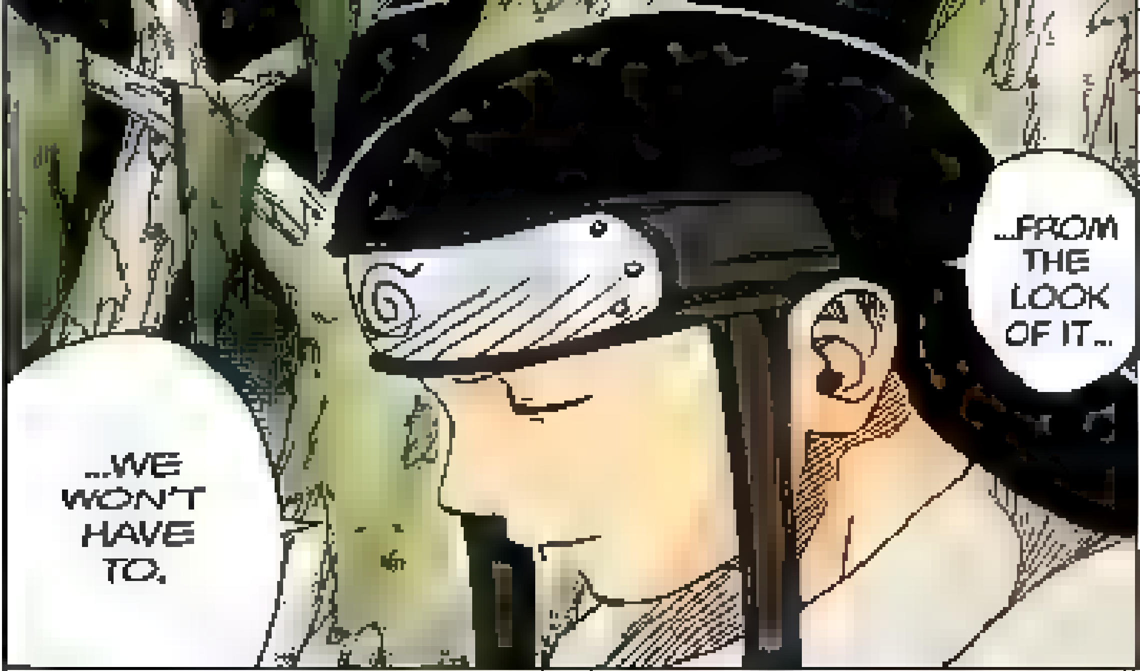

!!


THE CHAKRA I'M SENSING...
HUH?!


STOP WHILE YOU STILL CAN...
OR WE'LL GIVE YOU EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT!

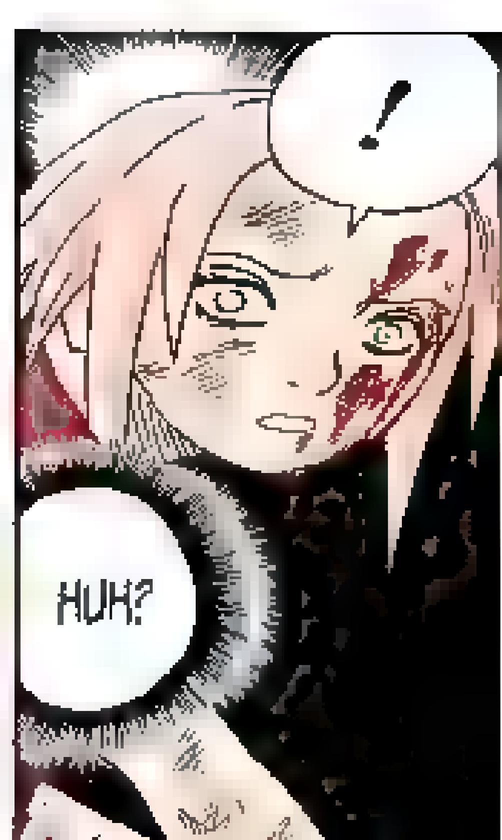

......!!
WELL...

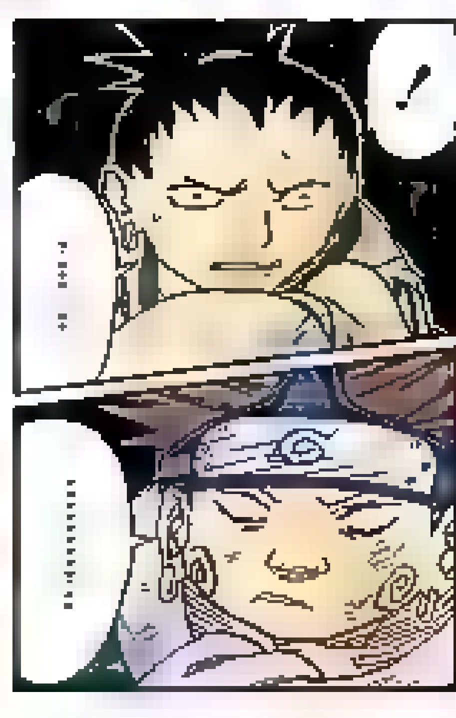

HEH HEH... IF YOU FIND US SO DESPICABLE...
WHY DON'T YOU STOP POSTURING AND START DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT?!


...FROM
THE
LOOK
OF IT...
...WE
WON'T
HAVE
TO.


?


!!
SASUKE!
YOU'RE
AWAKE!!

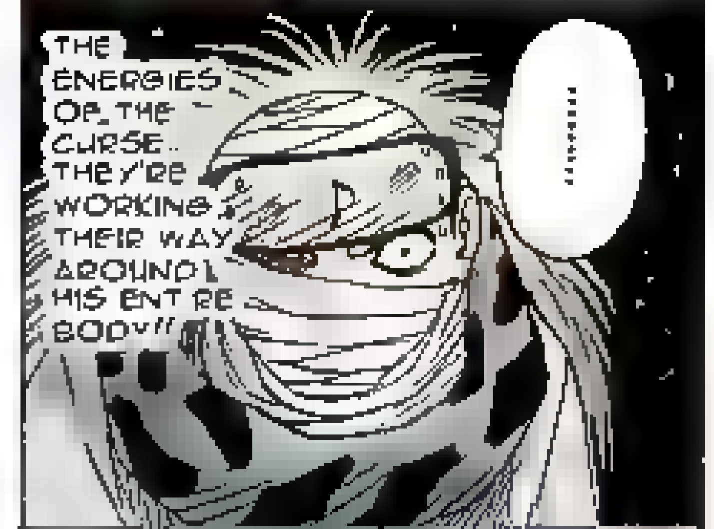

!
HUH?


!

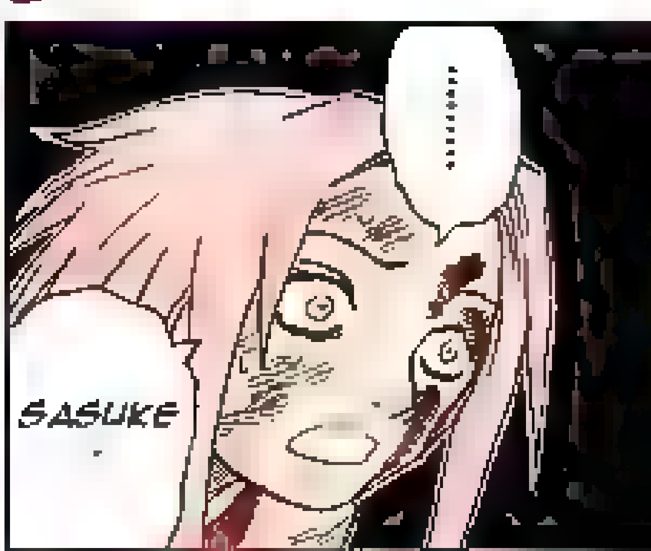

IS
THAT...
SASUKE?

...POINT OUT THE ONES WHO PUMMELED YOU INTO THAT STATE!





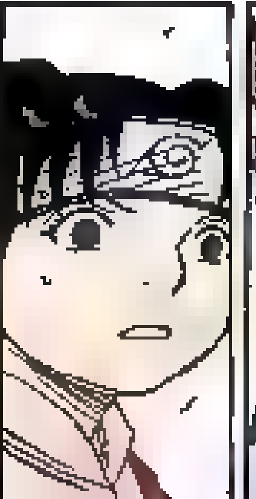
SAKURA
...





56 : THE STRENGTH THAT IS GIVEN!!

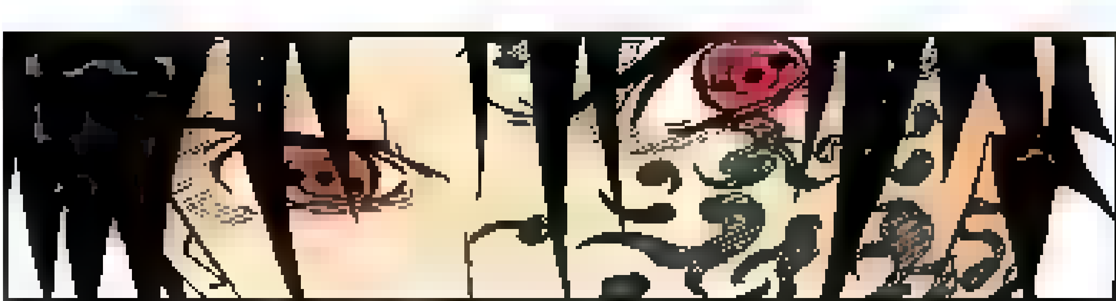







SASUKE.

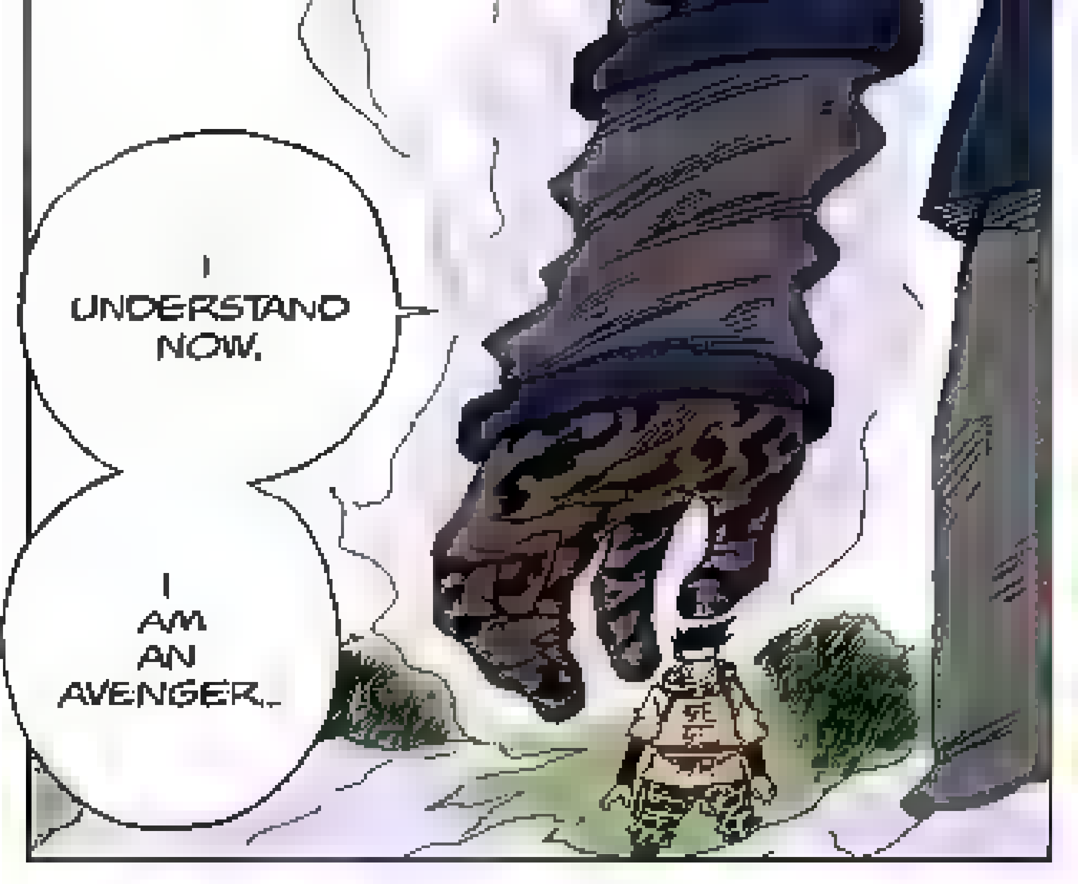
YOUR BODY ..?!

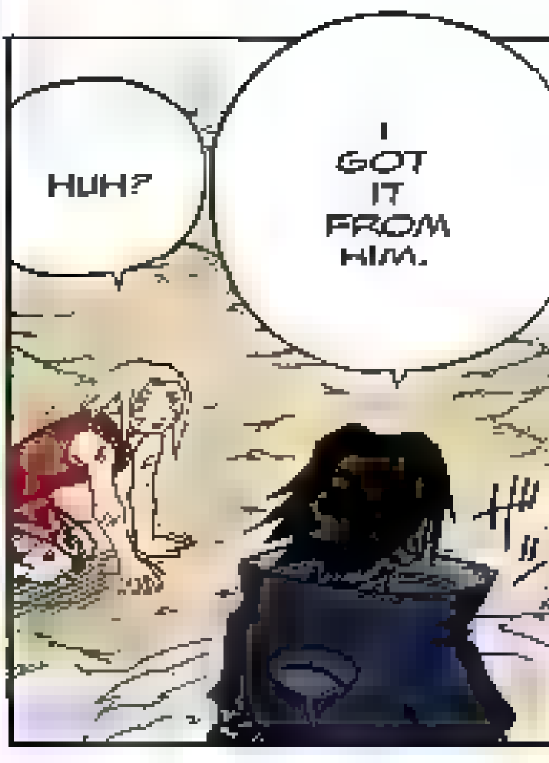




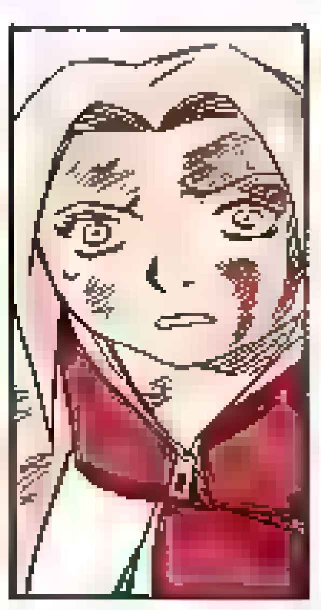


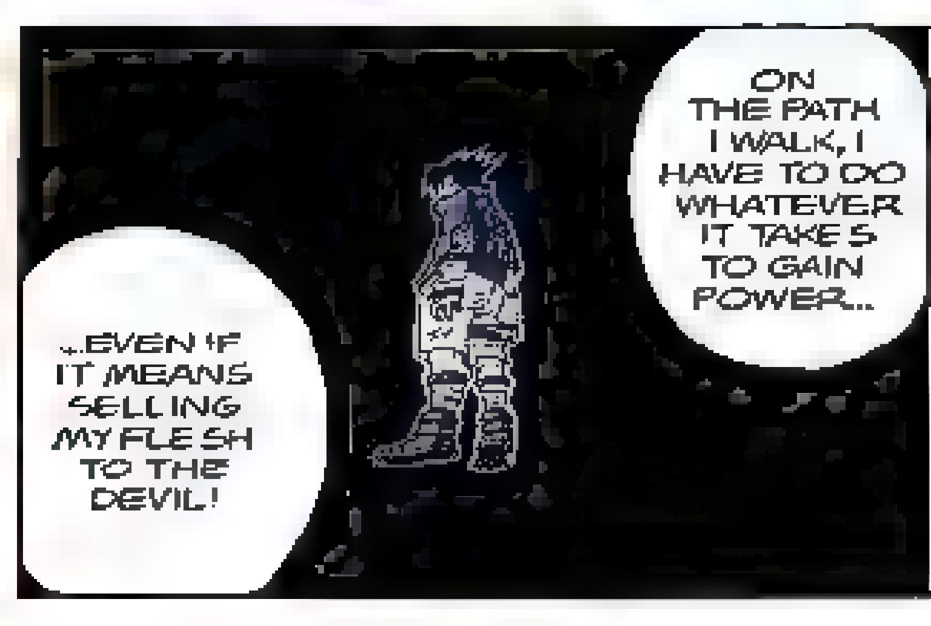



I UNDERSTAND NOW.
I AM AN AVENGER...


HUH?
I GOT IT FROM HIM.






ON THE PATH I WALK, I HAVE TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GAIN POWER...
...EVEN IF IT MEANS SELLING MY FLESH TO THE DEVIL!

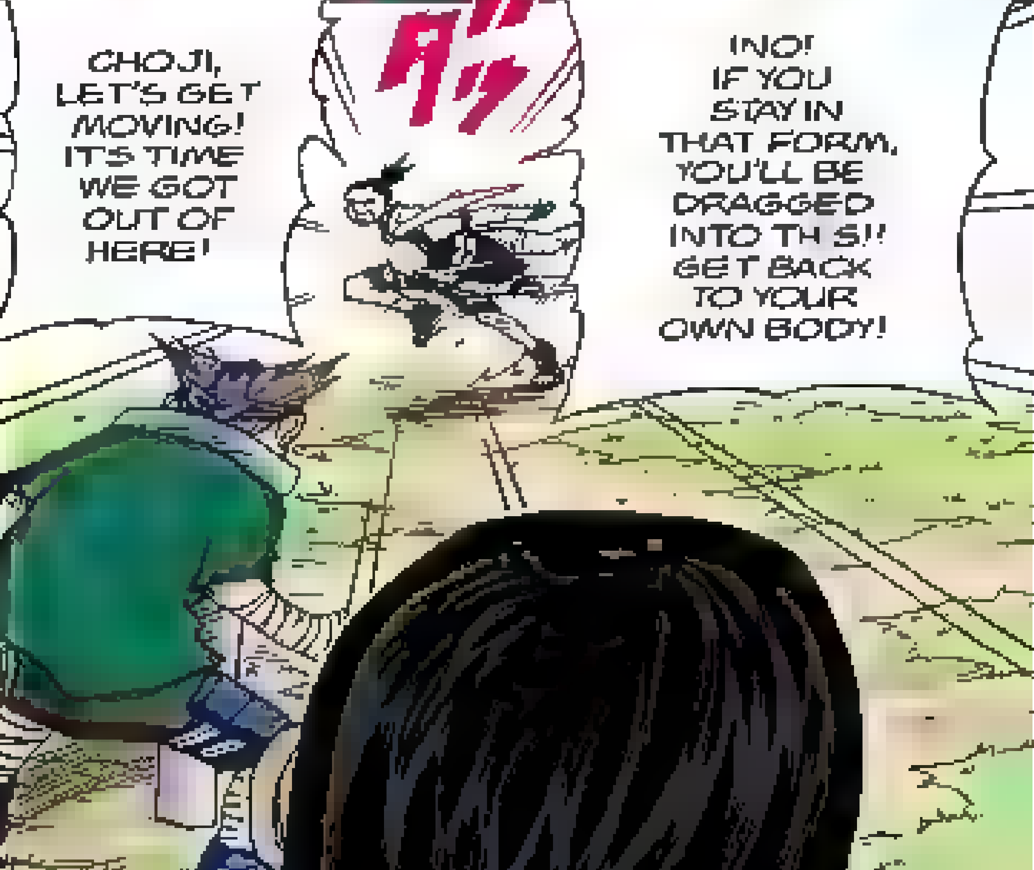

JUST AS I THOUGHT... THE SPELL-MARK ON HIS NECK THAT LITTLE SAKURA WAS BLATHERING ON ABOUT, IS THE MARK OF THE CURSE HE WAS PLACED UNDER--
HE'S CHANNELLED AND MIMICKED IT--
AND ACTUALLY MADE IT TO HIS FEET!

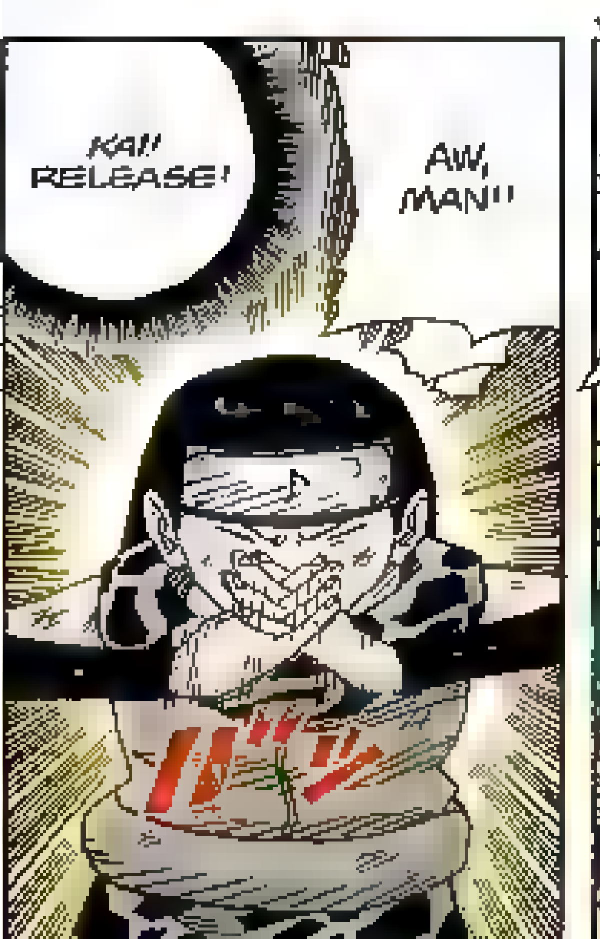

SO...
IT WAS YOU.


GRR!

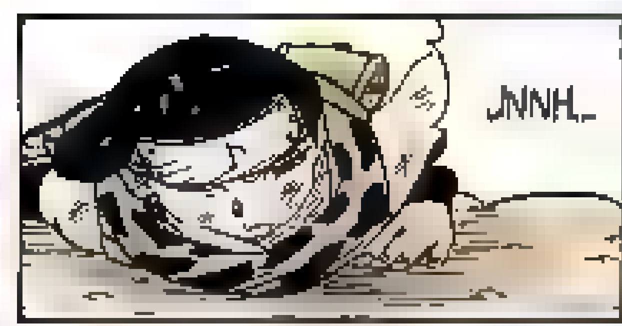
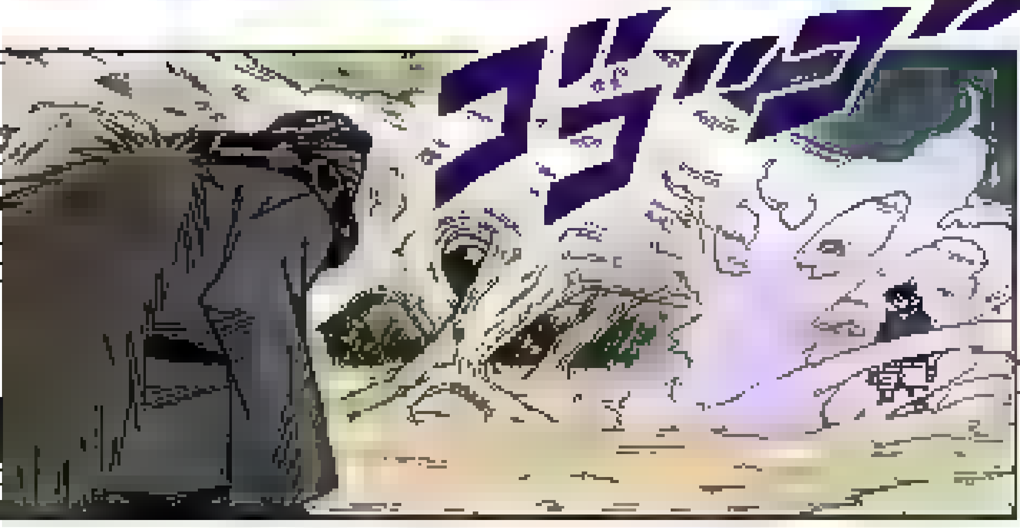
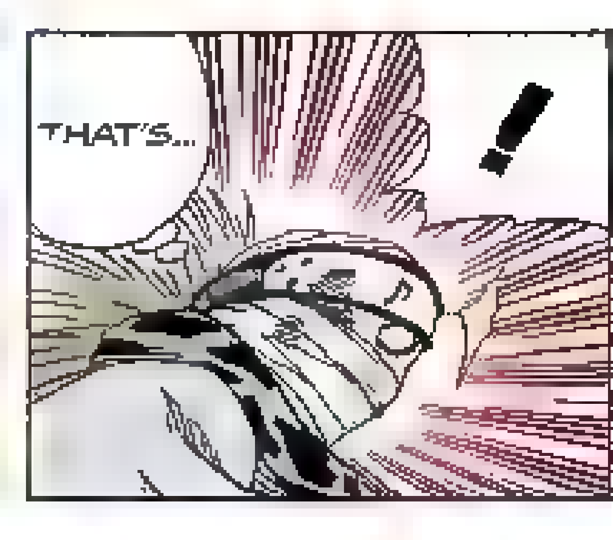



!!
HUNH?


INO! IF YOU STAY IN THAT FORM, YOU'LL BE DRAGGED INTO THIS!! GET BACK TO YOUR OWN BODY!
CHOJI, LET'S GET MOVING! IT'S TIME WE GOT OUT OF HERE!


AW, MAN!!
KAI! RELEASE!




!
UNNH...
UNH!
WELCOME BACK!!
GOOD!

UNNH...

ゴゴゴゴ

THAT'S...
!



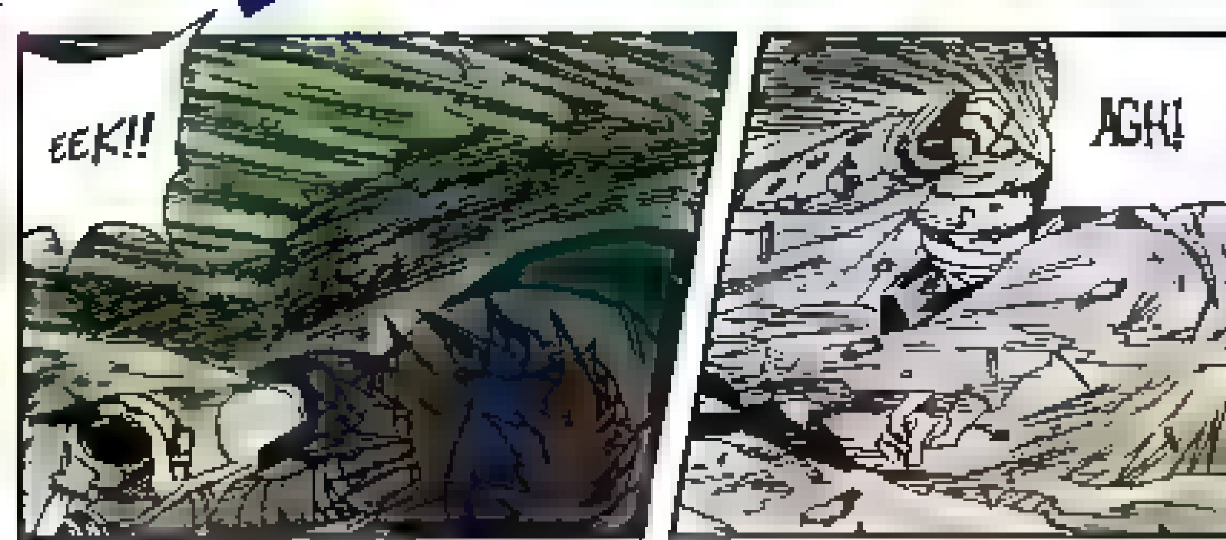
!
SNAP OUT OF IT, DOSU! JUST BECAUSE HE REFUSES TO DIE...


HIS CHAKRA'S IMMENSE!
TOO LARGE FOR HIS BODY TO CONTAIN, EVEN AFTER WE!

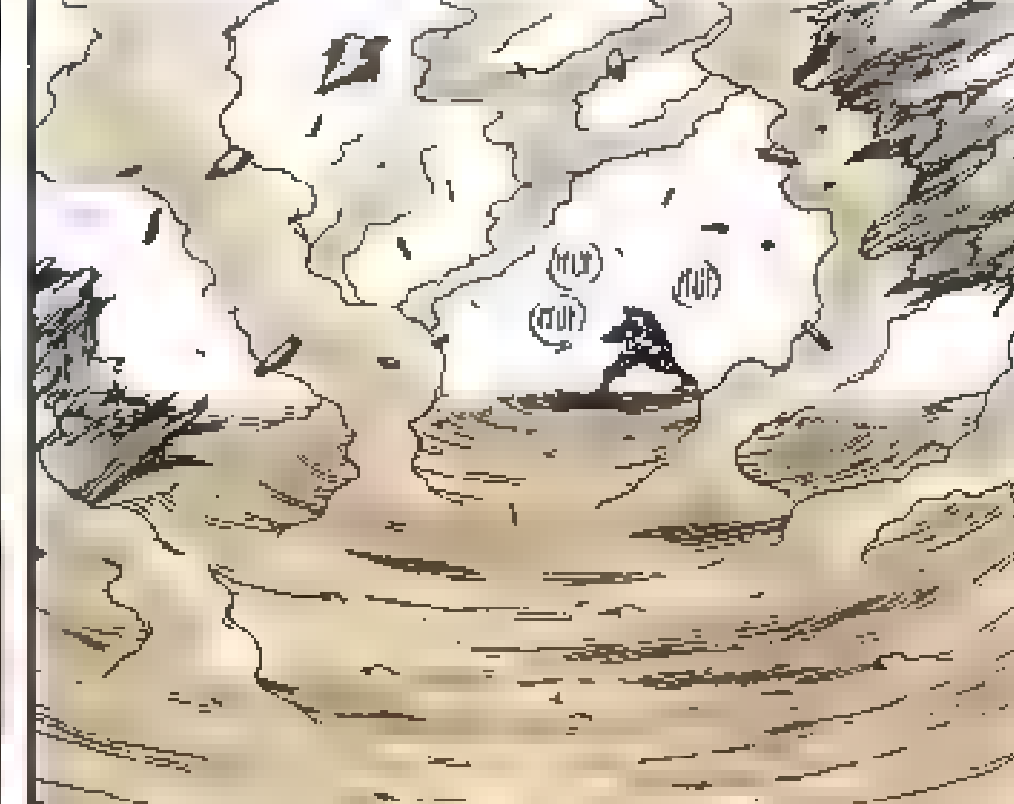
!!
ZAKU, NO!!
DON'T YOU GET IT?!
SUPERSONIC AIR-SLICE!!!

ゴゴッ

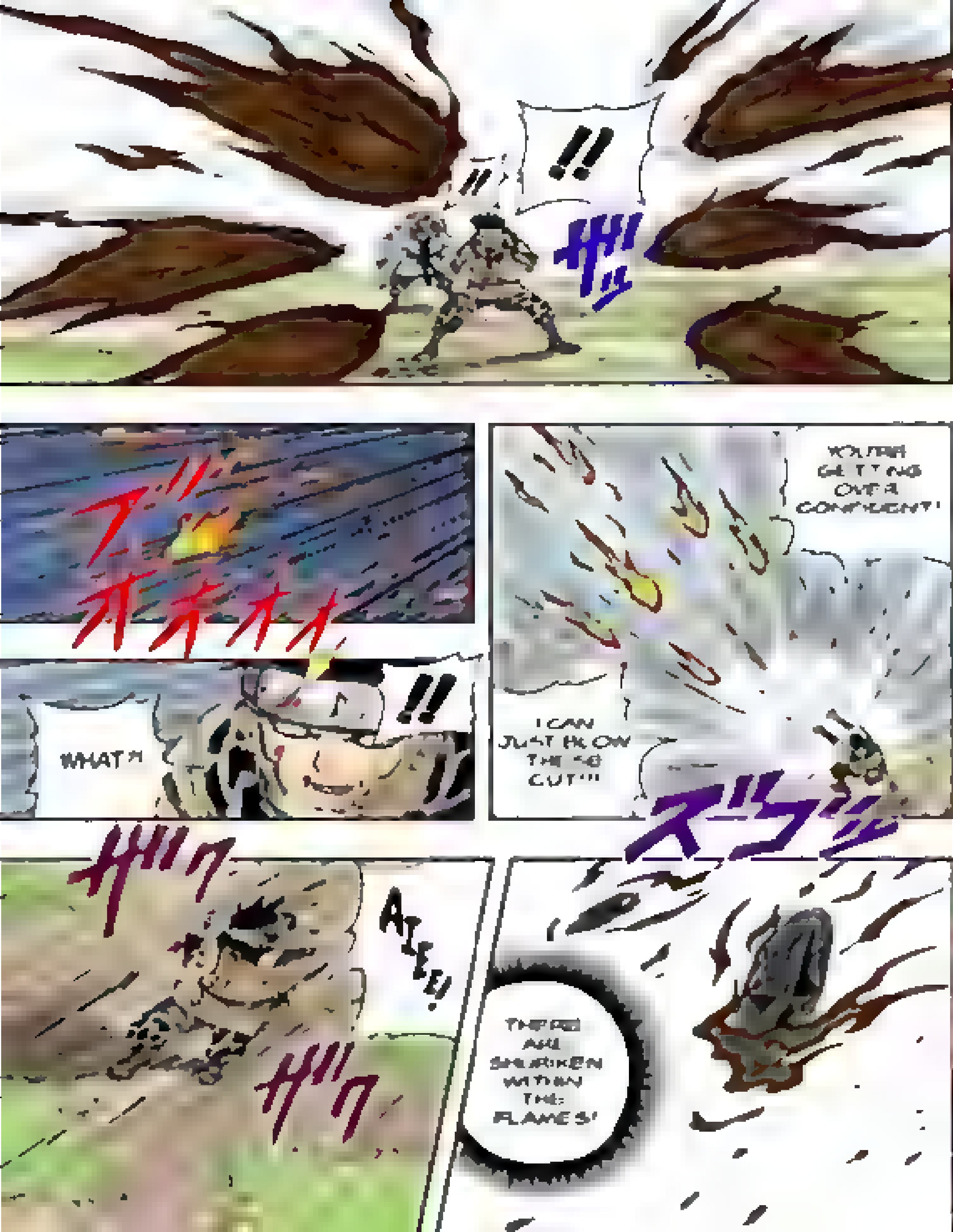



AGH!
EEK!!

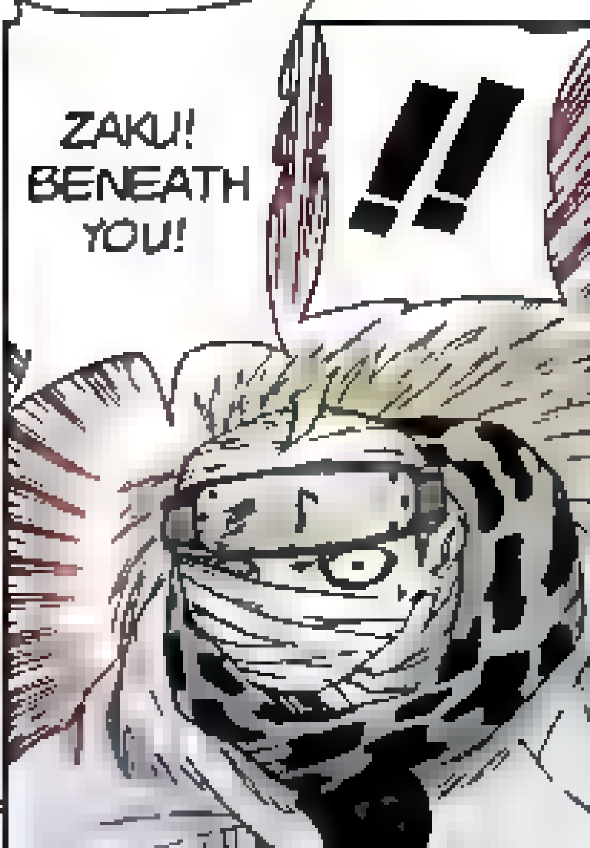

HAH!
BLEW THAT PIPSQUEAK TO BITS.
HUF
HUF
WHAT PIPSQUEAK IS THAT?


HUF
HUF
HUF

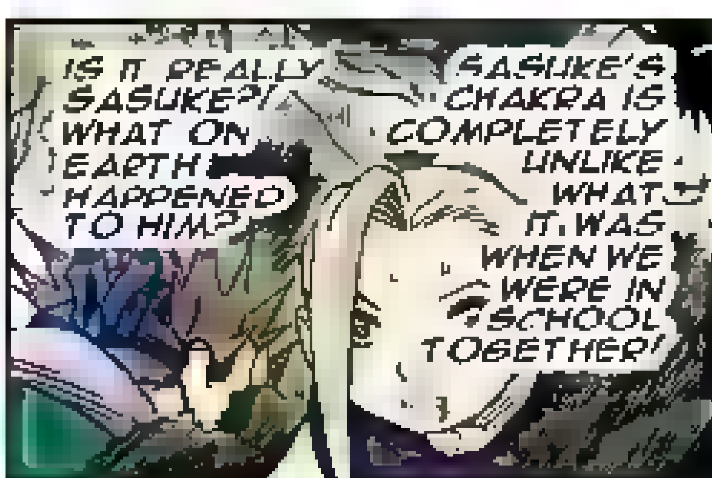

!!
ACK!
HE'S FAST!
AND STRONG ENOUGH TO LIFT BOTH OF THEM AT ONCE!
FIRE STYLE— ART OF THE DRAGON'S BREATH, PHOENIX TECHNIQUE!


!!
WHAT?!
!!
YOU'RE GETTING OVER CONFIDENT!
AIEE!!
THERE ARE SHURIKEN WITHIN THE FLAMES!


HUNH?!
!!


ZAKU! BENEATH YOU!
!!

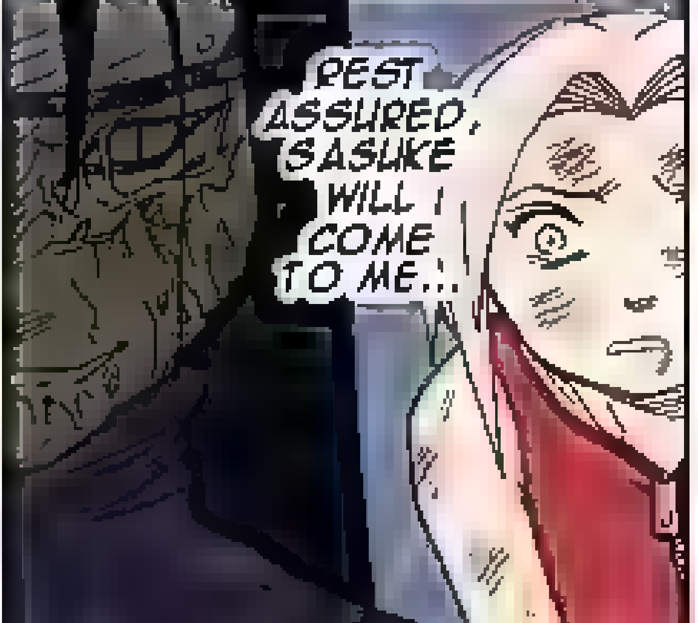
OWWW...!


IS IT REALLY SASUKE?! WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED TO HIM?
SASUKE'S CHAKRA IS COMPLETELY UNLIKE WHAT IT WAS WHEN WE WERE IN SCHOOL TOGETHER!


...



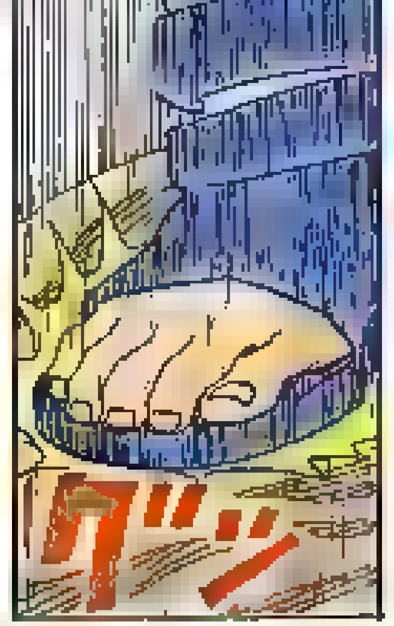

HEH... YOU TAKE SUCH PRIDE IN YOUR ARMS... TIME TO BID THEM FAREWELL
!


REST ASSURED, SASUKE WILL COME TO ME...



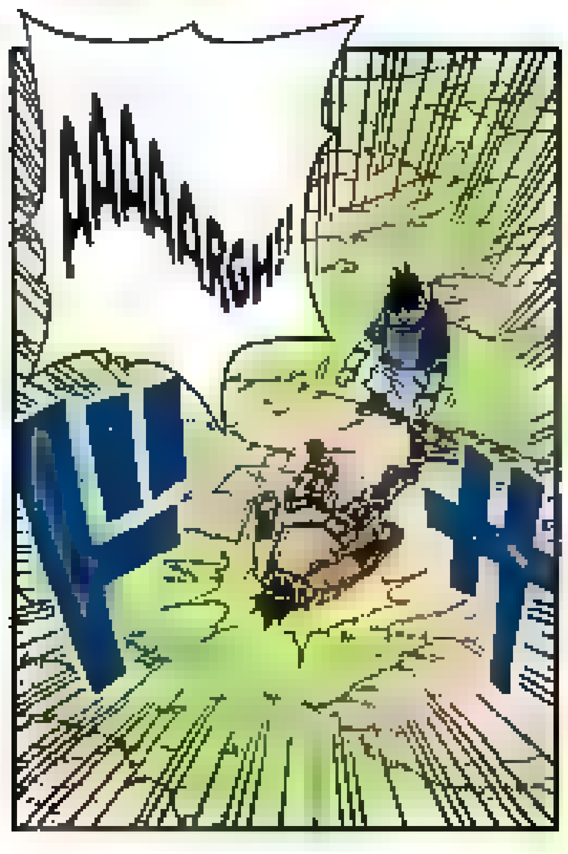



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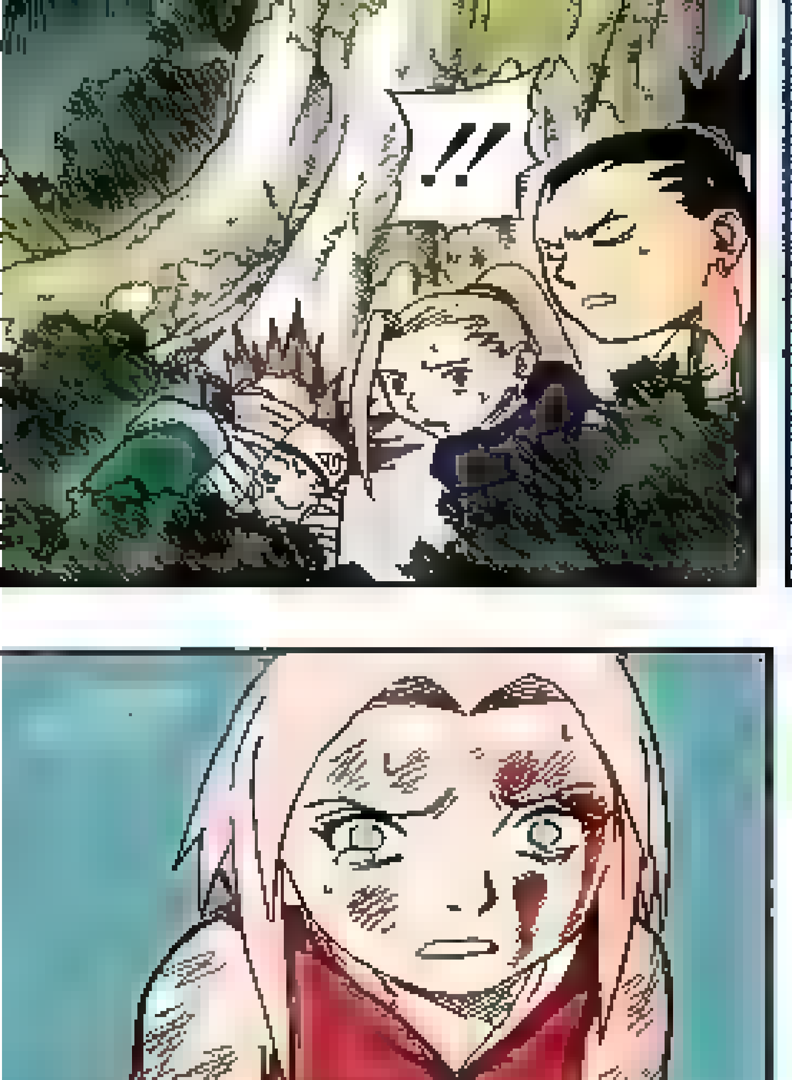

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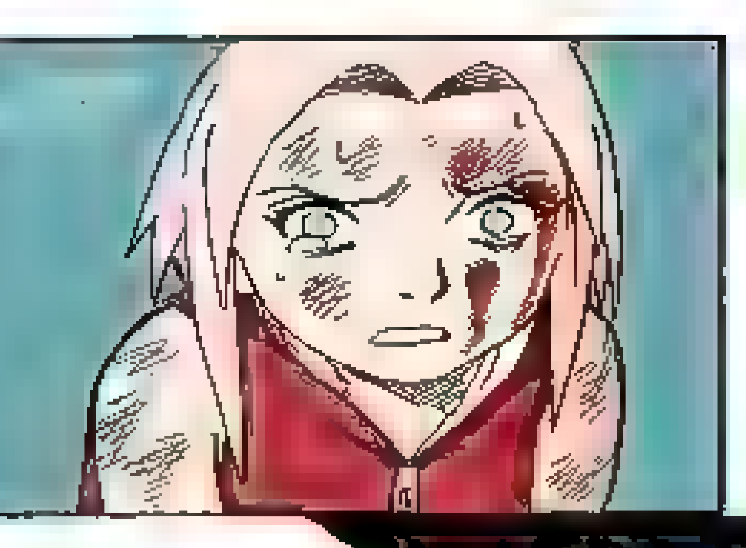
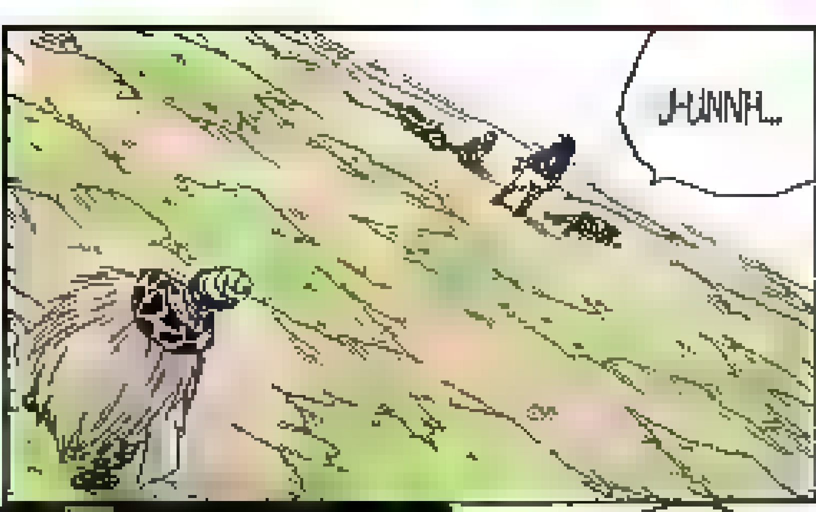

......!!


AAAAARGH!!

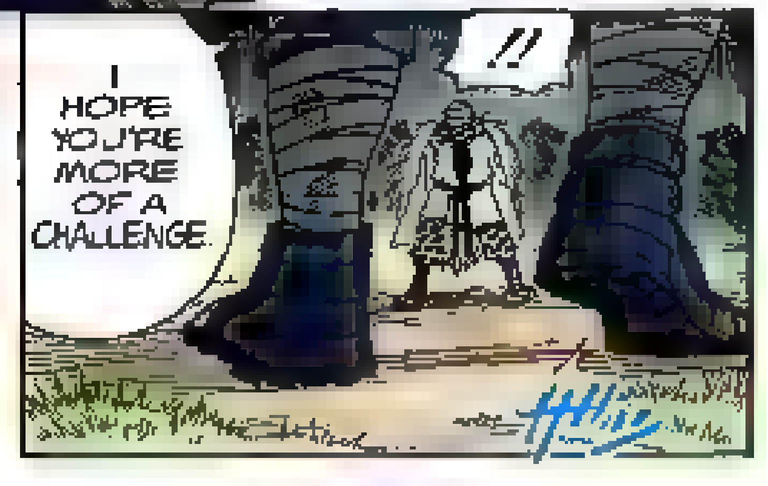

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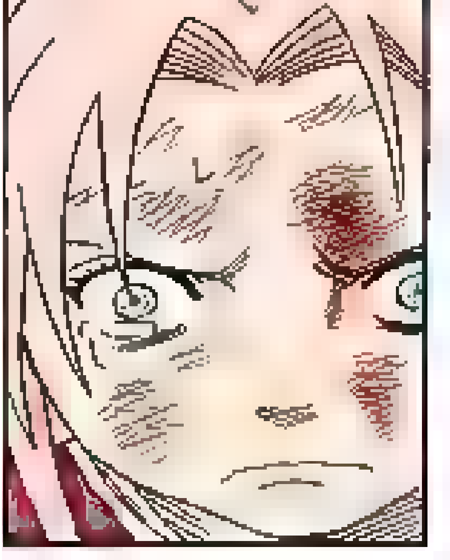

!!

!!

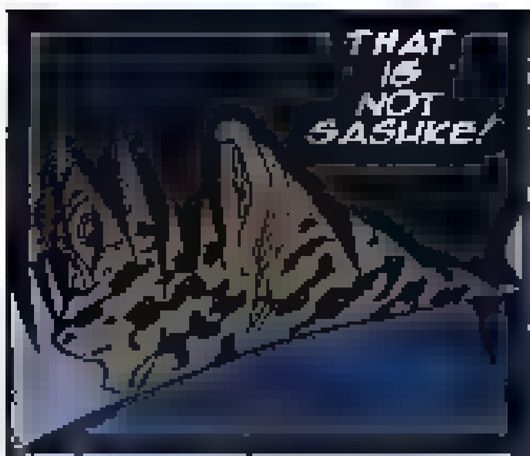
!!


HUNNH...

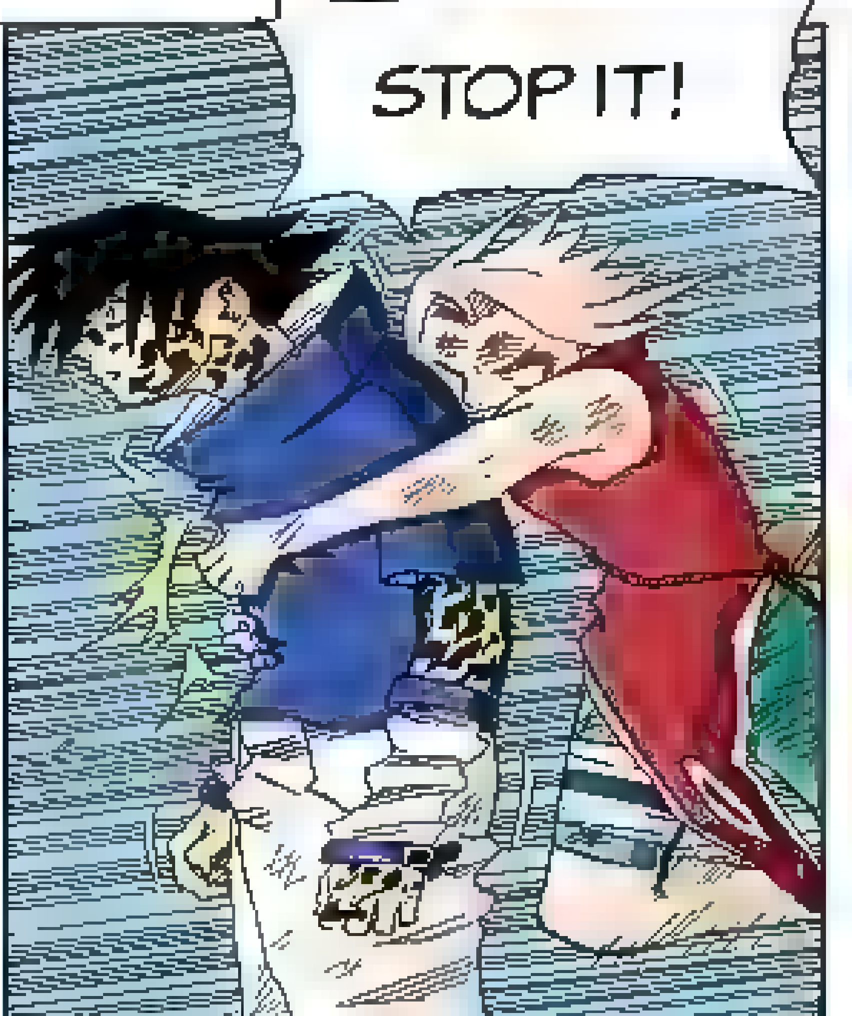
AND THEN THERE WAS ONE.

THAT'S ...

!!
I HOPE YOU'RE MORE OF A CHALLENGE.



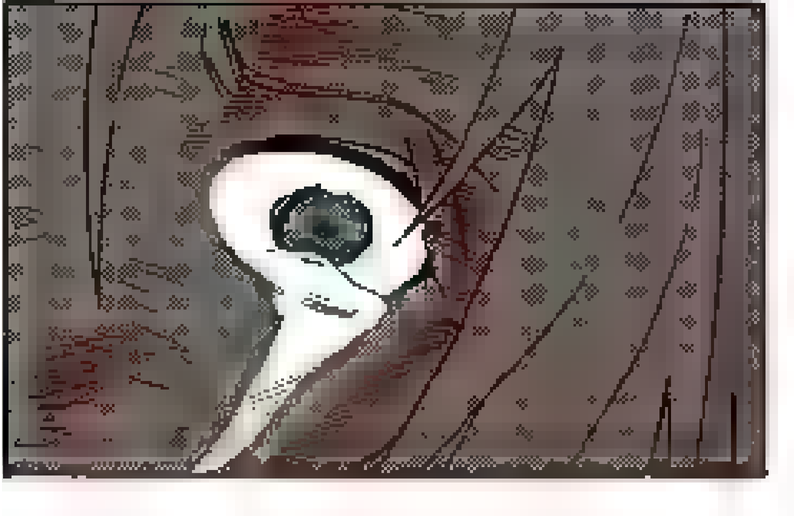



THAT IS NOT SASUKE!


STOP IT!

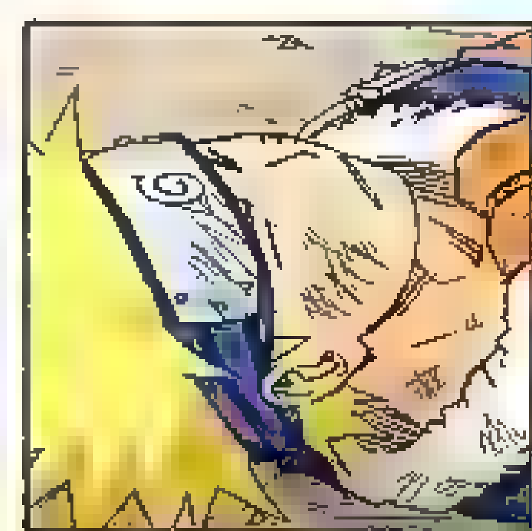




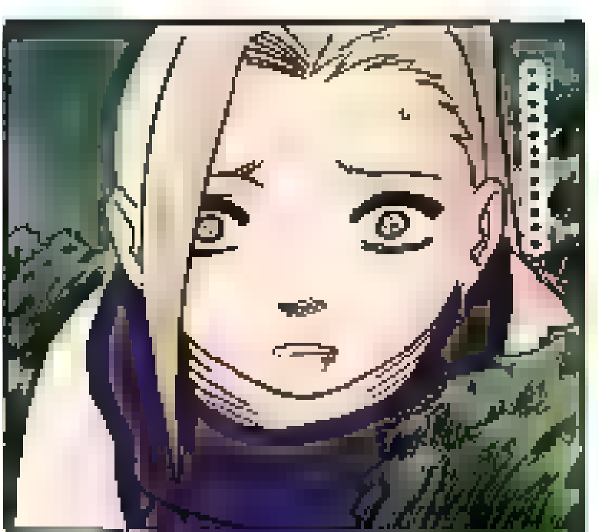


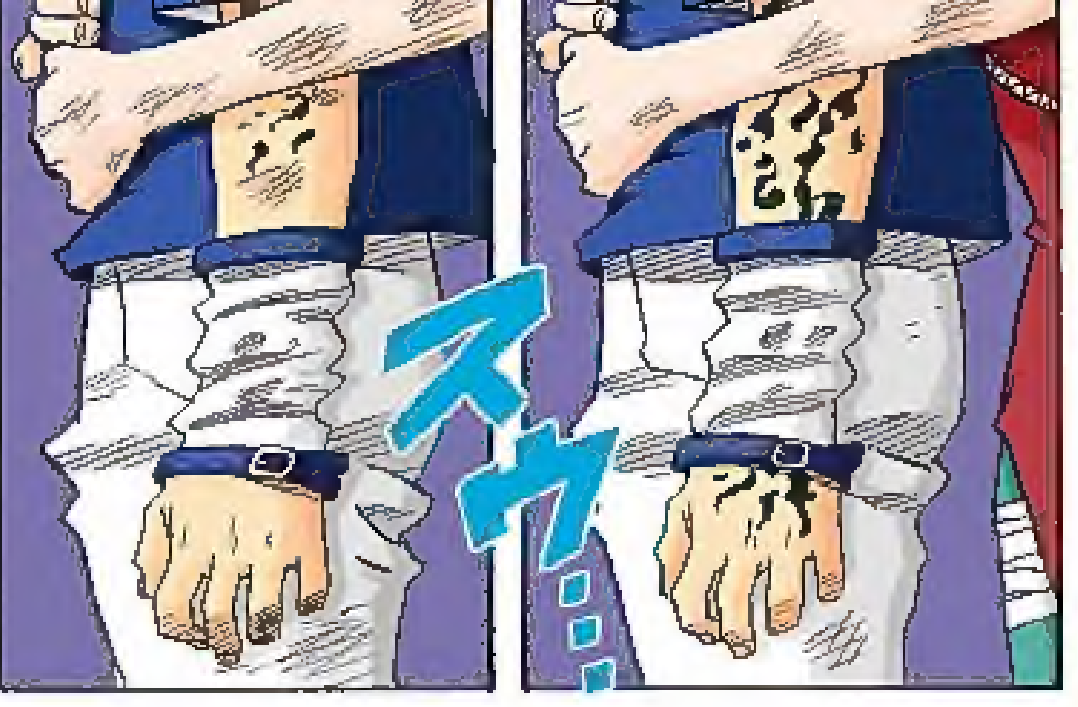
PLEASE...

...PLEASE, STOP...

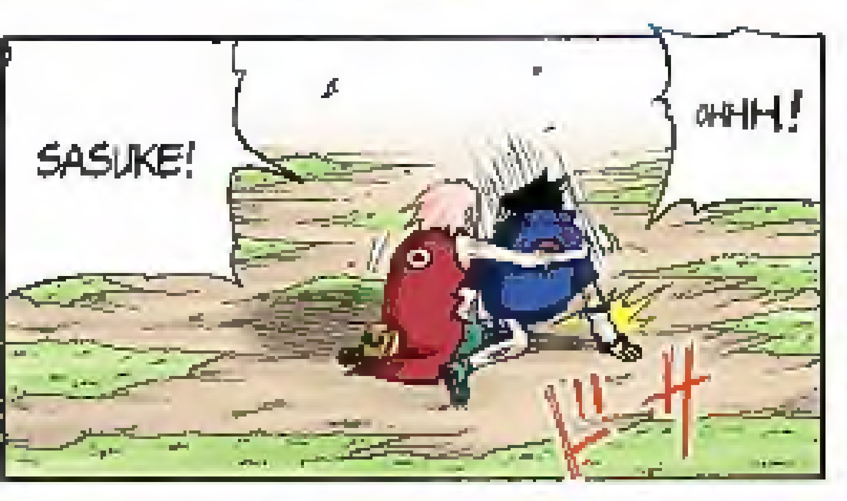




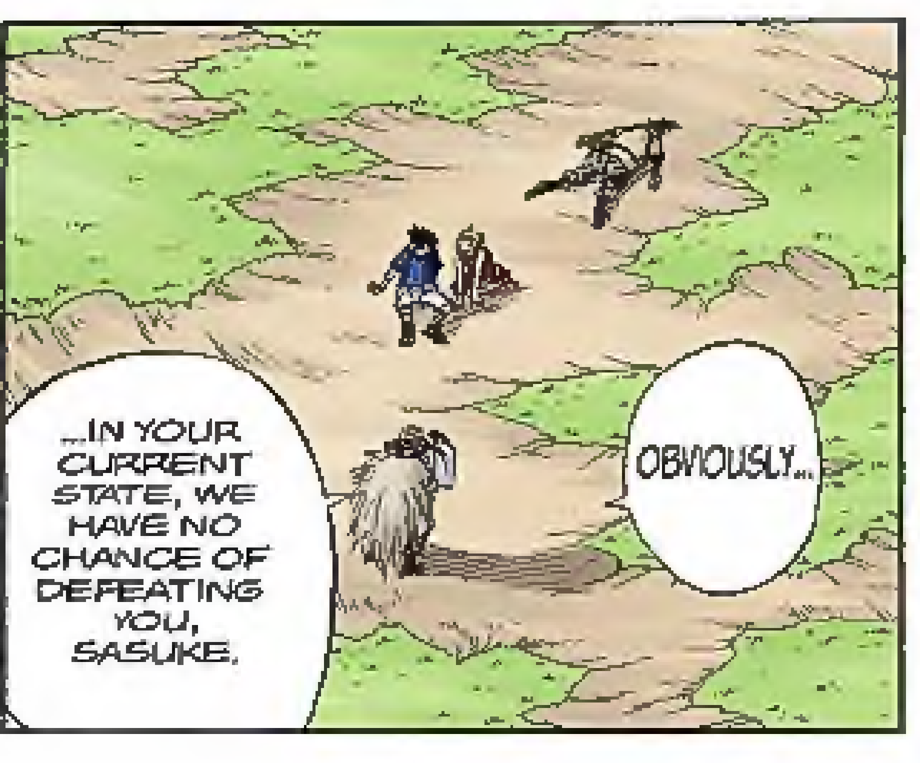


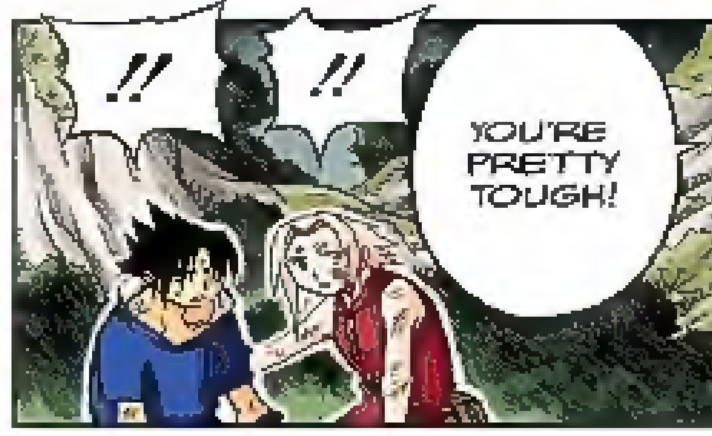




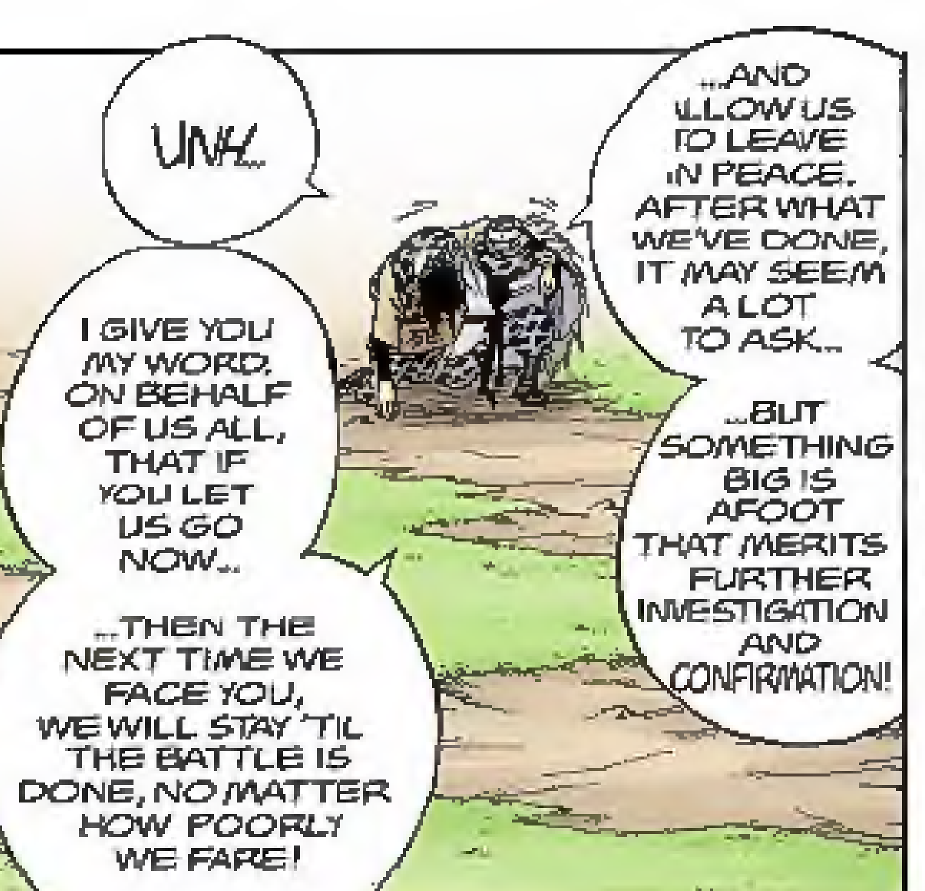

OHHH!
SASUKE!

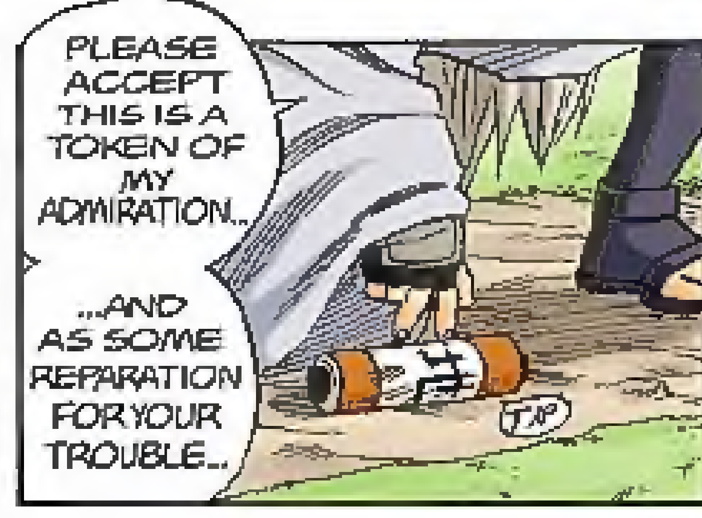

...THE MARKS OF THE CURSE ARE FADING...
WE ARE SAVED FOR NOW.

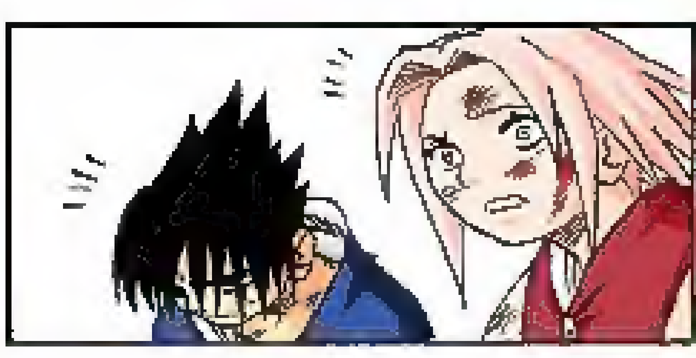

OBVIOUSLY...
...IN YOUR CURRENT STATE, WE HAVE NO CHANCE OF DEFEATING YOU, SASUKE.


YOU'RE PRETTY TOUGH!
!!
!!




UNK...
...AND ALLOW US TO LEAVE IN PEACE. AFTER WHAT WE'VE DONE, IT MAY SEEM A LOT TO ASK...
...BUT SOMETHING BIG IS AFOOT THAT MERITS FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND CONFIRMATION!
I GIVE YOU MY WORD, ON BEHALF OF US ALL, THAT IF YOU LET US GO NOW...
...THEN THE NEXT TIME WE FACE YOU, WE WILL STAY 'TIL THE BATTLE IS DONE, NO MATTER HOW POORLY WE FARE!

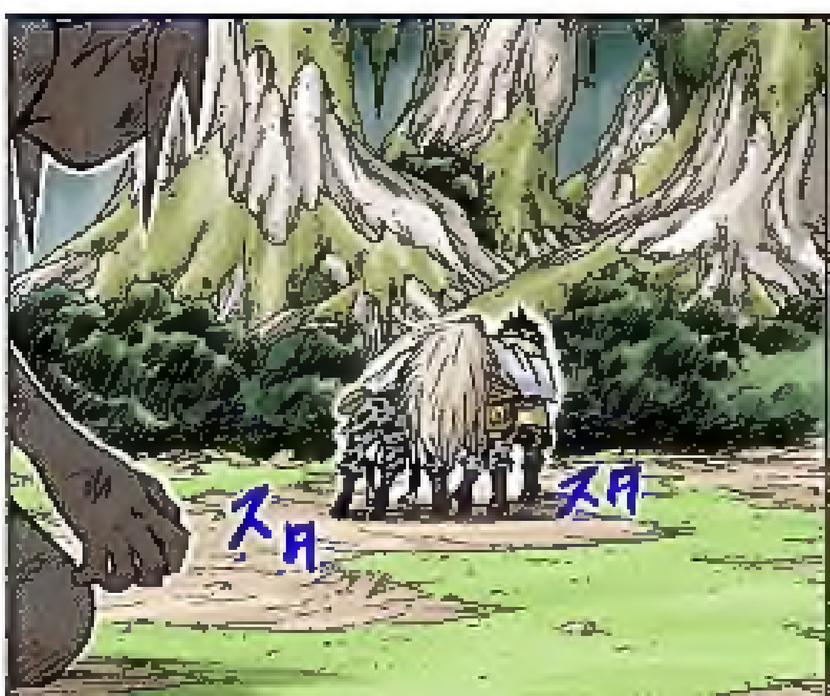

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS IS A TOKEN OF MY ADMIRATION...
...AND AS SOME REPARATION FOR YOUR TROUBLE...
TAP




HUF
HUF
HUF
!


WAIT!!

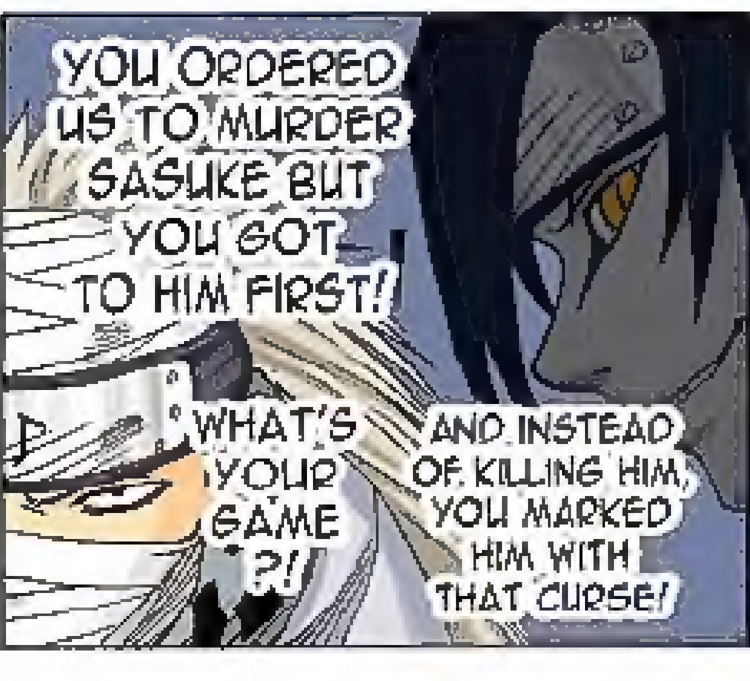


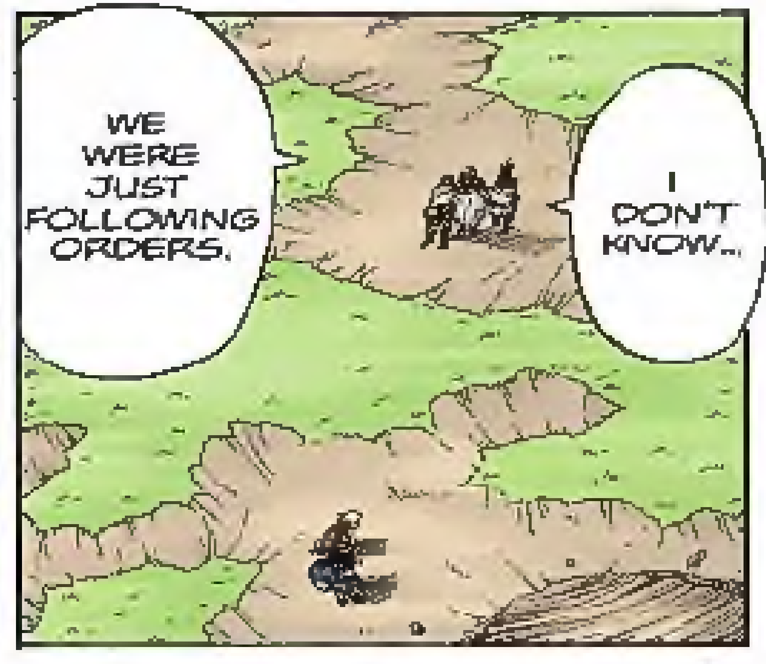

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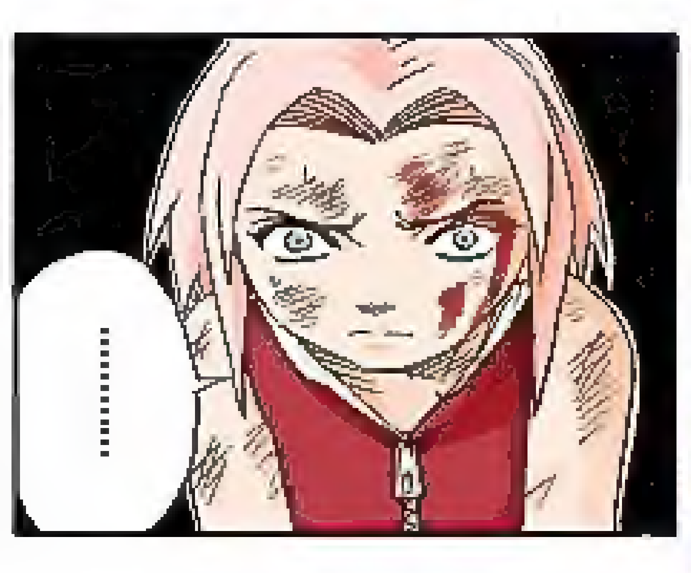
YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME! WHO IS OROCHIMARU?

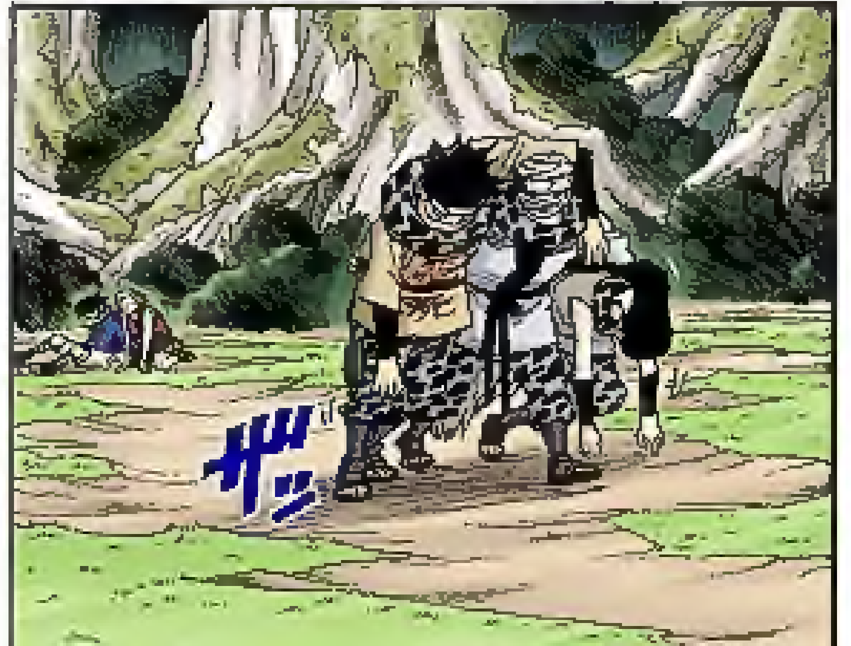
WHAT DID HE DO TO SASUKE?!

AND.. WHY WAS SASUKE THE ONE HE CHOSE?!

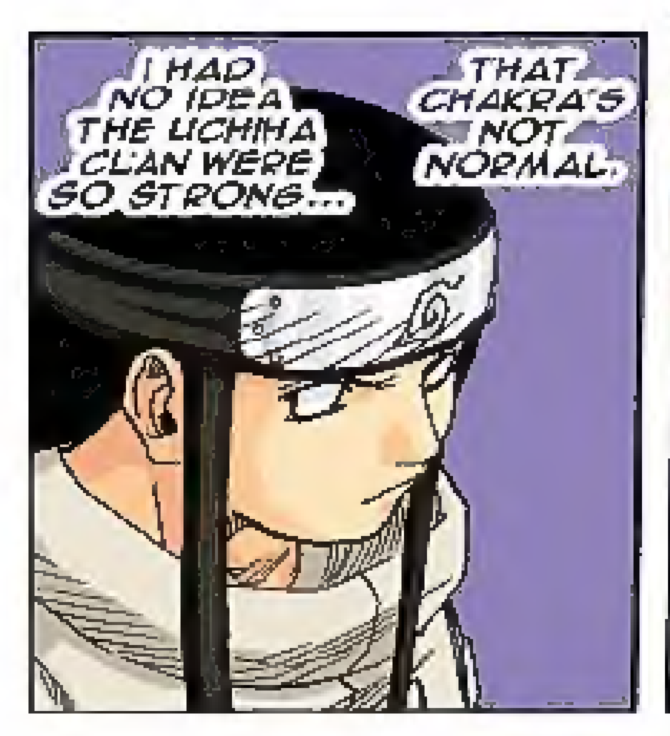


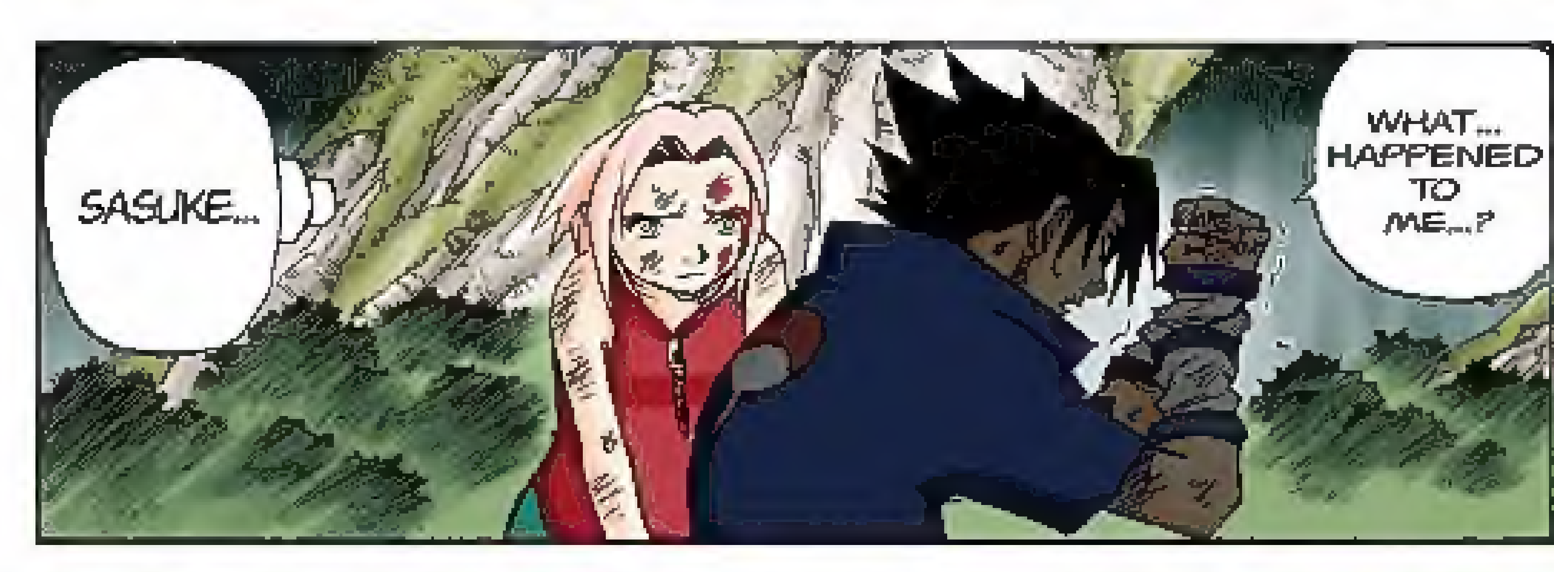


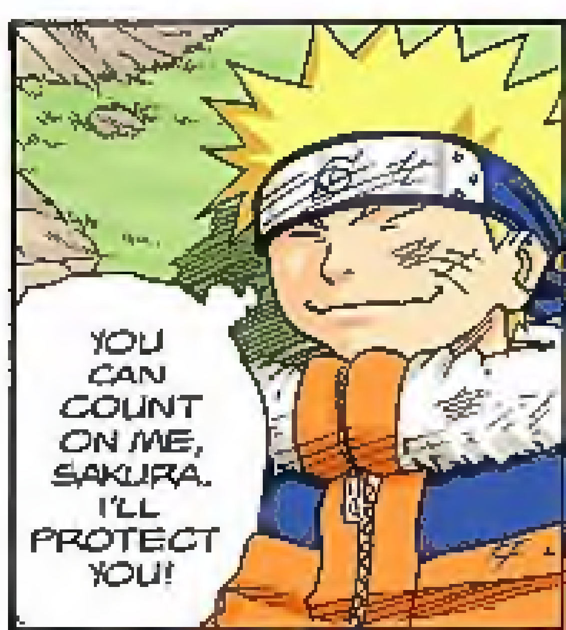


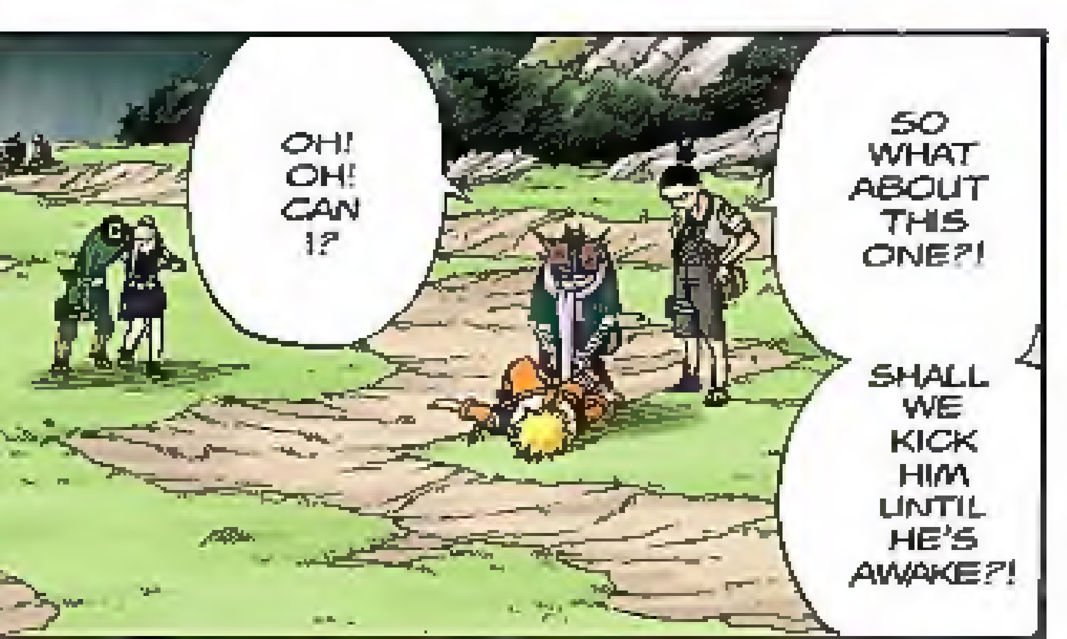



HEY! ARE YOU ALL ALL RIGHT?!
ガッ
ガッ
I HOPE IT'S NOT AN IMPOSITION, INO, BUT I'M LEAVING LEE IN YOUR CARE.


THAT CHAKRA'S NOT NORMAL.
I HAD NO IDEA THE UCHIHA CLAN WERE SO STRONG...


WHAT... HAPPENED TO ME...?
SASUKE...


YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, SAKURA. I'LL PROTECT YOU!


SO WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?!
SHALL WE KICK HIM UNTIL HE'S AWAKE?!
OH! OH! CAN I?